



Arch Cape committee dissolved

Group called 'unnecessary,' 'expensive'

By Kyle Spurr
EO Media Group

Arch Cape residents interested in local land use issues will have to find another outlet.

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted Wednesday, Sept. 28, to dissolve the Arch Cape Design Review Committee, a citizen group that makes recommendations on development within the unincorporated town south of Cannon Beach.

In February, the Board of Commissioners originally discontinued the Arch Cape committee, calling the group unnecessary, time-consuming, expensive and a potential legal liability.

Former interim County Manager Rich Mays accused the committee of harassing a county employee about her disability. Despite her requests, Mays claims, the group voted to move its meetings to a building that is not a federal Americans with Disabilities Act-approved facility.

After supporters challenged the decision to the state Land Use Board of Appeals, the county went through a new public process that led to the Board of Commissioners' decision Wednesday.

"This is an issue that I have not taken lightly, and staff has not taken lightly," Scott Lee, Board of Commissioners chair, said. "We are doing what I believe is best for the county."

Commissioner Dirk Rohne said it is a fair outcome for all county residents. No other part of the county has a design review committee. Other residents bring proposals directly to the county planning staff, without having to seek input from a local committee.

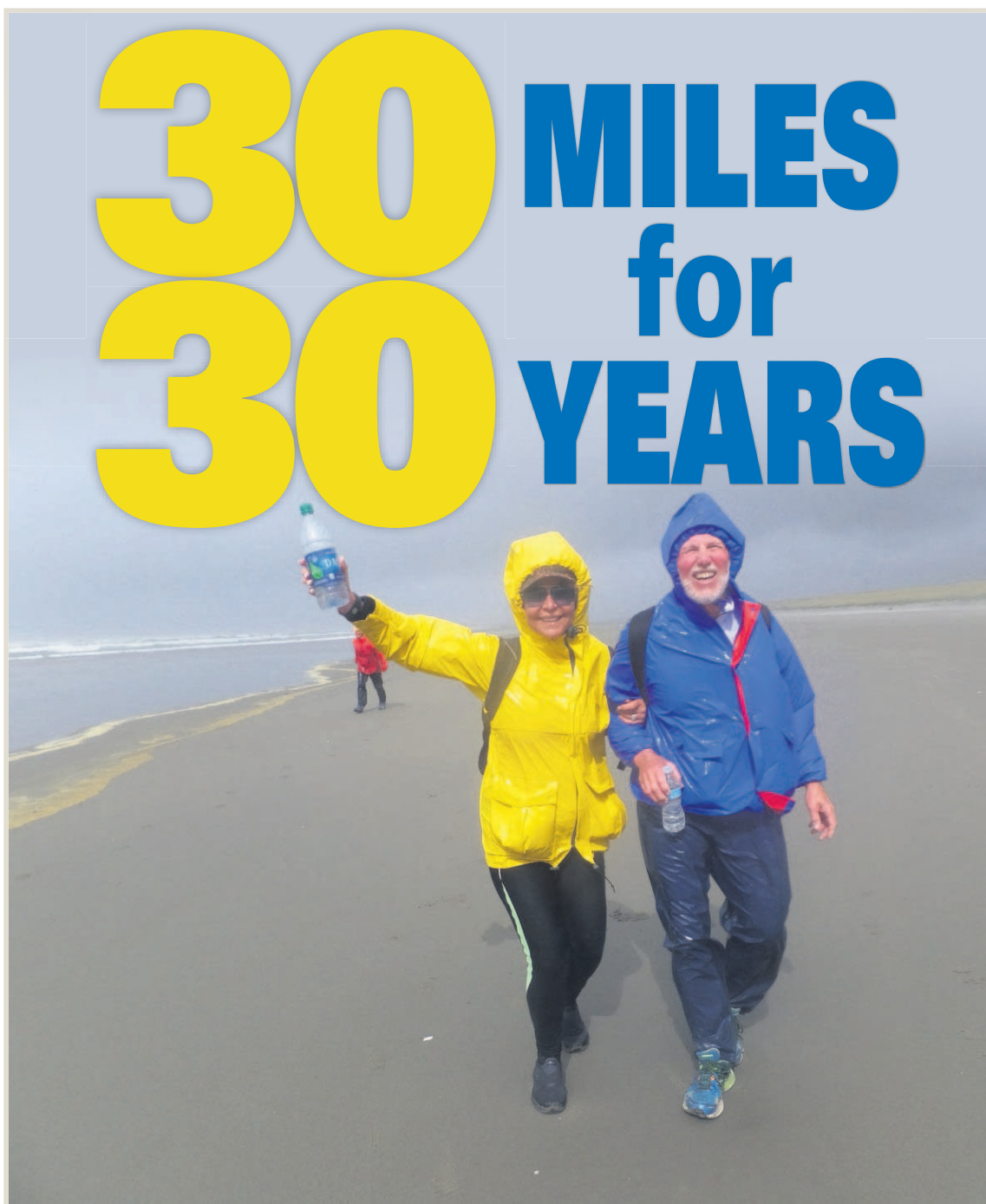
Rohne said all county residents, including in Arch Cape, have opportunities for citizen involvement. One proposal for Arch Cape is applicant-neighborhood meetings for projects such as subdivisions or rezoning requests.

