

IN BRIEF

Warrenton considers plans for Spur 104 development

WARRENTON — People interested in how a wedge of properties in Warrenton near Home Depot are developed can provide feedback during open house events this week.

The 19-acre Spur 104 site underwent a zone change earlier this year to allow mixed-use commercial and high-density residential development. Up to 500 units of housing could be built in the new neighborhood.

City leaders are requiring a master plan to guide future development and design at Spur 104. Community Development Director Kevin Cronin will host open house events and workshops beginning Tuesday and running through Thursday to develop the master plan.

The workshops and open houses begin at 4 p.m. each day and will be held in the historic Fenton Grocery Building at 60 S. Main Ave. On Thursday, the Planning Commission will meet for a presentation about the master plan and public discussions at 5 p.m.

Volunteers tackle Scotch broom

CANNON BEACH — Volunteers can help the Ecola Creek Watershed Council pull, cut and otherwise “bust” Scotch broom plants in Cannon Beach on Saturday.

The annual Ecola Creek Broom Buster work party begins at Les Shirley Park at 10 a.m. and continues through noon. Volunteers will clear plants at NeCus Park once work is done at Les Shirley.

Scotch broom is an invasive shrub that can quickly establish itself and displace native plants. Its yellow flowers produce a significant source of pollen and the shrub’s seeds are able to persist in soil banks for years.

Uniontown Reborn event set

The public event will be held on May 22 at the Holiday Inn Express, 204 W. Marine Drive, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. An introductory presentation will begin at 5 p.m. Representatives from the city and the Oregon Department of Transportation will be available to answer questions.

The event is the third meeting city leaders have hosted to gather input from the community, specifically from Uniontown residents and business and property owners. The input will inform the Astoria Uniontown Reborn Master Plan, which will direct future planning decisions and improvements in the historic neighborhood at the city’s western gateway.

— The Astorian

DEATH

May 2, 2019

THOMPSON, Hubert Carl Jr., 57 of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

MEMORIALS

Saturday, May 11

REDMOND, John S. — Memorial and celebration of life at Camp 18 Restaurant, 42362 U.S. Highway 26 in Elsie. The loggers’ names are being read starting at 10 a.m.; from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

share memories in the downstairs banquet room. Redmond, 68, of Seaside, died Friday, April 5, 2019, in Lincoln City.

HOWE, Gordon — Celebration of life at 2 p.m., 39th Street Pier behind Rogue Ales Public House.

ON THE RECORD

DUII

• Around 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dawn Wojick, 47, of Hillsboro, was arrested by Astoria police near Irving Avenue and 12th Street for driving under the influence of intoxicants. Her blood alcohol content was 0.13%.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Seaside Community Center Commission, 10:30 a.m., Bob Chisholm Center, 1225 Avenue A.

Port of Astoria Commission, 4 p.m., workshop, Port offices, 10 Pier 1, Suite 209.

Seaside Library Board, 4:30 p.m., Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway.

Clatsop Care Health District Board, 5 p.m., Clatsop Retirement Village, 947 Olney Ave.

Miles Crossing Sanitary Sewer District Board, 6 p.m., 34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business.

Astoria Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

Cannon Beach City Council,

7 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Seaside Planning Commission, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

WEDNESDAY

Wickiup Water District Board, 6:30 p.m., 92648 Svensen Market Road, Svensen.

THURSDAY

Seaside Convention Center Commission, 10:30 a.m., 415 First Ave.

Cannon Beach Academy, 5:30 p.m., 3781 S. Hemlock.

Gearhart Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

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Off-road bikepacking event kicks off in Astoria

A race down logging and forest roads

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Seven riders on Saturday kicked off the inaugural Oregon Emerald Outback, a bicycle race down logging and forest roads from Astoria to Brookings.

Starting at the Astoria Column, they are riding 570 miles to Harris Beach State Park in Brookings.

The Emerald Outback is part of what’s known as bikepacking, a style of bicycle touring on dirt and gravel roads in remote locales.

