

# Ridge Path: Council eyes bike ban on Ridge Path after tree is cut down

Continued from Page A1

she found that the ordinance had included horses and vehicles, but never updated to include bicycles, a measure, she said, she favored to educate Gearhart's newest residents and visitors and to provide a way to enforce such a rule when necessary.

At the March City Council meeting, councilors agreed and asked staff to prepare an ordinance to ban bikes on Gearhart's historic walking path, a former Native American trail running between Cottage Avenue and Neacoxie Creek, extending from F Street on the south to 10th Street on the north.

The proposed ordinance comes as the city's parks and master plan nears completion. Among goals are to preserve and enhance the Ridge Path as a recreational asset for the city and a segment of the Oregon Coast Trail by establishing connections to the path, requiring appropriate access easements, and maintaining the path surface.

While horseback riding was banned on the Ridge Path when ordinances were updated in 1994, Cockrum said, the ordinance covers only horses and signage.



Tom Horning and Sandy Duncan on the Ridge Path in January, before the tree shown was cut.

"It's all we have to have as a basis for some deliberations on whether or not we want to have bicycles on the Ridge Path," she said.

Carol Lucas, who lives along the Ridge Path, said bicyclists pose a danger to pedestrians.

"Now they're driving faster and the bicycles shoot across the intersections without looking right

or left," Lucas said.

She said she had witnessed numerous near misses.

"I've been almost mowed over a number of times and I have seen so many wrecks out on the street here. It's not a good situation. They're so dangerous both to the riders and to the people walking the path."

City Attorney Peter Watts



The tree after it was cut.

said he had concerns about allowing bicycles.

"One is, when we solicited donations for volunteers time and funds for this project, it was that it be a pedestrian path for walking," he said. "And then the second one, which gives me more pause because it's more of a legal liability."

It creates a dangerous condition for both bicyclist

and pedestrian, and compromises the trail in a way that makes it more difficult for pedestrians to utilize it.

"I understand enforceability could be an issue going forward because we have limited resources," Watts said. "But again, part of this is providing everyone with notice, even if there aren't a ton of citations because our police

don't have the capacity. My understanding is that having an actual ordinance, as opposed to just what's in now plan does help with enforcement."

Councilor Austin Tomlinson opposed the proposal.

"Kids were definitely on my mind," he said after the meeting. "I grew up running around and biking throughout Gearhart and would take the Ridge Path every day to school."

"I have a 4-month-old," he continued. "I would hate to see him not be able to ride his bike down to the future playground at Centennial Park from our house along the Ridge Path instead of having to ride along a busy street like Cottage. I was also concerned we were creating an issue out of nothing and restricting something that doesn't seem to be an issue."

Ridge Path safety could come by brushing back some of the vegetation along the path and placing crosswalk markers where it crosses the road to improve the line of sight, Tomlinson said.

The vote to ask staff to prepare an ordinance was 4-1, with Tomlinson voting no.

The proposed ordinance will return to the council at their next meeting.

# Homeless: Task force seeks solutions, considers regulations on camping, RVs

Continued from Page A1

Community Service Officer Paul Knoch have been researching suitable spots, Barber said, and finalizing an area where tents may be located.

According to the proposed ordinance, a work in progress discussed at last week's task force meeting, property owners may allow campers, including private residences, organizations and city lands with the owner's OK. The property owner must provide access to sanitation, garbage disposal and storage. Camps would be limited to the backyard areas and subject to neighboring setback rules.

A free permit process would "essentially be a



From left, clockwise, City Councilor Tita Montero, Seamus McVey, Police Chief Dave Ham, Community Resource Officer Paul Knoch, Mayor Jay Barber and Kathleen MacDonald of the homeless task force.

registration, just to let us know who you are, where you're at and how do we get a hold of you in case there's a problem," Ham said. "It could be as easy as

a fire permit."

The new ordinance could make it easier for police to enforce existing laws against tent or RV camping, Ham said.

Conversations are ongoing with landowners for properties that could be used for an RV/car park somewhere in the city, Mayor Jay Barber said after

the meeting.

Ham said the new ordinance will provide clarity for both law enforcement and those seeking camping or RV facilities.

"When you're creating your ordinance, you get to be objectively reasonable with your guidelines," Ham said. "You can't just make your tent camp and create a hazard. We've designated an area for you to camp — but this isn't the appropriate spot for it."

A section of the ordinance, designed to create locations where it is OK to park or camp overnight on city streets or public land, is the topic of a March 23 workshop, Barber said.

Plans include conversations with the county as well as other cities in the county regarding the possibility of a micro-home development.

"Of course, all of these are long-range possibilities," he said.

## PUBLIC SAFETY LOG

From Page 2A

11:37 p.m., Chambers Restroom: Police check on a person reported slumped over and possibly in need of assistance. On contact, the person says they are fine. No further action was taken.



