

Life with Brice: ‘The wrath of Mother Nature was on N. Curry County May 3’

By Brice Wagner
PON staff writer

A southerly windstorm brought wind speeds gusting to 70-plus mph at Cape Blanco And some high winds at the Port of Port Orford and the entire North Curry County.

Pelicans became true “landlubbers” for a period of time being seemingly helpless in the high winds. These interesting sea birds hunker down facing into the wind with their huge bills stuck to the earth as if to be as aerodynamic as possible so they wouldn’t blow away.

As this writer climbed Elk River road there was the telltale evidence of tree needles and tree limbs broken off and lying on the pavement as one goes through the “tunnel of trees” near Elk River/Highway 101 junction.

The News heard of no property damage concerning the somewhat different storm that reminds a person of December wind events.

The Elk River came up fast in height and turned chocolate. Sixes River we are sure came up rapidly also.

Many local citizens drove to the scenic overlook in South Port Orford, and the Port of Port Orford's property where their storage shed used to be, to view the phenomena of the wind, waves, and sea water crashing over the breakwater or jetty



Brice Wagner



Photo by Lance Nix

This pelican had to brace its feet and hunker down during the recent high winds of the recent windstorm.

which ever each of you like to call the rock structure at the Port.

The sounds the wind makes is very interesting once wind speeds get to a steady 40 plus mph. Those interesting sounds were evident as you parked and observed the southerly wind/rain phenomena

The storm was also felt in another wasy as the Port Orford News had to cut short its publication as a phone call came in to Editor Matt Hall that the Smith River press where the newspaper is printed had been warned by the electric company that they

might lose electric power due to high winds.

Hall then sent his paper south so the press could print the paper early.

As a result, some news was held until this issue, with another two pages added at the expense of the newspaper and thought the kind sponsorship of the Port & Starboard Restaurant & Lounge’s sponsorship.

Postal food drive a huge Success

Thanks to the generous folks in the Langlois, Sixes and Port Orford areas.



PON photo by Brice Wagner

Kim Stang, left to right, Renee Ruth and Jodie Neal all worked hard on the Postal food Drive held last Saturday.

Last Saturday was the annual letter carrier association food drive.

Sixes Post Office Officer Kim Stang wanted to be part of the cause. So with the help of her contract letter carrier Jodie Neal they generated 210 pounds of food for the local food bank.

Port Orford also joined in with Chris Speed producing 300 pounds on her letter carrier route.

Again Kim Stang Post Office Officer Sixes and local Route carriers Jodie Neal and Chris Speed all did great jobs, as did all in the communities of Northern Curry County.

And all made possible by local citizens on the mail routes giving!

Proceeds go to local food banks.

— By Kim Stang

Planting a ‘Victory Garden’

During World War I and world War II victory gardens were encouraged by Uncle Sam.

In 1943 Americans planted over 20 million Victory gardens. The harvest accounted for nearly one third of all vegetables consumed in the country that year.

Emphasis was placed on making gardening a family or community effort - not drudgery, but a pastime, and a national duty.

Today our food travels an average of 1,500 miles from farm to table. Yesteryear many foods were grown in community agriculture and purchased locally. Sadly in our nation of plenty over one-third of food consumed and or available in the grocery store is grown and imported from a foreign country. (So stated by a top official manager to myself in the well known “Organic Valley Cooperation”

If you want to read more about victory gardens simply type in victory garden and there is articles on the Internet.

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Fund.

At that time turnouts and boots were hand-me-downs from whoever they had fit on the department for the previous 15 or so years and were no longer compliant with OSHA standards; Air-paks were not compatible with mutual aid departments. Over the past 4 years we have upgraded the safety apparel the firefighters wear to OSHA standards and have purchased new boots and enough compatible air-paks for change outs. New firefighter helmets are currently on order.

At that time we had no wild

land equipment. In January 2008, we received a Department of Forestry grant for \$19,900 to purchase complete sets of wild land firefighting gear including fire tents for all firefighters.

At that time we had an 18 year old fold-a-tank. In 2008, it finally broke and has been replaced with a lighter weight, more manageable one.

The Board has taken direction to move the department into the 21st Century with the department being equipped with “Safety first” in mind. There is, and always will be, more to do, more to get and more people

that will criticize no matter what. I, for one am proud of the accomplishments the PORFPD Board has made in the past 6 years and the professional growth and commitment of the firefighters with Chief Wilcox at the helm.

Edna Auld
Port Orford

Concerned that police levy is even an issue

As a three time yearly visitor, property owner and daughter of a residence coupled with my current employment with the state of California as a judicial officer I am very concerned that the police levy is at issue.

Personally a significant attraction to living in Port Orford not withstanding my family here, the incredible wildlife and easy days is the presence of law enforcement in Port Orford.

When in Port Orford we often walk our dogs down to the lake or Agate Beach from our place on the east side of town crossing the highway. The presence of law enforcement issuing citations for speeding and other infractions serves as a deterrent ensuring a safe journey across.

Oregon statistics indicate that 85 percent of all crime is methamphetamine related. This statistic reflects what I see everyday in my line of work. A foremost concern when considering eliminating the Port Orford police department is the

increasing manufacturing, use and sales of methamphetamine. Methamphetamine is fertilizer for criminal activity.

Many crimes especially involving property, are the result of opportunity not planning. A domestic argument can escalate to violence within moments. Quick response by law enforcement to defuse the situation thereby avoiding further damage is imperative to the safety of all involved including our most vulnerable citizens, our children. With a sheriff 52 miles away or if we are lucky in the area at the time of need Port Orford will be more vulnerable without a local police force.

