

# Dam: Engineering plan characterizes dam as unsafe

Continued from Page 1A

The water district will seek a city permit to remove the dam, setting up a potential confrontation with nearby property owners who claim the dam could be necessary for flood control. Mayor Mark Kujala's family, who own property near the dam, and the politically influential Nygaard family, who own Warrenton Fiber, have urged the city to take control of the dam.

The water district and CREST are disappointed and perplexed by the City Commission's 2-2 vote against an agreement. Mayor Kujala recused himself. The commission had twice voted in the past to support the deal, which would have given the city a 54-foot-long, 16-foot-wide emergency access bridge to replace a gravel road over the dam.

"I feel like the city has given a very clear message to the district and to CREST and they've said, 'No, thank you,'" said Denise Löfman, the task-force director.

The Kujala family and others had pushed for a wider bridge last year to enable future development, but have since pivoted and joined the Nygaard family in arguing that the dam needs to be saved for flood control.

## Expired lifespan

The dam, built by the federal government in 1963 for flood control, was transferred to the water district when its 50-year lifespan expired. The state has questioned the dam's value for flood control and described the structure as likely a significant hazard.

The water district's engineering plan characterizes the dam as unsafe, ineffective and expensive to maintain. The dam also acts as a barrier to fish passage, restricts water flow and impedes water quality.

Bruce Francis, the water district's vice chairman, said he would be willing to give the dam to the city for \$1 — an offer the water district made several years ago — to shed the liability. If the city were to take ownership, the responsibility for maintenance and the liability would shift to city taxpayers.

"Now is the time to get away from it, and just get rid of it," Francis said.

The water district's board has also thought about installing a gate and security cameras to shut down the gravel road while the dam's fate is debated. The city would get keys to the gate for emergency access.

"We're not trying to punish the city, we're trying to decrease our liability," Scheller said.

Dick Hellberg, a former city commissioner who has



The Daily Astorian/File Photo

The Skipanon Water Control District wants to remove the Eighth Street Dam on the Skipanon River in Warrenton.

lived near the dam since 1971, doubts that the dam has ever been particularly useful for flood control.

"I can't even understand why the two commissioners voted 'no,'" he said of Commissioners Pam Ackley and Rick Newton, who had supported the deal last year. Commissioners Henry Balensifer and Tom Dyer voted to renew the agreement with the

water district and CREST to get the bridge.

"I don't really understand what their argument was because the dam is really not a part of our diking system other than it's connected to it," Hellberg said.

"It has virtually nothing to do with the height of the water in the areas that we're worried about."



Denise Löfman



Dick Hellberg



Tessa Scheller

# Proposals: Commission will make recommendations in June

Continued from Page 1A

## Food fest

The Chamber of Commerce requested \$50,000 for a culinary, beverage and music fest and an inaugural night market, planned for April. The festival would be held annually, while the night market would be monthly for five months of the year, the chamber's executive director Court Carrier said.

"It's been a very successful event in many other locations," Carrier said, pointing to the popularity of outdoor dining. "We know we've got some great food and beverages here. We have an incredible opportunity to tap into that market."

The chamber also requested \$25,000 for marketing on the North Coast, \$20,000 to expand the website and social media and \$15,000 to create videos for marketing. Last year, the chamber received about \$81,000 for three projects.

## Make us laugh

Tolovana Arts Colony requested \$6,500 for a weekend Cannon Beach Comedy Festival, a new event proposal scheduled for winter 2017. The festival could include stand-up comedians, improvisational troupes or sketch troupes throughout the city. Comedy is a "profound and connective art form" not found



The Daily Astorian/File Photo

Elaina Calbaum, right, of Seattle, Wash., gets a pour of a white blend from Savor Cannon Beach volunteer Tracy Abel, while her husband, Steven Calbaum, left, waits his turn during the Battle of the Blends at last year's event.

in Cannon Beach, the proposal stated, and comedy festivals have been successful in resort towns like Aspen.

Tolovana Arts Colony also requested \$25,000 for the sixth annual Get Lit at the Beach, a three-day spring event featuring bestselling authors from a range of literary genres. Last year, Tolovana Arts Colony received more than \$20,000 for Get Lit.

