

## Moratorium on short-term rentals expected in county areas

By CINDY YINGST  
The Columbia Press

County commissioners on Wednesday gave initial approval to an ordinance that places a moratorium on new short-term rentals in unincorporated areas of Clatsop County.

It was the first of two public hearings required on the issue before the moratorium goes into effect Sept. 1.

“My sense of this moratorium is it’s an attempt to calm and soothe the waters in the situations that have developed around short-term rentals, at least in my neighborhood,” said Commissioner Lianne Thompson, who lives in Arch Cape. “What I’m hoping as we look at this is that this will be a time for people to settle and calm.”

Cameron Lewis, who lives in Surf Pines south of Warrenton, said the gated community has many problems with houses being rented to 10 and even 20 people at a time.

“There are lots of problems with speeding on our roads. There’s a lot of things that are damaging to our environment,” Lewis said. “If you’re a homeowner, you’d be cited for that, but it’s difficult to establish who it is (causing problems) when they’re short-term renters.”

The county has chosen to deal with the issue after receiving many complaints about the rentals from permanent residents and after a 2019 housing study identified a shortage of affordable housing. The study was conducted on behalf of the county and all five cities.

Warrenton’s response to the study was to change its building codes to allow tiny homes and other nontraditional but affordable dwellings in residential areas and to allow smaller lot sizes in some places.

Warrenton also made changes to its rules eliminating short-term rentals unless done within a home where the owner also lives. Less than a dozen non-owner-occupied rentals that had been operating in the city at the time were grandfathered in and that list has

grown smaller as properties have changed hands.

On Tuesday, Warrenton city commissioners heard an update on one grandfathered rental in which the owner lost her rights to operate because she didn’t abide by rules governing short-term rentals in the city.

But in county areas, once the moratorium is in place, planners will have until the end of the year to develop ordinances governing how, when, where and if they can operate.

Two town hall meetings were held in July to gather public comments and county commissioners held a work session Aug. 3. A final public hearing on the moratorium is planned for Aug. 25.

“People buying a second home or short-term rental ... have exacerbated the housing crisis,” said Gail Henrikson, the county’s community development director.

While the moratorium applies to unincorporated areas, it won’t affect the urban growth areas of Cannon Beach, Astoria, Seaside or Warrenton.

It does include Gearhart’s urban growth area, however.

## Food truck approved to serve Buoy 10 crowds in Hammond

The Columbia Press

Those participating in the Buoy 10 fishery – and anyone else who’s hungry – can now buy food at Hammond Marina.

Warrenton city commissioners on Tuesday unanimously approved an agreement with Alex Cabalona to sell breakfast burritos, sandwiches, coffee, and box lunches from a food truck. The agreement allows him to target anglers on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays in the morning during the

## OANG conducts more air-combat training

The Oregon Air National Guard’s 142nd Wing continues its series of air combat training sessions this month.

Strike Fighter Squadron 37 from Naval Air Station Oceana, Va., will spar with the local ANG in the dissimilar air combat training, with much of the training off the Oregon Coast.

F-18 super hornets will fly in collaborative exercises with the 142nd Wing’s F-15 Eagles in realistic combat scenarios that help pilots hone their aerial skills, which may be required against potential adversaries.

The exercise is an essential and required component that ensures military readiness in support of the base’s national and state missions, according to the Guard.

“Training with the super hornets from VFA-37 affords us the opportunity to execute in a multi-service and multi-aircraft environment that we normally do not see un-



Spec. Justin R. Pacheco/U.S. Navy

An F/A-18C hornet assigned to Squadron 37 prepares to land on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Harry S. Truman.

less we go to an (remote) exercise,” said Lt. Col. Bradley Young, 123rd Fighter Squadron director of operations.

“It also affords us an opportunity to see how they execute and train and help us refine our integration between the two services,” Young said.

Flights will depart from and

land at Portland International Airport, and training will be conducted in approved airspace off the Oregon Coast and in Eastern Oregon.

Flights will launch daily after 8 a.m. and conclude before 4 p.m.

The Portland Air National Guard Base employs 1,500 airmen.

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