Due to prison overcrowding the California legislature is at this moment looking to release thousands of inmates who may or may not venture north. The point is that we are living in different times requiring a police presence and due diligence on the part of each citizen.

If the police force is disbanded here in Port Orford the least we can hope it that the current police station is utilized as a manned sheriff's sub station. Now when a resident needs assistant the call is made and response comes quickly. Without a police force Port Orford will be vulnerable and less safe. Please vote yes for the police levy.

Sincerely,

Karen Fleming
Carlsbad, CA & Langlois

Vote for Bassett, Marsh and Wagner

Port Orford voters have an opportunity to really make a difference with their vote in the May 19th election.

There are three candidates that are running for the Rural Fire Board that are very experienced and well-qualified. They are ready to step up and provide the leadership necessary to ensure our personal and property safety in the Rural Fire District.

They are Brice Wagner for position 4, Dave Bassett for position 2 and (write-in) Joe Marsh for position 3.

Please vote for them. Respectfully,

Nanci Johnson & Raymond Paschke

Known Wagner and Marsh for 23 years

We have known Brice Wagner and Joe Marsh for almost 23 years they are dependable and concerned about the safety of all of us.

We support them and know they will serve wholeheartedly (for Directors on the Port Orford Rural Fire District Board)

Jackie Stoopes
Jerry Stoopes
Elk River Rd
Port Orford

Another voter for Marsh, Wagner and Bassett

I am a lifetime resident of Elk River and I’m casting my vote for Joe Marsh write in position 3, Brice Wagner position # 4, and Dave Bassett position 2 for the board of directors Port orford rural Fire district.

I have seen the volunteer Firemen in action and appreciate all of you.

Several years ago the Volunteer department stopped a serious mobile home fire and saved the adjoining garage that we still use today.

Cody Wilson,
Elk River

Concerned about gravel excavation on Elk River

People in northern Curry County might want to be aware that the Army Corps of Engineers is considering a permit request by a Brookings-based company to mine gravel and build an asphalt plant along the Elk River. Each year 12,000 cubic yards of gravel could be extracted from river bars and processed into asphalt on the site. The Elk is not only the backbone of our local fishery, but often recognized as the finest salmon stream of its size on the West Coast south of Canada. Its basin is only 2 percent the size of the Rogue River, where gravel mining is done with far fewer problems than what we can expect locally.

Here are a number of items

that people who care about the Elk River, our commercial and sport fisheries, and the quality of our environment might want to consider:

1. Coho rear and Chinook salmon spawn in this section of river, and nearly all of the Elk River salmon and steelhead pass through the area on their spawning runs. These are our prime sport and important commercial fish, and the coho are threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Mining will excavate gravel bars along the river and could result in erosion and sedimentation of spawning beds, increased water temperatures, and direct disturbance of the fish.
2. Floods can cause unpredictable and troublesome realignments of the river channel once the bars and banks are disturbed by mining.
3. No study has been made of this small river’s ability to replenish the mined gravels, and if it can’t, the hydrology of the river from the mining site out to the ocean could be affected with problems to fish, riverbanks, landowners, and wildlife habitat.
4. Fuel and other materials and facilities for the mining and the asphalt plant could be subject to flood damage and cause pollution problems downstream during floods or unexpected accidents. Even normal operation could affect air quality. Does anyone want to live with the smell of asphalt in the Elk River valley?
5. Millions of dollars of taxpayer money, plus part of our electricity revenues paid to the BPA, plus private efforts and plenty of personal sacrifices are being made to stop the sharp decline of salmon and to restore them and steelhead, but the very same fisheries could be damaged by this unnecessary mine and asphalt plant. We should at least have the fish on the way to recovery before we expose them to greater hazards and further setbacks, especially for unnecessary reasons.

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Port Orford Cedar & Fine Arts

FESTIVAL!

Memorial Day Weekend

May 22, 23 ,& 24

Sponsored by: Port Orford Arts Council, Chetco Federal Credit Union, City of Port Orford, Coos-Curry Electric, Bill Hanna, Kinsman Foundation, Mick Lane, Port Orford Public Library, Donna Roselius, Seabreeze Florist, Seacrest Motel, Wildspring Guest Habitat

Legal notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON

FOR THE COUNTY OF CURRY

PROBATE DEPARTMENT

In the Matter of the Estate of

RUSSELL N. HOWE,

Deceased.

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Case No. 09 PR 028

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the above entitled estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the undersigned personal representative in care of her attorney, Stephen Abbott, at PO Box 732, Port Orford, Oregon 97465, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorney for the personal representative, Stephen Abbott.

Dated and first published on _____, 20____.

Perri Rask, Personal Representative

Published April 29, May 6 & 13, 2009 in the Port Orford News

Legal notice

REVENUE SHARING HEARING

The City Council of the City of Port Orford will be conducting a Public Hearing on Revenue Sharing for the FY2009-2010 Budget just prior to the regular Council Meeting on Thursday, June 4, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. at Port Orford City Hall Gable Chambers at 555 W. 20th St., Port Orford, Oregon, for the City Council to obtain citizens' views regarding Revenue Sharing. Written comments are also welcome and must be received by May 29, 2009.

Both written and oral comments will be reviewed by the City Council. Written comments by mail should be sent to PO Box 310, Port Orford, OR 97465; e-mail comments should be sent to djohnson@portorford.org

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