

DEPARTING CANNON BEACH CITY COUNCILORS CELEBRATED PAGE 2A



Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Cannon Beach Police Chief Jason Schermerhorn, right, and his son Jackson, a Boy Scout in Troop 642, help load boxes of food with other community volunteers into a truck to be delivered to families in need on Friday at the American Legion in Cannon Beach.

Gearhart goes to class for dune grass

Homeowners seek to control dune vegetation

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — Noxious species, high grass, fire hazards and trees growing in the midst of foredunes are among unaddressed issues in Gearhart, resident Margaret Marino told city councilors at three separate fall meetings.

An educational forum at the Gearhart Firehouse on Jan. 5 aims to remedy that.

Marino, who is working with homeowners along Ocean Avenue, seeks approval to manage vegetation on the dunes.

Right now, the city's zoning code does not address mowing, removal of trees, noxious weeds or grasses.

Marino first came before the council in September when she sought permission to manage shore pines, Scotch broom, tansy, thistles and other noxious weeds.

In November, City Attorney Peter Watts advised that before taking action, the city must revise the zoning code, a process that would be initiated by the Planning Commission and approved by City Council.

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'We're here for the community'

A community effort to deliver food, gifts to families

By LYRA FONTAINE
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Every year since the 1970s, the Cannon Beach American Legion Post 168 and local volunteers have spent almost a week gathering, organizing and distributing items to make sure families have food on their tables and gifts under their trees during the holidays.

This year, the post's Community Christmas Basket Program delivered children's gifts, whole turkeys and various other items, from milk to paper towels, to 55 households. About 30 people total were involved in preparation, food gathering and wrapping the toys, said Dan O'Reilly, the post's commander.

"The American Legion is the one that puts it all together and gathers all the toys and food," O'Reilly said. "We get this all going without the city's help. It's very significant."

On Thursday, the American Legion Post 168 building was filled with piles of wrapped presents — games, puzzles, books, stuffed animals and more — meticulously organized by age group and household.

"It's a big job trying to figure out who gets what," said Nancy Teagle, who has volunteered for the program for about 20 years.

The American Legion helps deliver gifts that kids wish for from the "Giving Tree" at U.S. Bank, containing cards with items that people in the community can purchase.

Maddy Wrege, 10, was volunteering for the fourth year.

"These are the most toys we've had for awhile," she said. "I like delivering because I like seeing the people's expressions."

By Friday, the presents were delivered and volunteers, including police officers and firefighters, helped load and deliver food boxes to low-income apartments at Elk Creek Terrace

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American Legion First Vice Commander Don Boehm fills a box with eggs and milk for delivery to families in need on Friday in Cannon Beach. Boehm has been helping organize this charity with the American Legion since 1977.



Stacie Gilligan hands a turkey to Cannon Beach Police Chief Jason Schermerhorn as he helps with other community volunteers and American Legion members to deliver boxes of food to families in need on Friday in Cannon Beach.

After refuge takeover, a quieter land battle unfolds

Suspicion of federal government's motives in land management

By ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press

JOHN DAY — On a recent wintry evening, members of the Grant County Public Forest Commission walked into the warmth of a rustic diner and took seats at their customary table for their bimonthly meeting.

They voiced anger and frustration. At this meeting, they were officially a non-entity.

A judge this fall dissolved the commission at the behest of a former county supervisor who worried it was becoming a risk, citing the takeover of a federal wildlife refuge in a neighboring county.

While the armed occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge grabbed the world's attention, a quieter struggle over federal lands is being waged by those trying to use elections and the levers of government. Their grandparents and great-grandparents wrested a living from the West's rugged landscape.

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The Heroux family made a big move

From 10,000 Lakes to clams and crabbing

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Suppose you just decided to close your eyes and pick a spot on the map? Lynne Heroux, a long-time Minnesota resident, didn't exactly blindfold herself, but she made a list of criteria for her and her 12-year-old son, Sam.

Heroux sought to make a change in her daily work-life and to try something different.



"My son said if we were going to make a move, we were going to make it big," Heroux said. "So we started reading the atlas at night. I wanted to be by the coast. He wanted to fish. So we picked Oregon."

After deciding on a destination, Heroux then went job searching. An occupational therapist, she found an oppor-

tunity with Providence Seaside Hospital.

They embarked on their cross-country adventure in June, but after arriving, got caught in the North Coast housing crunch. Unable to find a place to rent, they stayed six weeks in the Hillcrest Inn before purchasing a home.

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Submitted Photo
Lynn Heroux and Sam Heroux at a Thanksgiving dinner in Seaside.