## Other options

North Coast Land Conservancy proposed a September event, CoastWalk Oregon. The organization requested \$5,000 to fund part of the three-day, 30-mile hiking event on the Oregon Coast Trail, starting at

Columbia River and heading over Tillamook Head to Cannon Beach. The event would provide 50 hikers and nature lovers the opportunity to explore Oregon's beaches and coastal ecosystems, according to the proposal.

Clatsop Animal Assistance requested more than \$46,000 for the eighth annual Savor Cannon Beach, a four-day wine, culinary and arts festival in March. The event taps into the culinary tourism trend and "introduces Cannon Beach to a new, younger and affluent demographic," the proposal reads. In past years, Savor helped raise money for the Cannon Beach Children's

Center, which closed in April. Last year, the children's center received about \$38,000 from Savor.

Friends of Haystack Rock requested \$60,000 for the Cannon Beach Yoga Festival, a four-day event with yoga, dance, art, music, environmental and wellness planned in February. Friends of Haystack Rock received more than \$38,000 last year. It is difficult to book in-demand teachers in advance when funding is received annually, festival director Christen Allsop said.

The Coaster Theatre requested about \$55,000 for special event concerts, six theatrical productions and a celebration of the organization's 45th anniversary. The theater's interiors are also being upgraded with new seats, curtains and carpets.

The Coaster Theatre received \$35,000 last year.

The Cannon Beach History Center & Museum proposed \$27,000 for the 14th annual Cottage & Garden Tour, an event that has grown significantly and includes a luncheon, lecture, concerts and more. The event, scheduled for September 2017, attracts about 500 attendees and provides 20 percent of the history center's annual income, according to the proposal. Last year, the history center received \$17,000.


The Cannon Beach Arts Association requested \$24,000 to create three juried shows and a new series of "art weekends" that encourage visitors to stay for a longer period. The events are planned from November to June 2017.

The goal is to expand the

organization's artist community to include visiting artists, nonresident members and "engaged cultural tourists," program director Jane Brumfield wrote in the proposal. Last year, the association received almost \$13,000 for juried exhibitions and special events.

The Cannon Beach Gallery Group requested \$53,000 for the Spring Unveiling Arts Festival and the Plein Air & More Arts Festival. "We have established both festivals as viable events with great potential for continued expansion," the proposal read. Last year, the gallery group received about \$40,000.


The commission will make recommendations to the Cannon Beach City Council in June.



## Hi Casual Cannabis

We are a recreational and medical cannabis dispensary. Our friendly and knowledgeable staff is dedicated to helping you find the quality medicine that suits your needs. With over 25 strains ranging from high CBD to high THC and everything in between.

193 Marine Drive  
Astoria, Oregon  
503-741-3119

Bring in this ad today and get **15% OFF** 

\*limit one per customer

## OSAA 4A GIRLS TRACK & FIELD STATE CHAMPIONS



Congratulate the Astoria High School Lady Fishermen winners of the OSAA 4A Track Championship

Your 3-line message to the Lady Fishermen championship team and you business name

# \$45

Deadline: May 31  
Runs: June 1 in The Daily Astorian

Contact Holly at 503-325-3211



## MEMORIAL DAY

### Weekend

CELEBRATING VETERANS  
CELEBRATING FREEDOM

Follow the Old Soldiers Trail and learn the story of Fort Stevens the Defender at the River of the West.

Raffle tickets will be sold for the chance to help fire Civil War cannons.

FORT STEVENS STATE PARK HISTORIC AREA

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 28 & 29 • 11AM-4PM

PARK HOURS 8AM-6PM

How do I get there? The Fort Stevens Historic Area entrance is approximately one mile north of the Fort Stevens State Park camping entrance on Ridge Road. Head west at the 4-way stop.

FRIENDS OF OLD FORT STEVENS, INC.

503-861-1470  
Ft. Stevens State Park, Hammond, OR  
email: foofs@teleport.com Click on: www.visitfortstevens.com



1863 1947  
OREGON'S DEFENDER