Ben Colwill, who splits his years panning for gold in Arizona and building tiny homes in The Dalles, races in other bikepacking events, including an 1,100-mile retracing of the historic Santa Fe Trail from New Mexico to Franklin, Missouri.

The appeal of bikepacking for Colwill is “the adventure, not going to work, spending the week on your bike cruising around the forest,” he said. “It is pretty enjoyable to be out there.”

He routed the Emerald Outback online, connecting disparate forest and logging roads with the occasional trail. The route climbs a cumulative 53,000 feet, with road grades reaching more than 17% in some places.

“This course is not going to allow riders to ride through all day,” Colwill said. “The terrain makes it too much of a physical challenge.”

By Monday morning, Colwill was in the mountains east of Tillamook, more than 110 miles into the course. A five-man peloton of riders, including Zac Conklin from Santa Fe, New Mexico, were 140 miles into the trek, east of Pacific City.

“It’s less of a race, more of a week out in the woods,” Conklin said of the experience.

For the seventh rider, Dan Thrush, a marine engineer from Seattle who also runs ultramarathons, the Emerald Outback is training for a ride this summer down the Great Divide Route, the world’s longest off-pavement cycling route.

Thrush consumes 6,000 calories a day while riding, and stops mostly for sleep.



Photos by Edward Stratton/The Astorian

Riders in the Oregon Emerald Outback started at the Astoria Column on Saturday morning and will ride 570 miles through the Oregon Coast Range to Brookings.



Seven trail riders are racing through the mountains from Astoria to Brookings, including, from left, Quinlan Pfiffer, organizer Ben Colwill, Zac Conklin, Sean MacMinn, Casey Taylor, Dan Thrush and Spencer Parise.

His front wheel includes a generator to power his lights and GPS. He is the clear favorite to win, already more than 200 miles into the course.

“I’m really riding more

on time than on speed,” Thrush said. “I’m just trying to, for multiple days, keep going for 14 to 16 hours a day.”

The riders carry all their camping and mechanical

MORE ONLINE

Follow the racers on the Oregon Emerald Outback at trackleaders.com

gear, along with two to three days worth of food. They filter water from streams and stop wherever they can to restock on food.

“I won’t be cooking at all,” Colwill said. “Everything will pretty much be processed food, sub sandwiches, whatever the gas stations can supply.”

He’d like the Emerald Outback to be an expanded, annual race, similar to the Steens Mazama, a 1,000-mile bikepacking event from Portland to the fault-block mountain in southeast Oregon.

Driver gets car stuck in the Necanicum River

By BRENNA VISSER
The Astorian

A man who was reportedly driving erratically and at a high rate of speed got his car stuck in the Necanicum River estuary between Seaside and Gearhart on Sunday morning.

Around 10:45 a.m., Gearhart police and fire received a report of a Honda Accord that had driven into the river. The driver was apparently on the southern half of Gearhart’s beach, which does not permit cars.

After getting stuck, the

driver was able to walk out of the car on his own. A passenger was escorted by Gearhart Fire Chief Bill Eddy through the river, which at the time was about 3 feet deep.

Gearhart police are still investigating, but said the incident appears to be caused by “speed and bad decisions.” The driver and passenger were not local.

Emergency personnel and the Sons of Beaches — a 4x4 club that often helps motorists who get stuck on the beach — worked to get the car out of the water.



Brenna Visser/The Astorian

A driver got stuck in the Necanicum River estuary on Sunday.

the Astorian

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Mother's Day
brunch buffet
Sunday, May 12th
Served from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

• Seafood Eggs Benedict • Eggs Benedict • Belgian Waffles
Potatoes O'Brien • Bacon • Honey Glazed Ham • German Sausage
Pork Sausage • Blackened Salmon w/ Southwest Aioli • Salmon Olympic
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Assorted Salads • Fresh Fruit • Assorted Pastries and Cookies • Fruit Crisp


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