

COBBLED TOGETHER

NATURAL GRAVEL BEACHES PROTECT DUNES AT CLATSOP SPIT



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Scientists with the state Department of Geology and Mineral Industries visit Clatsop Spit regularly to track the movement of materials in a gravel berm constructed at the base of the South Jetty. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hopes the gravel berm will help blunt waves and prevent further erosion from threatening the jetty's function.

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Over the past 90 years, the coastline on the northern tip of Clatsop Spit has eroded by more than 1,100 feet. By 2010, wave action from the Pacific Ocean again threatened to breach the remaining dunes and reconnect Trestle Bay, a lagoon off of the Columbia River, directly to the ocean.

While the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is spending millions to reinforce the jetties around the mouth of the Columbia with large riprap boulders, the agency has turned to natural gravel beaches to protect the dunes, with promising results after three years of monitoring.

"A lot of our beaches are naturally cobbled beaches," said Rod Moritz, a hydraulic engineer with the Army Corps. "It's a very effective wave absorber."

Between July and October 2013, contractors for the Corps excavated 5 to 7 feet into the sand where the South Jetty meets the Clatsop Spit. They deposited more than 30,000 cubic yards of gravel and cobble stones in a cul-de-sac-shaped berm arcing 1,100 feet along the coastline.

The berm, known as a dynamic revetment, emulates natural, gravelly beaches. The larger rocks in the berm move onshore in the face of waves and high tides, as opposed to sand being pulled offshore.

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Rod Moritz

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Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Coastal geomorphologist Jonathan Allan and field geologist Laura Gabel, both from the state Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, have been monitoring a berm at the base of the Columbia River's South Jetty since late 2013. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hopes the berm will blunt waves and prevent erosion.



In 2013, contractors deposited 34,000 cubic yards of layered gravel, cobble and pebbles to recreate a rocky beach at the base of the Columbia River's South Jetty for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The agency hopes the berm will prevent further erosion of the Clatsop Spit.

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Wing gets 15 years in daughter's murder

Agreed to testify for reduced time

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Dorothy Wing, the mother of murdered toddler Evangelina Wing, was sentenced Tuesday to more than 15 years in prison for first-degree manslaughter and two counts of first-degree criminal mistreatment.

Wing had faced a life sentence for murder by abuse and six counts of criminal mistreatment. She pleaded guilty in January to the lesser charges after agreeing to truthfully testify against her former boyfriend Randy Roden, who was convicted Monday in the murder of her daughter in Seaside nearly two years ago.



Dorothy Wing

The couple called 911 Dec. 20, 2014, after discovering Evangelina unresponsive. An autopsy later found the girl had died from blunt-force trauma. Wing's two sons were also found badly injured and hospitalized. The two were later taken into protective custody and now live with family in California.

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Saddle Mountain road has reopened

But campground remains closed

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

The campground at Saddle Mountain State Natural Area will remain closed through the winter, but the vehicle road leading up to it reopened Tuesday after a brief closure that caused outcry among hikers.

The state parks department recently closed the gate between the U.S. Highway 26 entrance and the day-use area. Drivers could park outside the gate, but hikers and hunters had to walk an additional couple of miles to reach the Saddle Mountain trail.

Ben Cox, park manager of the Nehalem Bay Management Unit — which oversees Saddle Mountain and other parks and recreation sites — said he closed the road out of concern for visitors' safety after the mid-October storms ripped through the North Coast and knocked down trees at the park.

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Chefs go head to head for United Way

Event draws region's top cooking talent

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Some jobs really are a piece of cake. The region's best chefs and their teams assembled Tuesday night for the premier local dining competition, Iron Chef Goes Coastal, at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center.

Seaside's Sea Star Gelato presented a real Hood straw-

AND THE WINNERS ARE

Best dessert: Frite and Scoop

Best appetizer: Silver Salmon

Best table presentation: Fort George

Best beverage: Public Coast

Best chef: Team of John Sowa, Jonathan Hoffman



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

Visitors enjoy savory appetizers at Street 14 Cafe's station.

berry cheesecake at the ninth-annual competition. "You got to try it," Tracy Nye said. "Oregon is the best ber-

ry-growing area of the world and Hood strawberries are the granddaddy of them all. They're only in season two

weeks out of the year so they're pretty special."

At their side, the Christian Culinary Academy of Cannon

Beach was prepared for the competition.

The academy's president and chef Ira Krizo and students offered profiteroles, which he described "as a miniature cream puff that has cognac, almond extracts and vanilla extracts." The chef adds a cherry and Amaretto sauce with some Cabernet vanilla candied almonds on the side.

The Iron Chef Goes Coastal event is the biggest fundraiser of the year for Clatsop County United Way, according to United Way Board Member Christine Lolich.

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