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ONE DOLLAR

MAKING THE GRADE

STATE GEOLOGIST LAYS OUT DUNE GRADING OPTIONS FOR CANNON BEACH HOMEOWNERS

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Residents concerned about dune grading by the Breakers Point Condominiums joined the Planning Commission Monday to learn about dunes and how to manage them from the state Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

While not a public hearing, the presentation was a follow-up of a 1997 study that documents the geologic forces that create dunes and suggests solutions for sand removal. This document would be the basis for whatever policy the city creates, City Planner Mark Barnes said.



Jonathan Allan

The study comes in light of the conflict that has embroiled Breakers Point — a region south of Chapman Point and north of Ecola Creek — in recent years after residents from the condominiums requested large sand removal permits after complaints of sand on their property and lost ocean views.

An attempt to remove an unprecedented 73,400 cubic yards of sand from the 60-foot dune north of Ecola Creek in 2014 concerned some about the impact that much sand would have on the ecosystem, prompting the city to revisit its policy.

In his presentation, Jonathan Allan, the lead author of the study, suggested options for what steps the city could take with excess sand after a grading project: push it seaward or transport it to the southern part of the county that has more erosion.

“It comes down to what is the purpose of the plan? Why are we grading



The Daily Astorian/File Photos

The dunes west of the Breakers Point condominium complex block what were once the oceanfront views of several property owners. The Breakers Point Homeowners Association filed an intent to appeal the City Council’s decision not to allow the association to relocate up to 73,400 cubic yards of dune in 2015.

the dune?” Allan said.

After the grading

There are many factors that contribute to why sand forms where it does. Sea level, storm waves, wind patterns, erosion, climate change and whether or not it is an El Niño or La Niña year all affects where dunes are created.

From Falcon Cove to Chapman Point, all these factors cause some sections of the beach, such as Tolovana, to erode and actually lose sand, while Chapman Point accumulates more and more sand, Allan said.

To remain as a safe, natural structure to withstand extreme storms and flooding, Allan recommended the city should not grade any lower than 27 feet. This would mean moving 255,900 cubic yards of sand toward the ocean in late spring, where the wind patterns would have a better potential of redis-

tributing sand farther south where erosion is a larger problem.

However, the dune would continue to rebuild in the same way, because of natural forces.

“Everything is pointing to sand moving northward. It’s about maintaining that area,” Allan said.

Carting sand off to a much-eroded Tolovana would help alleviate that cycle, Allan said, because the sand is less likely to be handled again during future dune grading. It would manually help restore balance in the physical system.

Cannon Beach would also be the first city to try this approach on the Oregon Coast, Allan said.

“It’s a totally justifiable approach — and successful, in the short term,” Allan said.

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Bruce Francis, property manager of the Breakers Point Homeowners Association, tromps through European dune grass that has trapped windblown sand west of Breakers Point in 2015.

County’s syphilis outbreak continues

Three new cases charted since February

By **JACK HEFFERNAN**
The Daily Astorian

Three people have tested positive for syphilis since public health officials declared an outbreak of the infection in Clatsop County in February.

Officials declared the outbreak after noticing an increase of positive tests the past three years.

In 2016, eight people tested positive for syphilis in the county, a rise from three cases in 2015 and two in 2014. Only two total cases were reported the previous seven years.

Following the outbreak declaration, the county requested \$10,000 in funding from the state to pay for supplies and staff time at special clinics. The state agreed to hand over roughly \$8,000, and those funds will expire at the end of June.

Since February, 47 people have been tested during 16 walk-in clinics at the Clatsop County Public Health Department and County Jail. Two screenings have also been held at Providence Seaside Hospital.

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Pay equity bill heads for governor’s signature

Bill allows workers to recover back pay

By **PARIS ACHEN**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A state pay equity bill is headed to Gov. Kate Brown’s desk, after the House of Representatives on Monday confirmed Senate changes to the legislation.

The bill allows workers who are victims of pay inequity to recover up to two years of back pay by filing a complaint with the Bureau of Labor and Industries.

The governor is expected to sign the bill next week.

“I applaud the Legislature’s bipartisan efforts to pass the pay equity bill and I look forward to signing House Bill 2005 into law. While workforce discrimination has long



Gov. Kate Brown

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Mayor, former mayor back Gearhart rental rules

Residents divided over regulations

By **R.J. MARX**
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — As some residents and property owners seek to “repeal and replace” Gearhart’s short-term rental rules, others, including Mayor Matt Brown and former Mayor Dianne Widdop, came to the defense of the city’s regulations.

They strongly disagree with the concept of repeal, as well as the way the rules



Mayor Matt Brown



Dianne Widdop



Jeanne Mark

are characterized.

“We are in full support of the current ordinance and are looking to make sure people keep it in place,” Jeanne Mark of Keep Gearhart Residential said.

A summary of a ballot ini-

tiative to “repeal and replace” the legislation underwent changes as a result of a decision issued by Circuit Court Judge Dawn McIntosh earlier this month. The ballot measure would repeal special regulations on vacation rentals related

to off-street parking, residential appearance, garbage service, septic capacity inspections and cesspool requirements not required of other Gearhart residents.

Proponents of a repeal called it a “huge win.”

“The judge agreed with us, that they were 99 percent wrong,” property owner David Townsend said in announcing the result.

Widdop said Townsend’s statement was a “gross exaggeration.”

“If you go down word for word, there are so few changes it’s unbelievable,” Widdop said. “We like the way the ordi-

nance has been written. It’s a wonderful compromise.”

“I’m not sure if Mr. Townsend is just playing politics, which is his job as an expert political strategist in Sacramento, but I definitely take issue with some of his claims that our city staff somehow misrepresented language in the ballot title or that the judge changed 99 percent of it,” Brown said. “We were very happy with Judge McIntosh’s ruling and review where she used most of the meaning of (City Attorney) Peter Watts’ ballot title.

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