### Illegal fishing

Illegal angling was reported March 6 at 11:35 a.m. within the marine reserve at Falcon Cove. Investigation revealed the anglers were not in a closed area but a surveillance operation led to citations for discarding trash into the ocean and failing to immediately release fish unharmed. The anglers were a 62-year-old man from Aloha; a 67-year-old man from Portland; a 69-year-old woman from Portland; and a 57-year-old woman from Portland.

### Impaired driver

A possibly impaired driver was reported March 6 at 8:36 p.m., on U.S. Highway 26 near milepost 9. A trooper located the subject in a GMC pickup and observed very dangerous driving. The driver, identified as William Robert Romine, 70, of Cornelius, OR was stopped and ultimately arrested for driving while under the influence of intoxicants. He had a dog with him. Troopers took the dog and brought it to the Clatsop shelter. As the driver was extremely impaired, he was transported to Columbia Memorial Hospital where he submitted to a breath test showing a 0.18% B.A.C. four hours after the traffic stop.

### Fatality on Highway 26

A fatal crash happened on U.S. Highway 26 at 9:13 a.m. March 10 near milepost 8. Or-

regon State Police and emergency personnel on arrival saw a white Peterbilt CMV that had been traveling west towing a flatbed trailer. The operator, Joseph Arient, 46 from Longview, Washington, crossed over the eastbound lanes and went off the roadway. The truck struck a tree and rolled on its side. Arient suffered fatal injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene. The truck is owned by Builders Supply and the flatbed was loaded with trusses. The highway was reduced to one lane for six hours. Troopers were assisted by Hamlet firefighters and Oregon Department of Transportation.

### Asleep at the wheel

An 83-year-old man told police he fell asleep at the wheel March 7 at 5:10 p.m. on U.S. Highway 101 near milepost 23. He crashed his Toyota pick-up while traveling north, drifting into the southbound lane before winding up in a ditch and foliage. He sustained a minor injury and was not transported to the hospital. His vehicle was towed by Gary's Towing.

### Rear-ended on bridge

A 70-year-old Seaside man was involved in a two-car collision March 9 at 3:44 p.m. on the Megler Bridge; by the time troopers arrived, both drivers had relocated their vehicles to the ODOT parking area adjacent. They said when the first car was stopped for ODOT construction being done on the bridge, it was rear-ended by the driver behind it. No injuries were reported and both parties exchanged information. Both cars were able to drive away from the scene.

### Longview man killed

A 46-year-old Longview, Washington man March 10 at 9:13 a.m. was deceased at the scene of a one-vehicle crash on U.S. Highway 26 near milepost 8. He was driving a 2015 Peter-

bilt CMV towing a flatbed trailer. He crossed the eastbound lane, traveled off the shoulder, and struck a tree. Oregon state police and the medical examiner arrived on scene. One lane of traffic was closed for six hours while police investigated.



### Feb. 1

1:34 p.m., medical assist, Warrenton.

### Feb. 2

9:26 a.m., chemical spill or leak, Warrenton.

10:22 a.m., medical assist, assist EMS crew, U.S. Highway 101, Gearhart.

### Feb. 3

3:15 p.m., medical assist, assist EMS crew, Bailey.

### Feb. 4

11:22 p.m., medical assist, assist EMS crew, Sandy Ridge.

### Feb. 5

1:14 a.m., medical assist, assist EMS crew, Wakeman.

### Feb. 6

11:41 a.m., medical assist, assist EMS crew, U.S. Highway 101, Warrenton.

4:55 p.m., water and ice-related rescue, Ocean Shores, Seaside.

5:34 p.m., smoke detector activation, unintentional, no fire, North Marion.

### Feb. 7

10:42 a.m., medical assist, assist EMS crew, Blue Heron, Warrenton.

11:01 a.m., building fire, South Columbia, Seaside.

### Feb. 9

12:00 a.m., alarm system activation, unintentional, no fire, South Holladay, Seaside.



## Surgical care, close to home

### At Providence Seaside, your health is our priority.

That's why we have a dedicated team of specialists to care for you and your family. In addition to our team of general surgeons, you also have choices for experts in:

- Orthopedic surgery
- Hand surgery
- Cardiology
- Cancer care and infusion services
- Obstetrics and gynecology



From left: General surgeons Eric Friedman, M.D., FACS, and Manfred Ritter, M.D., FACS  
Fellow of the American College of Surgeons

From general surgery and colonoscopies to advanced minimally invasive surgery, our team of expert surgeons bring more than 50 years of experience providing high-quality, compassionate care to people throughout the North Coast. What's more, Drs. Friedman and Ritter exceed Providence's quality benchmarks for colonoscopies and EGD (an endoscopic procedure that examines your esophagus, stomach, and part of your small intestine.)

Learn more about our providers and the services we provide at [providence.org/northcoast](https://providence.org/northcoast).

**Providence Seaside Clinic**  
727 S. Wahanna Road, Suite 220  
Seaside, OR 97138  
(503) 717-7060

