

Gearhart, Warrenton join forces on elk

Mayors meet with state senator, wildlife commissioner

By Katie Frankowicz
The Daily Astorian

Gearhart and Warrenton are taking steps together to understand and address elk herds that appear increasingly at home in urban areas.

Gearhart Mayor Matt Brown and Warrenton Mayor Henry Balensifer met March 21 with state Sen. Betsy Johnson, Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Bruce Buckmaster and Gearhart City Administrator Chad Sweet to ask questions and provide information.

Both cities plan to hold town hall-style meetings soon with fish and wildlife biologists and officials to review options for sharing a landscape with elk.

Johnson hopes to coordinate with a number of people and organizations who have a stake in the issue to get a better sense of the full impact the herds have on the two communities.

She noted there are costs, both real and social, that come with dealing with the elk — from the impacts on private landowners to the resources it takes for state agencies to gather public input or respond to elk-related accidents on the highways.

“It seems to me that knowing the composite fiscal ramifications informs what all the universe of choices might be,” Johnson, D-Scappoose, told the mayors during the talk at Gearhart City Hall.

Herman Biederbeck, a wildlife biologist for the state’s North Coast Watershed District, will attend a Gearhart City Council meeting in April to answer questions. He and other state fish and wildlife representatives will also present the council with a suite of possible options for addressing Gearhart’s herd of 100 or more animals, from nonlethal possi-

bilities like restrictive fencing to lethal options.

The state does not have a single recommendation, Buckmaster said. Rather, fish and wildlife officials want to know what kinds of actions a majority of Gearhart residents would support. He assumed no one wants to get rid of the elk entirely.



JOHN DUDLEY

Elk enjoy a Gearhart backyard.

No, the mayors replied. They still want some elk around.

In January, Brown wrote a letter to Biederbeck on behalf of the City Council expressing the city’s increasing concern about the elk population and included documentation of elk encounters reported by residents.

“The herd have become quite placid with cars and people,” Brown wrote. “The City of Gearhart would like to request more information on how best to protect the citizens’ safety and what can be done to ensure no one is injured or killed by these animals.”

“This has become a serious safety issue for our community,” he added. “Also, many property owners have reported that elk have caused extensive damage to vegetation, structures, exterior wiring and equipment which presents a danger to the elk as well.”

Gov. Kate Brown, U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici and Johnson received copies of the letter. Johnson says the issue is among her top priorities.

Public opinion on the elk is divided in Gearhart, but there have been incidents of people trapped in their homes or driveways after a herd moved near a house. There are reports of people being charged by a protective elk cow on the beach. Gearhart Golf Links has

advocated for a trap-and-transfer program. Last year, the golf course set out plastic coyote decoys and sprinkled coyote urine to try to keep elk off the greens.

Balensifer said Warrenton hopes to also host Biederbeck soon to provide people with basic information about how to live with the elk and discourage them from routinely visiting gardens and properties. Warrenton does not deal with nearly as many elk as Gearhart. The City Commission also passed a law to make it illegal to feed wildlife other than songbirds and squirrels after some elk, used to treats from humans, became aggressive.

There are several theories for the elk herds’ increased presence in the two cities: Development has encroached on areas they used to roam; forests have become more difficult for the animals to traverse following massive windstorms; few predators or diseases to keep herd numbers in check; and the ready availability of food and safety from hunters.

POLICE LOG

March 9

9:50 a.m., Broadway: Police respond to a report of an agitated man walking towards the library with a knife. Subject tells police he is looking for his sheath. Subject trespassed from the library for a year.

11:32 a.m., Holladay Drive: A missing person is reported.

10:21 p.m., 1700 block S. Roosevelt: A person is arrested and charged with DUII.

2:14 p.m., 200 block Avenue N: Police responding to a call about a domestic incident across the street find a woman alone, screaming. She is warned of disorderly conduct.

4:18 p.m., Beach: A man who reported his 9-year-old son missing on the beach located his child prior to police arrival.

8:07 p.m., 200 block Avenue N: Caller reports person screaming profanities from her front door. Police advise subject to stay inside the residence.

