

Local Stuff

Save the Shuttle!!!!

(In the interest of full disclosure; Your beloved editor rides the shuttle regularly, it is part of the reason he can live in Tolovana and work in Cannon Beach, and not own a car.)

Some folks don't even know that Cannon Beach has a free Natural Gas powered Shuttle bus that runs every half hour from Les Shirley Park to Tolovana every day. Yep, from 10AM until 6PM you can get from one end of town to the other and back for free. There is a donation requested, but it's free if it needs to be. The shuttle was started as a reaction to proposed oil drilling off the Oregon Coast. Folks figured if we didn't want people to make a mess on the beach looking for oil, maybe it would be a good idea not to use so much of it driving personal gasoline powered cars. It was also seen as a way to get folks to and from work without filling the limited parking spaces in Cannon Beach with employee's cars, and let them become customer parking. With this in mind, the business community voluntarily taxed themselves to fund the shuttle. It's been working for years and has just come off its most spectacular summer yet, and depending on who's doing the counting, has started to break even. So, we were surprised to hear that the City was talking with Sunset Transportation about providing Shuttle Service in Cannon Beach.

"So the folks from Seaside will decide the schedule, the stops and the fair. No, it won't be free. No, they probably won't drive a block or two off the route, to take an elderly woman up a steep hill in the rain to her doorstep. No, they probably won't let Barkley (local doggie legend) ride around alone. Nor will they probably be willing to wait while someone runs into the store to grab a forgotten carton of milk, like the shuttle does now!"

Needless to say after these thoughts entered my head I went looking for a City Official with blood in my eyes. John Williams was the easiest to find behind the poker machine at the Driftwood.

"The shuttle is doing a wonderful job and if anything we should encourage it to grow and continue to reflect the unique nature of this community to visitors and locals alike, rather than sell it off to the highest bidder, because it's 'too much trouble!'", I raved, as he sipped his cocktail and smiled. After I calmed down and talked to a few more people, it became clear that the talks with Sunset, were just that. They want to widen their service area, and send buses to Manzanita and south, they are interested in Natural Gas vehicles for their fleet, they are by all reports decent and honorable employers who offer good wages and benefits to their drivers. It might workout that they will help us expand the Shuttle's effectiveness. Who knows? The Energy Committee will be talking about this for a while, and I encourage people to let them know how you feel about the Shuttle

(Tradition; n. a long established custom.)

We are informed that there is a "new tradition" in town. New tradition is a glaring oxymoron. It is as wrong as First Annual. Annual events and traditions can't exist, by definition, until they have occurred at least once.

The traditional lighting of the lighthouses, we are told in the local paper of record, will take place for the first time this year in the Hemlock Corridor. Which we assume means downtown. It seems the Good Ol' Persons at the Chamber of Commerce, have talked some folks into buying into a scheme to put solar powered 'elegant' lighthouses, to be built soon, on the poles that currently hold the flower boxes, and traditionally, for decades, in winter, held the holiday lamps. (How then plan to light the solar powered lights in the rain is something we are sure they would be delighted to explain, but we were just too tired to ask.) Each lighthouse (they plan to have 24 eventually) will be dedicated to the memory of someone in the community who has died, or in the case of Georgia and Bill Hay to commemorate 50 years of the Hallmark Resort. Oh, and they cost \$425 each. We suppose since the Tillamook Lighthouse is now used as a sort graveyard for the very rich and odd, this makes some sense to someone, but to us it seems more than a little bizarre. Not as bizarre as some folks imagine, there are no plans, for instance, to actually have the ashes of the dear departed lodged in the lighthouses, and the light on top will not rotate. That might give the town a festive excitement, but it might also cause flashbacks among our local sixties survivors. And we don't think Bill Hay gets to hang a VACANCY sign on his. In fact some folks on the Design Review Committee have raised some questions about the 'premier year for the lighthouses' and the Chamber 'unveiling' might have to wait for the Second Annual New Traditional Lighting of the Lighthouses, or something.

It is redundant to say we have an 'old tradition' around here, but, we are traditionally wary of oxymoron's, like military intelligence, environmental development, republican party, wilderness management, and new tradition.



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Song for Fine Weather
O good son,
Look thou down upon us:
Shine, Shine on us, O sun,
Gather up the clouds, wet, black, under thy arms,
That the rains may cease to fall.
Because thy friends are all here on the beach
Ready to go fishing—
Ready for the hunt.
Therefore look kindly on us, O Good Sun!

Song from the Haida:
Queen Charlotte's Island, B.C. Canada

Continued from Page 1

What's that in their hands? BELLS! The National Anthem is going to be rung by kid bell ringers. Another first. Oddly enough, it was quite effective. The voices of the few folks who sung wove in and out of the bell-sounds in time with the scoreboard flag. There were no paint-splash rockets issuing a "red glare of bombs bursting in air".

The Rays score early and often. John Flaherty, at home on his old turf, blasts a two-run double to start off the first inning.

When the Tigers come up to bat, Arrojo seems tentative. Luis Polonia leads off with a single. Brad Asmus gets hit by a pitch. First two on and none out. Looks like a long night for Rolando. But the Tigers' roar is soon reduced to a purr as Frank "The Cat" Catalanotto strikes out and Dean Palmer smacks a hard one into a double play (one of five for the day for The Rays).

That's about it. The Rays keep scoring. McGriff hits a massive upper-deck home run in the sixth to pretty much settling things. The Rays win 9-1. Arrojo wins his first game since going on the DL in May.

