

# Gearhart backs transportation plan

## Revisions address tsunami concerns

By R.J. MARX  
The Daily Astorian



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian  
Carl Springer of DKS Associates addresses the Gearhart Planning Commission.

GEARHART — The city could be on the road to applying for more than \$28 million in grant funds for projects as diverse as bike lanes, trail connections, public transit and tsunami evacuation routes.

The Planning Commission voted 6-1 Thursday night to forward the Gearhart Transportation System plan to the City Council.

If the council adopts the plan, Gearhart would be considered more competitive for grant money to fund “aspirational” projects.

“One of the requirements for most of those grant applications is it has to be in an adopted plan for the city,” Carl Springer, of DKS Associates, said. “Now they can actually check that box, assuming it gets adopted (by City Council). Without it you can still apply, but you’re less competitive.”

lion likely to be available through existing funding sources to a more than \$20 million wish list that exceeds the likely level of city and state funding through 2040.

At the lower figure, the city could provide traffic calming devices, tsunami evacuation route identification, bike parking and wayfinding signage, among other enhancements.

Higher cost “aspirational” projects include sidewalk replacement, road extensions and Highway 101 reconfiguration. Bridge improvements over Neacoxie Creek could exceed \$2 million.

Seventy-five potential projects are listed in the plan, which outlines policies and projects considered important to protecting and enhancing the quality of life in Gearhart.

Adoption of the plan does not commit the city to the projects, Springer said.

None are funded or planned, City Planner Carole Connell said, but adoption of the plan will enable the city to request outside

funding for future transportation improvements.

Funding sources could include Federal Highway Trust Funds, the State Highway Trust Fund or a Gearhart Road District tax, according to the June draft plan.

### Tsunamis, big and small

Gearhart’s tsunami risk was a primary component of the plan, and among the last subject to revision.

“One of the reasons this was funded was it’s the first transportation plan to include tsunami evacuation routes,” Connell said. “ODOT was pretty excited about getting this in a TSP.”

On the assumption an extreme Cascadia event would “take out everything west of the highway,” the original plan advised evacuation to points east of Highway 101.

Evacuation to the west is often the best option, Patrick Wingard of the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development said in an email.

# Crafard to retire as county clerk

The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County will begin looking for a new clerk this week.

Valerie Crafard has retired from her position as county clerk after nearly three years, according to a county press release. She joined the county in 2006 as a human resources assistant and clerk of the Board of Commissioners.



Valerie Crafard

Crafard’s last day at work is Nov. 30.

Maeve Kennedy Grimes, the previous clerk, was fired in 2014 after two errors were found on a general election ballot. Crafard filled in temporarily and was hired on a permanent basis in March 2015.

Kennedy Grimes sued the county and a jury awarded her more than \$400,000 in damages after a trial last year.

The county clerk keeps and administers county public records, archives, legal recordings, passports and marriage licenses. The position also involves overseeing elections and voter registration and coordinating property tax appeals.

# Daily Astorian takes home honors in annual Oregon newspaper award competition

## Four first-place awards, three seconds and three thirds

The Daily Astorian



**General excellence “represents the highest award presented to Oregon newspapers, and entries should truly be the best examples of the industry,” according to the judging criteria. The main story on this page also won for Best Writing for former reporter Kyle Spurr.**

ease of use and connection with the local community.

Reporter Edward Stratton earned two first-place awards for Business and Economic Issues and Best Educational Coverage. Stratton won

the top business honors for “Life on the half shell,” published March 15, 2016. He won the educational field with an April 22, 2016, story headlined “Underwater robot: Clatsop Community College student basks in the technical and virtual worlds.”

Former Daily Astorian reporter Kyle Spurr, who now writes for the Bend Bulletin, won first for Best Writing for his piece, “Press play: Gambling addiction on rise in Clatsop County; few seek treatment,” published March 11, 2016.

The Daily Astorian staff took second in lifestyles coverage for its Housing Crunch series the last full week of October.