March 10

7:00 a.m., 800 block Avenue F: Citizen brings to police trash

from Cannabis Nation found on his property, including a cell phone which was kept at the station for safekeeping.

March 11

1:20 a.m., Bank of Pacific: A person is arrested and charged with DUII.

10 a.m., 400 block Avenue T: A theft in the third degree is reported.

11:40 a.m., 400 block S. Holladay: A person is charged with failure to perform duties involving an animal.

2:27 p.m., S. Prom: Police respond to a welfare check request regarding a female who appeared sober when entering the establishment, but fell off the barstool after one drink. Caller is concerned her companion slipped something into her drink. Police are unable to locate the couple described.

4:45 p.m., 400 block Avenue U: A subject is arrested and charged with assault, harassment and disorderly conduct in the second degree.

10:43 p.m., Convention Center:

A person is arrested and charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants.

10:48 p.m., Broadway and S. Lincoln: A person is arrested and charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants.

March 12

12:47 a.m., 800 block S. Roosevelt: Caller reports an intoxicated person attempting to drive; police locate the vehicle and perform a traffic stop.

12:52 a.m., Avenue U and Roosevelt: A person is arrested and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol; an open container is located inside the vehicle.

2:33 a.m., S. Downing and Avenue G: A person is arrested and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol after being involved in a motor vehicle hit-and-run.

2:33 a.m., S. Columbia and Avenue A: A person is arrested and charged with DUII after being involved in a property damage motor vehicle hit and run.

10:34 a.m., 2000 block Spruce Drive: A person is charged with harassment.

5:22 p.m., 300 block Fourth Avenue: An assault in the fourth degree is reported.

March 13

11:12 p.m., 500 block Broadway: A person is charged with disorderly conduct.

March 14

11:56 a.m., Lewis and Clark Way: Caller reports daughter missing on the beach. Daughter located on the Prom with her mother.

9:13 p.m., 800 block Avenue M: Caller reports a disturbance in the parking lot of an apartment complex. Officer responding contacts group; the person causing the disturbance left the area.

March 15

11:14 a.m., Avenue U Bridge: Caller reports woman on the bridge for hours and wandering into the roadway. Subject tells police she is waiting for a friend. Police advise her to stay out of the roadway.

March 16

6:16 p.m., 1800 block Huckleberry: Caller asked police to trespass a subject indefinitely.

6:34 p.m., S. Downing and Avenue S: Police pick up a lost dog found wandering. Dog is later reunited with owner.

March 17

2:20 p.m., 700 block Avenue A: Police respond to a report of a man waving his arms and talking to himself. Subject refused to identify himself to police. It was determined he was not a danger to himself or others. No further action was taken.

10:07 p.m., 300 block Broadway: Police respond to a disturbance; two sisters were fighting. According to witnesses, the altercation became physical and one sister injured herself while attempting to kick her sibling. The injured party was transported by Medix to Providence Seaside Hospital; the other sister was warned for disorderly conduct and advised to stay away from her sister for the rest of the night.

March 18

12:34 a.m., 400 block S. Holladay: Police respond to a report of a disturbance. A couple frustrated with their teenagers was the cause. The disturbance was verbal in nature only.

2:59 a.m., 900 block Beach Drive: An assault in the 4th degree was reported. There was an additional charge of disorderly conduct in the second degree.

4:03 a.m., 1100 block Avenue A: A person is charged with menacing and disorderly conduct in the second degree.

10:39 a.m., 2000 block Fernwood: Police assist a parent with a child who locked themselves into a room for which the parent had no key.

March 19

1:01 a.m., Avenue C and Edgewood: Police respond to a report of an intoxicated woman; they find her and her husband sitting on a curb. Both were highly intoxicated. The woman said she injured her ankle tripping on the sidewalk. Medix responded on scene and transferred both people to the hospital.

OBITUARIES

Jean Francis Gill

Vancouver, Washington

June 8, 1939 — March 14, 2018

Jean Francis Gill, longtime resident of Portland, Oregon, died peacefully on Wednesday, March 14, surrounded by her family, after living the past several years with Alzheimer’s.