As we leave Tiger Stadium for what is probably our last time, the kids are lining up on Trumbull Street to run the bases. Their line snakes around the corner and down the street. The air is heavy and I have to stop to catch my breath. We don't have much in the line of relics. Rosalie bought a cap for someone. I have a scorecard. No chips of brick nor tufts of turf. Just a few more items for the memory bag.

Frank Walsh is a poet, calligrapher, and book lover. As a boy, he and his aunt lived for several winters in the Suwannee Hotel in St. Petersburg, where the New York Yankees stayed during spring training. There he met all of the great Yankees of the 30s, including Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig

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Oprah calls Uncle Mike!!!!
Yes, the rumors are true. We were sitting in the comfortable and well lighted headquarters of the Upper Left Edge, when the phone suddenly rang. "What?" we answered. "Is this the Upper Left Edge? My name is Jenna, and I'm with the Oprah Winfrey Show and I'm trying to get in touch with Uncle Mike," the caller said. We explained that for reasons too tragic to mention we no longer took personal nor, especially, business calls for Uncle Mike, but if she must talk to him she would have to call the bookstore where he launders the tons of money he makes writing pornographic novels for internet providers in Amsterdam. It seems Oprah was doing some show about 'unusual advice' and they went looking for a 'male' advice columnist and found Uncle Mike @ www.upperleftedge.com. (Click it, Ophra did!) Well, in spite of the odds, she actually got in touch with Uncle Mike. They spoke, and Oprah's people gave a 'test' question. "What is the one thing you would not like to see your mate do in front of you?" Uncle Mike hemmed and hawed, as he sat in the bookstore facing endless shelves of romance novels and said, "Read a book with Fabio on the cover." ...Well, I've heard that Oprah's bedroom is papered with Fabio paperback covers... So, it comes down to this: Uncle Mike and Oprah have decided to 'just be friends'. Breaks your heart.

WHERE TO GET AN EDGE

Cannon Beach: Jupiter's Rare and Used Books, Osburn's Grocery, The Cookie Co., Coffee Cabaña, Bill's Tavern, Cannon Beach Book Co., Hane's Bakery, The Bistro, Midtown Café, Once Upon a Brezza, Copies & Fax, Haystack Video, Mariner Market, Espresso Bean, Ecola Square & Cleanline Surf
Manzanita: Mother Nature's Juice Bar.
Cannon Beach: Manzanita News & Espresso, & Nehalem Bay Video
Rockaway: Neptune's Used Books
Tillamook: Rainy Day Books & Tillamook Library
Bay City: Art Space
Yachats: By-the-Sea Books
Pacific City: The River House.
Oceanside: Ocean Side Espresso
Lincoln City: Trillium Natural Foods, Driftwood Library, & Lighthouse Brewpub
Newport: Oceana Natural Foods, Ocean Pulse Surf Shop, Sylvia Beach Hotel, & Canyon Way Books
Eugene: Book Mark, Café Navarra, Eugene Public Library, Friendly St. Market, Happy Trails, Keystone Café, Kiva Foods, Lane C.C., Light For Music, New Frontier Market, Nineteenth Street Brew Pub, Ocala Market, Perry's, Red Barn Grocery, Sundance Natural Foods, U of O, & WOW Hall
Corvallis: The Environmental Center, OSU
Salem: Heliotrope, Salem Library, & The Peace Store
Astoria: KMUN, Columbian Café, The Community Store, The Wet Dog Café, Astoria Coffee Company, Café Uniontown, & The River
Seaside: Buck's Book Barn, Universal Video, & Café Espresso
Portland: Artichoke Music, Laughing Horse Bookstore, Act III, Barnes & Noble, Belmonts Inn, Bilibet Art Gallery, Bijou Café, Borders, Bridgeport Brew Pub, Cap'n Beans (two locations), Center for the Healing Light, Coffee People (three locations), Common Grounds Coffee, East Avenue Tavern, Food Front, Goose Hollow Inn, Hot Lips Pizza, Java Bay Café, Key Largo, La Patisserie, Lewis & Clark College, Local Only, Marco's Pizza, Marylhurst College, Mt. Hood CC, Music Millennium, Nature's (two locations), NW Natural Gas, OHSU Medical School, Old Wives Tales, Ozone Records, Papa Hayden, PCC (four locations), PSU (two locations), Reed College, Third Eye, Multnomah Central Library, and most branches of the WYCA.
Ashland: Garo's Java House, The Black Sheep, Blue Mt. Café, & Rogue River Brewery
Cave Junction: Coffee Heaven & Kerby Community Market
Grants Pass: The Book Shop
Out of Oregon:
Vancouver, WA: The Den
Longview, WA: The Broadway Gallery
Bessemer, WA: Rainy Day Artistry
Hobbsville, WA: Moby Dick Hotel
Duvall, WA: Duvall Books
Bellevue Island, WA: Eagle Harbor Book Co.
Seattle, WA: Elliot Bay Book Co., Honey Bear Bakery, New Orleans Restaurant, Still Life in Fremont, Allegro Coffeehouse, The Last Exit Coffee House, & Bulldog News
San Francisco, CA: City Lights Bookstore
Denver, CO: Denver Folklore Center
Washington, D.C.: Hotel Tabard Inn (Out of U.S.A.)
Paris, France: Shakespeare & Cie
Brighton, England: The Public House Bookstore

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UPPER LEFT EDGE

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Mohandas Gandhi