



John Dudley

An elk dines on some Gearhart shrubbery.

Gearhart urged to ban elk feeding

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — A resident wants Gearhart to prohibit people from feeding elk.

The animals, known to block traffic, dine on gardens and occasionally menace dogs or visitors, have become an increasing source of concern.

Bebe Michel said she was inspired after attending town halls with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife officials this spring in Gearhart and Warrenton.

Warrenton has an ordinance that prohibits elk feeding.

"In the interest of public safety and the elk herd,

I ask the city draft an ordinance prohibiting the feeding of elk," Michel told the City Council last week. "From that Warrenton meeting, it became clear that the feeding of elk — for example, hand-feeding apples — habituated the elk to view humans as a food source."

In Warrenton, feeding wildlife other than songbirds or squirrels comes with penalties as high as \$250 per offense.

"Please do both humans and elk a favor — do not feed the elk," Michel said.

Mayor Matt Brown said the city would "definitely have those conversations," with a council goal-setting session set for July 24 at City Hall.

Astoria celebrates Ghadar Party

Event honors Indian culture

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

It might be hard to believe the history of East Indian workers in Astoria was nearly forgotten when an event celebrating the founding of an Indian radical nationalist party here in 1913 and the city's efforts to commemorate that history drew several hundred people Saturday.

State officials who attended discussed plans to introduce the Ghadar Party into school curriculum. Members of Astoria's present-day Indian community hope it is the first of many such cultural celebrations to come.

Like others, Sameer Sharma, who owns the Hampton Inn & Suites in Astoria, didn't know about the East Indians who once lived in Astoria when he moved here. He said it is important to celebrate this history and what he sees as a history of acceptance by Astorians. He and others also believe the celebrations will be good for Astoria, bringing in visitors and helping boost the economy.

Most of the audience and nearly all the performers and speakers at Saturday's event were Indian. People traveled from across the West Coast to attend, and banners for Sikh organizations in Oregon and Washington state were on display.

Historian Johanna Ogden first published information about how East Indians, many of them Sikhs from India's Punjab region, came to Oregon to work in the early 20th century and settled in Astoria's Alderbrook neighborhood in a 2012 article. Ogden wrote about how



ABOVE Performers entertain the audience at an event celebrating the Ghadar Party in Astoria.

RIGHT The audience at an event put on by the Sikh community in Astoria claps during a performance.

Eric B. Williams

the workers founded the Ghadar Party, a group that later fought for Indian independence from British rule.

After learning of this history, Astoria leaders advocated for a plaque at Maritime Memorial Park in 2013. The plaque was stolen in 2017. Oregon and Astoria officials and members of regional Sikh communities rededicated a new plaque for the Ghadar Party on a stormy day this spring.

The event Saturday, held at Maritime Memorial Park,



included singing, speeches, traditional food and dance and martial arts demonstrations. Oregon leaders, including state Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose, and Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, were in attendance, along with local elected officials.

Putin says he wanted Trump to win in 2016

Russian claims no meddling to help Trump

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, JILL COLVIN and VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

HELSINKI — Russia's Vladimir Putin said today he did want Donald Trump to win the 2016 U.S. presidential election but took no action during the campaign to make it happen. He said he favored the celebrity businessman because of his policies.

Trump and Putin "spent a great deal of time" discussing allegations of Russian election meddling as they met for several hours, the U.S. president said. But Trump did not strongly condemn the interference efforts, which U.S. intelligence agencies insist did occur, including hacking of Democratic emails, the subject of last week's indictment of 12 Russians.

Trump said, as he has countless times, that there was "no collusion" between his campaign and the Russians. Putin, as always, denied all. The two leaders spoke at a joint news conference.

Trump, in opening remarks, said that U.S.-Russia relations had been at their lowest point until the two sat down face-to-face in a highly-anticipated summit.

"That changed," Trump said, "As of about four hours ago."



AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko

Russian President Vladimir Putin gives a soccer ball to President Donald Trump, left, during a press conference after their meeting at the Presidential Palace in Helsinki, Finland.

Trump also continued to deny that there had been any other collusion between his campaign and Russians, declaring: "We ran a brilliant campaign and that's why I'm president."

The summit began just hours after Trump blamed the United States — and not Russian election meddling or its annexation of Crimea — for a low-point in U.S.-Russia relations. The drama was playing out against a backdrop of fraying Western alliances, a new peak in the Russia investigation and fears that Moscow's aggression may go unchallenged.

"Our relationship with Russia has NEVER been worse," Trump tweeted this morning, blaming "many years of U.S. foolishness and stupidity and now, the Rigged Witch Hunt!"

The Russian foreign ministry responded by liking Trump's tweet and then replying: "We agree."

Asked about the tweet and whether he held Russia responsible for anything, Trump said he held "both countries responsible," thinks the United States has been "fooling" and that "we're all to blame."

"The probe is a disaster for our country. There was no collusion at all."

Putin, speaking through an interpreter, once again denied what he described as "so-called interference of Russia." He called it "nonsense" and insisted the Russian state had never interfered and

would never interfere in the American electoral process.

The pair had opened their long-awaited summit with a wink and slouch, respectively, then talked one on one behind closed doors for two-plus hours before the American leader declared their meeting was off to a "very, very good start for everybody."

"We have not been getting along well for the last number of years," Trump said after arriving at the Presidential Palace in Finland's capital, where the leaders are meeting. "But I think we will end up having an extraordinary relationship. ... I really think the world wants to see us get along."

Putin, for his part, said he and Trump have maintained regular contact through phone calls and meetings at international events but "the time has come to have a thorough discussion on various international problems and sensitive issues." He added: "There are quite a few of them for us to pay attention to."

Their opening one-on-one session had been scheduled to run 90 minutes. The Russians said it lasted two hours and 10 minutes. The White House wouldn't immediately confirm the timing.

The summit, which is being closely watched around the world, was not the first time Trump and Putin have held

talks. They met on the sidelines of world leader meetings in Germany and Vietnam last year. But today's session was condemned in advance by members of Congress from both parties after the U.S. indictment last week of 12 Russian military intelligence officers accused of hacking Democrats in the 2016 election to help Trump's presidential campaign.

Trump said last week that he would raise the meddling issue again with Putin, but questions have been swirling about whether Trump will sharply and publicly rebuke his Russian counterpart for the interference that prompted a special investigation probe that Trump has repeatedly labeled a "witch hunt."

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