

# Gearhart dune management plan misses window

Committee to meet Saturday

By R.J. MARX  
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — Earlier this year, the city developed a plan to cut noxious weeds on Gearhart’s foredunes, with the goal of maintaining public safety, protecting firefighters and beach habitat.

But after concerns from residents that a proposed amendment to the city’s beach and dunes overlay zone was over-reaching, information incomplete and ill-timed, city councilors agreed to postpone Wednesday’s public hearing.

“The city finds the opportunity to address the fire hazard and noxious weed growth in the subject area has passed until later this year,” City Planner Carole Connell wrote in a report delivered to councilors.

**Safety, habitat at issue**

In January, residents filled the Gearhart Fire Station for an education forum and town hall meeting on an amendment permitting the removal of noxious weeds.

The panel of city officials, state parks representatives and other experts was organized by Margaret Marino, a resident who had expressed concerns about the vegetation at city meetings and reached out to state departments and ecologists for assistance.

The amendment would have permitted the “removal, destruction or uprooting” of vegetation in areas of Gearhart’s foredunes. The amendment would have required revegetation of native plants or grasses after removal. Letters on behalf of the amendment stressed the risk of fire from overgrown vegetation.

“As a child in the 1980s, I witnessed the power and speed of a large dune fire that started close to the northern end of Ocean Avenue and spread down the dune to nearly in front of our home,” Gearhart property owner Joe Gregoire wrote. “Had there been the



The invasive plant Scotch broom proliferates in the Gearhart foredunes. The city is working on a plan to cut the weeds.

high fuel-load currently in place in the dunes with the added height ... I believe the outcome would have been much worse.”

“I am in support of clearing and cleaning the safety lane for fire and police access to Little Beach,” Gearhart’s Ted Amato wrote in late-April.

Fire Chief Bill Eddy provided testimony that a wildland fire in the area would be left to burn itself out because of the amount of flammable fuel load.

“As the dune area now exists, there is a real public safety concern, with the limited access for emergency vehicles,” Police Chief Jeff Bowman wrote in March. “We have responded to incidents such as unattended campfires, unlawful lodging, illegal fireworks, minors in posses-

sion, parties and other minor disturbances.”

**Threatened species**

Future council decisions will also be driven by not only public safety but on impacts to threatened or endangered wildlife.

Any proposed land use action may negatively impact bird habitat in the area, Connell said in her staff report.

Five bird species — marbled murrelets, northern spotted owl, short-tailed albatross, streaked horned lark and western snowy plover are threatened or endangered species nesting in critical Gearhart foredune habitat, according to correspondence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Leatherback, olive ridley and loggerhead sea turtles may also be found in the Gearhart dunes.

The Sand Dune Vegetation Committee, created to help the city identify a strategy to manage the vegetation on the dunes, will meet Saturday at 10 a.m. at Gearhart City Hall.

# Razor clam digging in Long Beach ends for the season

EO Media Group

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Clam digging is over for the season on the Long Beach Peninsula after test results for domoic acid.

“Based on the most recent toxin tests, razor clams will not be safe to eat for the remainder of the month at Long Beach or Twin Harbors,” said Dan Ayres, a state coastal shellfish manager.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife had opened areas for clam digging briefly at the end of April, coinciding with Long Beach’s annual Razor Clam Festival. The state allowed a bag limit of 25 clams per person, the highest the department has permitted since the 1940s, according to Ayres.

Oregon’s beaches have yet to open this season. On Clatsop County beaches, toxin levels in the razor clams’ tissues have remained well above the threshold of 20 parts per million since October. Near Coos Bay, levels have spiked as high as 120 ppm.

SPRING BAZAAR

OVER 20 LOCAL VENDORS

Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 10AM TO 3PM

A

AVAMERE

A FAMILY OF COMPANIES

Your Life. Our Commitment.

2500 S. Roosevelt Dr., Seaside, Oregon  
www.avamereatseaside.com • 503-738-0900

PRE-MOTHER'S DAY

Plant, Garden, and Bake Sale

Saturday

May 6th

9AM - 4PM

St. Mary of the Sea Auditorium

1411 Grand Avenue

Astoria

Fundraiser sponsored by Court 151  
Catholic Daughters of America

Peninsula COMPOUNDING

Your local, independent resource for customized medications

WHY CHOOSE PENINSULA COMPOUNDING?

- Save on HIGH copays &/or non-covered medications
- Same day processing and 2 day, **NO COST** shipping
- No doctor? We can direct you to a local, compounding friendly provider.
- We bill insurance
- We're local

ACCREDITED

Compounding Pharmacy

CONTACT US TODAY!

CALL: (360) 642-1250 | FAX: (360) 642-8786

EMAIL: LBCOMPOUNDER@PENPHARMRX.COM

101 BOLSTAD AVE. LONG BEACH, WA 98631

Mothers Day Brunch

Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 10am to 4pm

- Honey Glazed Ham
- Pepper Crusted Baron of Beef
- Lemon Peppered Salmon
- Garlic Mashed Potatoes
- Rice Pilaf
- Broccoli with Cheese Sauce
- Scrambled Eggs
- Home Fried Potatoes
- Bacon
- Sausage Links
- Waffles with Strawberries
- Biscuits and Gravy
- Fresh Fruit
- Assorted Salads
- Homemade Desserts

REGULAR MENU

served from

7AM TO 11AM & 4PM TO 8PM

BUFFET

served from

10AM TO 4PM

BUFFET ONLY

11AM TO 4PM

Adults \$27<sup>95</sup>

Seniors \$24<sup>95</sup>

Children (6-12) \$13<sup>95</sup>

Children (0-5) Free

CA 18 MP

RESTAURANT

42362 HIGHWAY 26 • Elsie, OREGON  
Located on milepost 18, Hwy 26  
60 miles from Portland and 22 miles from Seaside  
Reservations gladly accepted • 503.755.1818 • 800.874.1810  
www.camp18restaurant.com

MAY DISNEY DAYS AT AAA

MAY 4-19, 2017

Unleash your inner hero. Blast into an all-new adventure with *Guardians of the Galaxy—Mission: BREAKOUT!*

Enjoy valuable AAA booking incentives on all Disney vacations during AAA's Disney Days celebration, compliments of AAA.

Visit AAA North Coast

135 S. Highway 101, Warrenton

503.861.3118

NORTHCOAST@AAAOREGON.COM

AAA

KEEP LIFE GOING®

HERO UP

Disney CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE

©DISNEY ©2017 MARVEL

Re-Elect JAMES CAMPBELL

PORT COMMISSIONER #1

✓ Integrity

✓ Civility

✓ Experience

Endorsed by

Dirk Rohne

PAID FOR BY

FRIENDS OF JAMES CAMPBELL FOR PORT COMMISSIONER #1

Disney artwork, logos and properties ©Disney. Special booking incentive applies May 4-19, 2017 at all AAA Travel locations in Oregon and the Southern 34 counties of Idaho.