

‘Few options’ after amendments tabled

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The extra story would need to serve as multifamily housing, defined as three or more units. The units would not have been sold as condominiums or short-term rentals.

Councilors said they feared that the amendments would prove impractical.

“We’re trying to create housing for the workforce,” George Vetter said. “I don’t see where anywhere downtown someone is going to opt to put in workforce housing instead of commercial.”

Even if a building could meet the height standard, parking could remain problematic.

Adding a third story to an existing building would be difficult, Barnes added. “It would be the rare building that could see a third story grafted onto it.”



City Planner Mark Barnes, City Manager Bruce St. Denis, Councilor Nancy McCarthy, Councilor Mike Benefield, Mayor Sam Steidel, Councilor George Vetter and Councilor Brandon Ogilvie.

As a result, existing buildings would likely be torn down rather than added on to, further adding to cost. New buildings would hover over existing properties, blocking views or light and would likely fail to meet the need for workforce housing.

“I don’t see how a brand-new building is going to be affordable either,” Councilor Mike Benefield said.

The city would be unable to guarantee the apartments would be designated for affordable housing, Vetter said, and while use as a short-term rental would be prohibited, owners may use the homes “as their Cannon Beach getaway” rather than meeting critical housing needs. “Do we really gain anything with this? We’re rolling the dice.”

Mayor Sam Steidel lamented a lack of options in meeting what has been the city’s No. 1 focus for years. “There’s nothing left,” Steidel said. “We’ve argued every other point.”

That leaves the city with few options, Steidel said. “We have a difficult problem with affordable housing. My hope was that this one would allow for someone to do something who had some properties in the downtown area.”

Along with councilors, Steidel agreed chances of getting affordable housing through this ordinance are “very slim.”

Barnes suggested a review of the city’s buildable lands inventory. “We’re getting to the point where the number of vacant lots left and the lots suitable for multifamily housing is getting small.”

At some point the city will be faced with the choice of more density in town or expanding the urban growth boundary, Barnes said. “I don’t want to see the city paint themselves into a corner with this.”

This discussion will likely be postponed, but “the longer you wait, the narrower your options get.”

Woman bikes across Oregon to honor parents



Liz Hardaway, of Wilsonville, lost both of her parents to cancer.

Hardaway’s parents died of lung cancer

By Jack Heffernan
Cannon Beach Gazette

Jan. 12, 2018 marked 15 years since the death of Liz Hardaway’s father from lung cancer. It also was the start of one of the most remarkable challenges she has ever accepted.

That was the date she signed up to bike from Cannon Beach to Boise, Idaho, to raise money for cancer research. Hardaway, 47, of Wilsonville, also lost her mother to lung cancer 23 years ago.

“For me it was a very personal, ‘Why?’” she said. “I thought this was just a great way to honor my parents.”

Hardaway, an access and reimbursement manager at pharmaceutical company Bristol-Myers Squibb, ceremoniously dipped her toes in the Pacific Ocean on Wednesday near Haystack Rock. Then, Hardaway and a team of co-workers will ride 225 miles east toward Boise.

The team represents the first leg of the fifth annual Coast 2 Coast 4 Cancer Ride. After Boise, six other teams and a total of 109 riders plan to stop in Salt Lake City, Denver, Indianapolis and Kansas City before reaching the Atlantic Ocean in Long Branch, New Jersey, on Sept. 25.

The goal of the ride is to raise \$1 million for the V Foundation, a nonprofit that promotes cancer research. More than \$466,00 had been raised as of Friday afternoon on the ride’s website.

For more information, visit www.cancerbikeride.org.

Hardaway’s team, Mission Possible, had raised more than \$61,400, more than \$5,000 of which came from her own fundraising through friends, family and neighbors.

“You realize how important what you’re doing is for the patients dealing with cancer,” Hardaway said.

Hardaway had little experience riding bikes, save a few short biking trips on the Oregon Coast. When she started training in the spring, learning how to stay upright was one of her first hurdles.

