

Single-use plastic bags banned in Manzanita

Ban is first on the coast

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

Manzanita became the first city on the Oregon Coast to ban single-use plastic carryout bags earlier this month, an attempt to reduce plastic debris along the beach.

The ordinance was passed by unanimous vote of the City Council and will take effect Nov. 5.

Manzanita, a city of 725 residents just south of Cannon Beach, joins Oregon cities such as Ashland, Corvallis and Portland in eliminating plastic bags.

The effort started about a year ago after a discussion between Michael Maginnis, a board member of the local recycling center CARTM, and Jan Behrs, a new resident who said she was “shocked” at the amount of plastic debris she saw on Manzanita’s beach.

A small group decided to draft a petition to gauge residents’ and visitors’ interest in a ban and kicked off signature-gathering with a showing of an environmental awareness movie



Bahamas Reef Environment Education Foundation
A plastic bag floats in a school of fish.

about plastic called “Bag It.” About 40 people attended the movie and signed the petition that night, Behrs said.

Committee members also surveyed the city’s businesses on the effect a ban would have, and found most merchants already used paper bags and were willing to encourage customers to bring their own.

“It takes a bit of self-training to get into the habit of using your own bags, emptying them, then putting them back in the car,” Behrs said.

“But, really, what’s worth more? A few minutes’ convenience, or the life of the planet?” According to a study by the University of Georgia, 8 million metric tons of plastic ends up in the oceans every year.

With the help of Megan Ponder, a Nehalem resident who worked for Portland on sustainability policy, the group drafted an ordinance with language reflecting that of other Oregon bag ordinances, in the hopes of someday establishing a statewide ban.

The small group that drafted the ordinance hopes other coastal cities will follow suit and join the effort to reduce plastic pollution filling the ocean, marring beaches and killing wildlife, Behrs said.

City Council President Linda Kozlowski supported the ordinance.

“The fact that a group of citizens took the initiative to do their homework and come to the council with a well-thought-out strategy to end the use of single-use plastic bags was awe-inspiring,” Kozlowski said in a statement. “I am so very proud of our community — especially our business community — for stepping up and supporting this ban.”

County hires new clerk

The Daily Astorian

Tracie Krevanko, elections supervisor for the Washington County Elections Division, has been hired as Clatsop County clerk. She will start next month.

Krevanko replaces Valerie Crafard, who is retiring after three years as clerk. Krevanko will begin Oct. 16.

Crafard was appointed to the clerk’s position three years ago after her predecessor, Maeve Kennedy Grimes, was placed on leave following two ballot errors on Clatsop Community College’s bond measure for the Patriot Hall redevelopment.

“I’m really excited to come to Clatsop County and start this new adventure in my life,” Krevanko said in a news release.

Krevanko spent 25 years with the Washington County Elections Division, including almost nine years as elections supervisor.

The clerk’s office oversees elections and voter registration and coordinates property tax appeals. The clerk also is the record keeper for the county and administers public records, archives, legal recordings, passports and marriage licenses.



Tracie Krevanko

Rescued olive ridley turtles get second chance

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

Three olive ridley turtles discovered comatose along the Oregon and Washington state coasts after winter storms returned to ocean waters this week.

Solstice, Tucker and Lightning returned to the ocean after treatment at SeaWorld in San Diego. Olive ridley sea turtles are listed on the federal endangered species list as threatened.

Tucker, a male olive ridley turtle between 15 to 20 years old, was found at Cannon Beach after storms in December 2015. He had a 40-degree body tem-

perature when rescued. Staff at the Seaside Aquarium rescued the male olive ridley sea turtle after it washed ashore south of Tolovana, likely pushed into colder waters by strong winds.

Tucker developed severe pneumonia and had to be treated in a hyperbaric chamber because he developed air in his tissue and a buoyancy problem.

He was transferred to the Seattle Aquarium after his initial care then flown to SeaWorld San Diego by the Coast Guard in April 2016.

Lightning is a female olive ridley turtle that was stranded in Pacific City, suffering from hypothermia, buoyancy issues

and injuries to both eyes.

After treatment at the Oregon Coast Aquarium, Lightning, along with Thunder, an olive ridley found in Gearhart, were escorted by the Coast Guard and a rehabilitation team to SeaWorld. Thun-

der died while completing her final rehabilitation.

Solstice, a female olive ridley turtle, was found in Oysterville, Washington, rescued and cared for initially by the Oregon Coast Aquarium in December 2014.

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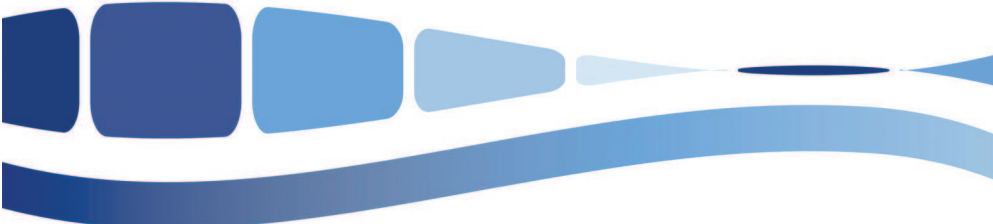
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