"No public process is being short-changed," Rohne said.

Supporters of the Arch Cape Design Review Committee, also known as the Southwest Coastal Citizens Advisory Committee, could try to appeal the board's decision again. More than 50 people signed a petition in support of retaining the group.

During public testimony Wednesday, a half dozen supporters urged the board to change their minds. They said the committee has been meeting for the

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Kathleen and Dave Zunkel of Warrenton were two of 50 participants on the inaugural three-day CoastWalk Oregon.

First CoastWalk Oregon marks land conservancy's 30th year

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

Cheryl Lund embarked on CoastWalk Oregon solo, without much knowledge of the North Coast Land Conservancy. By the end of the three-day adventure, she had made friends, seen new sights and gained a better understanding of the conservancy's work.

"The friendships that I made in those three days were just wonderful," said Lund, of Portland. "I went down as a solo hiker. The next thing you know, I'd met some of the best people."

Lund was one of the 50 participants who hiked 30 miles for the inaugural CoastWalk, which marked the conservancy's 30th year of helping to protect land on the Oregon coast. Participants from five states and staff members hiked from Astoria

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CoastWalk Oregon participants hiked 30 miles over three days, from the Columbia River to Cannon Beach.

"People were really prepared, but I don't think people knew what it meant to walk 10 miles in sideways rain. Now they know."

— LORRAINE ORTIZ, conservancy development director

District receives preschool startup grant

By Katherine Lacaze
For EO Media Group

Seaside School District Superintendent Sheila Roley reported the district received a \$60,000 one-year preschool startup grant from the Oregon Department of Education for the 2016-17 school year.

"There is indisputable evidence that children who have preschool experiences ... will thrive in school at a higher level than if they didn't have those experiences," Roley said at the district's September board meeting. "A lot of our students don't have those naturally provided for them."

In applying for the grant, the school district did not intend to compete with other providers in the area, but to augment the services so there would be enough spots for all preschoolers, she said.

The district is partnering with the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District, which previously offered a limited preschool option.

The district is taking their partial, three-day-per-week Learning Ladder Preschool program and helping them grow it into a five-day-per-week, full-day preschool, which is a requirement of the grant, Roley said. The students must have access to at least 900 hours of instructional time, similar to what a primary student would receive.

"It's really exciting that we're getting this off the ground," she said, adding if the program is successful, the district can reapply for sustaining grants.

Part of this initiative will entail monthly professional meetings involving the preschool and kindergarten teachers so they can collaborate and "try to build a very smooth transition from preschool into kindergarten, so the preschools are aligned with what kindergarten readiness requires," Roley said.

The board unanimously approved a memorandum of understanding to work with the recreation district on this program.

"The funds are channeled through us; they're doing most of the labor," Roley said.

'It's really exciting that we're getting this off the ground.'

Sheila Roley,
Seaside
School District
superintendent

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Jamie Taylor of Manzanita at Oswald West State Park. She and others seek an end to aerial spraying by timber companies.

Aerial spraying rattles some coastal residents

Concerns raised about pesticides used by timber companies

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

Nancy Webster became concerned about aerial spraying after smelling pesticides in the air near her Rockaway Beach home. "That began the growing concern of what's happening with our drinking water and our air," Webster said, adding that the spraying could affect birds, fish, soil and more. "This is happening up and down the coast."

Webster, a member of the Rockaway Beach Citizens for Watershed

Protection, is pushing for more timely public notifications, since currently, "the notification is seeing a helicopter." The group also seeks an end to aerial spraying on the Oregon Coast.

At Short Sand Beach in Oswald West State Park, local activists and area surfers gathered in late September to raise awareness about pesticides that would be sprayed on harvested forest land nearby.

According to the citizens group, Weyerhaeuser recently clearcut parcels of forestland, including several bordering Oswald West State Park, Arch Cape and Neahkahnie Mountain. Weyerhaeuser completed the aerial spraying on the harvested forest land near Oswald West on Wednesday, according to the Oregon Department of Forestry.

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