Hardaway fell probably a dozen times. “While I was at intersections in Wilsonville, I probably was seen numerous times falling over.”

After relying heavily on a stationary bike at the start of training, Hardaway gradually weaned off of them as she improved her balance and endurance. Some weeks she would ride for two to three hours, while others she would train 15 to 18 hours. For the past 2½ months, she has logged 120 to 170 miles during each three-day training session.

Hardaway, whose husband has accompanied her at times during training, called it “a family mission.” Now more seasoned and passionate, she plans to continue with the sport after the cancer ride — and a couple of weeks of rest.

Hardaway was nervous leading up to her lengthy journey, she said. But, “I keep remembering why we do this and it keeps me grounded.”



Visitors enjoy an outdoor table at Cannon Beach Bakery.

Sourdough, challah, baguettes and more

Bakery from Page 1A

“It’s becoming a lost art,” Gib Hammond said.

But he has a special place in his heart for bread. One of the goals in the upcoming year will be to expand the bread line and focus on using ingredients without preservatives to make a variety of sourdoughs, baguettes, focaccia, challah and more.

The couple also seeks to operate with zero waste, with a “no day-old product” policy. Anything that isn’t sold that can be frozen will be given to the food bank to be distributed throughout the community, Deanna Hammond said.

“Everything we give is something we’d eat ourselves,” she said.

Starting only a couple of months before the summer season, the Hammonds have hit the ground running, trying to keep up with the line of customers winding out the door. But as the fall approaches, they look forward to having some time to “play in the kitchen” and better integrate into the community.

“We’re completely present,” Deanna Hammond said. “We want to make this a hometown staple.”

COMMON MISCONCEPTION

Young common murrens washing ashore near Haystack Rock could mean a healthier colony

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

Since the beginning of August, volunteers with the Haystack Rock Awareness Program can expect a beachgoer to approach them at least once a day with a report of a stranded young seabird.

While it is normal to see some birds wash ashore both dead and alive this time of year, more than 23 stranded baby common murrens have been documented, a finding that has piqued interest.

“The reason for concern is just that there has been a large number in a small amount of time,” Melissa Keyser, the awareness program’s director, said. As of Wednesday, Sept. 5, the Wildlife Center of the North Coast had about 30 baby common murrens in its care, said executive director Josh Saranpaa, the majority of which came from Cannon Beach.

But the strandings shouldn’t be an immediate cause for alarm. So far, there has been no evidence to suggest this year’s rates of mortality are anything out of the ordinary, said Miel Corbett, of the U.S. Fish



Pauline Baker treats a common murre that was brought to the Wildlife Center of the North Coast.

and Wildlife Service. Though seeing small black-and-white seabird chicks washing ashore inevitably tugs on the heartstrings, having more stranded baby birds actually points to the area returning to a more typical year.

“I’ve worked through many die-offs, and I wouldn’t consider it that yet, even though we are very busy,” Saranpaa said. “This is considered a more normal, annual stranding event.”

Lots of factors can contribute to a juvenile seabird die-off. Mortality can sometimes be high if food conditions are poor or if the presence of toxins is high. But those factors have not been thoroughly studied, thus no specific information

has indicated that either is the case in Oregon, Corbett said.

“Observations of murrens feeding chicks at Yaquina Head through early August suggested that while food conditions were not great this year, they weren’t catastrophic, either,” she said.

High numbers in Cannon Beach could be attributed to the fact Haystack Rock has a large colony close to the shore, making the problem more visible to the average beachgoer than other offshore colonies, Keyser said.

Seeing juvenile birds wash ashore is normal starting in late summer, when the fledgling common murre jumps from nests to learn how to forage for fish. Through the process, some birds will always struggle, and those arriving on shore are often coming into the wildlife center malnourished and hypothermic, rehabilitation specialist Pauline Baker said.

Fall Festival

Saturday, September 29, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Silent auctions for Cannon Beach hotel stays
Gift certificate drawings for Cannon Beach shops
Homemade crafts & baked goods sale, 10-5, Sept. 29

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