Editor David Pero earned a second-place award for a series of three editorials: one about

Gov. Kate Brown’s need to step up and lead; applauding the Port of Astoria for backing away from a cargo deal; and pointing out a report on women in Oregon.

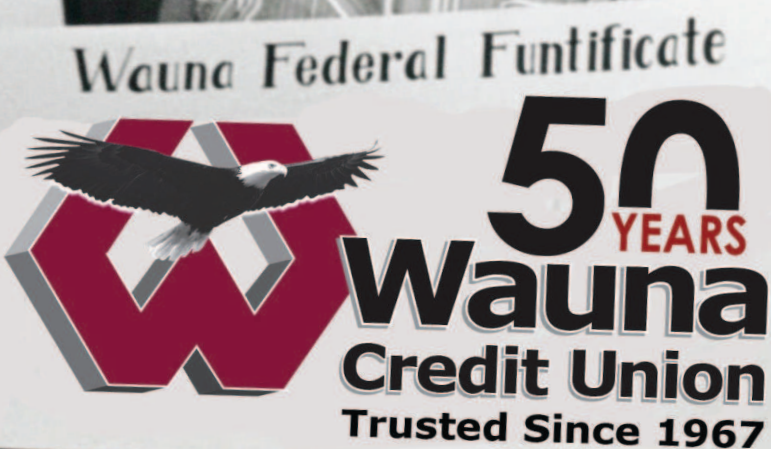
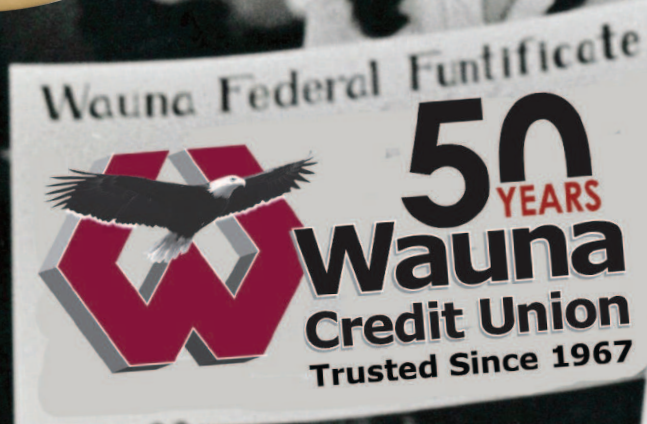
Former photographer Danny Miller took second and third place for best sports photo.

Managing Editor Laura Sellers, Deputy Managing Editor Derrick DePledge and the Design Studio team of Matt Vann and Adam Drey were named for the third-place award for Best Page One Design.

Former Editor Steve Forrester garnered third place for Best Local Column for a series of three Editor’s Notebooks: “Mill Pond rose from ashes of the Astoria Plywood Co-op”; “Astoria was a hotbed of Finnish newspaper publishing”; and “And so ... goodbye.”

# Wauna Credit Union is 50 & we're giving you a gift!

**Certificate Special!**



**\*Any Certificate 6 months or longer**

**Add .50%\* Bonus Dividend to Your Rate!**

**\$500 Minimum**

\*Qualifying Certificate Accounts opened during the promotional period will earn a .50% Bonus Dividend Rate for the term of the account. The Bonus Dividend Rate will be added to the current Dividend Rate posted for any new Certificate Account with a term of 6-months or longer (Savers and Bump Rate Certificate Accounts not included). Minimum Deposit to open a Certificate Account and qualify for Bonus Dividend Rate: \$500. Dividends are compounded and paid monthly on the last calendar day of the month. A penalty will or may be imposed for early withdrawal of funds from any certificate account prior to maturity. Fees may reduce earnings. The Bonus Dividend Rate will not renew upon maturity of the account. Rates are subject to change without notice. This special offer ends at close of business Saturday, July 22, 2017, and cannot be combined with any other promotional offers, discounts, or rates. Must be a member of Wauna Credit Union at the time of deposit. Please visit waunafcu.org for membership eligibility.