Jean is survived by her husband of 54 years, Marty Gill; their children, Amy Rose, Susie Costa and Mark Gill; and their grandchildren, Matt and Hailey Rose and Jake, Ethan, and Naomi Costa.

Jean was born in Nebraska on June 8, 1939, to Wilfred and Francis Reifenrath. She moved to the Northwest to attend Marylhurst University, and received her degree in education. She began her teaching career in Portland, and soon thereafter met and married Marty Gill on Oct. 12, 1963.

During their 54 years of marriage, Marty and Jean lived life to the absolute fullest. They raised their three children in Portland, and retired to the Oregon Coast over 15 years ago, enjoying the home they built in Gearhart, Oregon.

They also built a very strong community of friends in Gearhart, where Jean enjoyed volunteering with the local AAUW group, weekly walks and exercise classes with friends, gar-

dening, golfing, and enjoying her 5 p.m. “medicinal” glass of red wine.

Marty and Jean were able to spend many years of their retirement traveling abroad together, which was an adventure they looked forward to planning each year. Jean was a devout Catholic all her life and lived as a very kindhearted, compassionate, gracious, sweet wife, mother and friend, and lived these qualities until the end of her life.

A Mass will be held to celebrate Jean’s life Thursday, April 5, at All Saint’s Catholic Church, 3847 N.E. Glisan St. in Portland, Oregon. There will be a rosary at 10:30 a.m., followed by a Mass at 11 a.m., officiated by Marty and Jean’s family friend, Monsignor Tim Murphy. Flowers or condolences may be sent to All Saint’s Church for Thursday’s service.

Any donations to help end Alzheimer’s can be sent to the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America at alzfdn.org, or to Jean’s local involvement with the Seaside AAUW, Seaside AAUW Scholarship Foundation, P.O. Box 693, Seaside, OR 97138.



Jean Gill

Timothy “Timmy” Griffin

Portland

Tim was born January 7, 1963 in San Diego, California to Gerald and Patsy Griffin. Sometime this past Winter he passed away and only God knows for sure when.

In 1967 he moved with his family to Seaside, Oregon and attended school there.

Tim enjoyed drawing, cooking, riding his bike, and at times, he enjoyed the company of cats. He was a talented musician who played piano, guitar and sang — all self taught.

Tim struggled greatly with mental illness and addiction throughout much of his life and most recently, was homeless. With homelessness rampant in Oregon let’s not look at them with disgust, but that there are many Tim’s out there with a story

that led them to where they are.

Tim is preceded in death by his parents and brother Joel.

Survived by brothers Michael Hawbaker of Euleus, Texas; Robert Griffin of Peoria, Arizona; Daniel Griffin of Aloha, Oregon; and Jerry Griffin of Astoria, Oregon.



Timothy Griffin

Sisters Linda Mull of Temecula, California; Tricia Gates of Portland, Oregon; Christine Atherton of Portland, Oregon; and Judy Brown of Kettle Falls, Washington, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Funeral arrangements are being made through Crown Memorial Eastside in Portland, Oregon. Rest in Peace Tim.

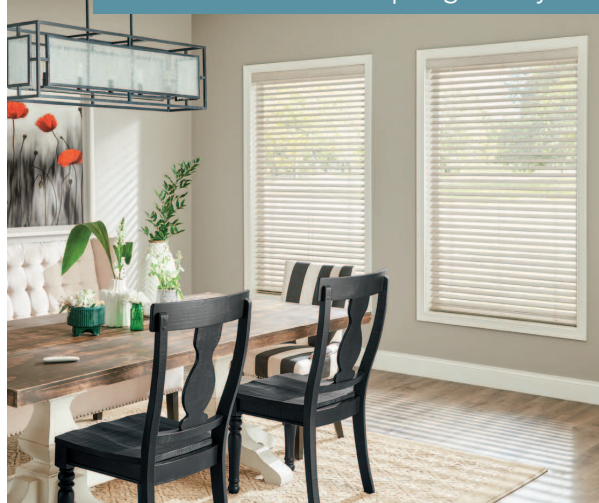
Obituary Policy

The Seaside Signal publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small

photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior. Obituaries may be edited for spelling,

proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

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