

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Founded in 1873



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Englund Marine is a community asset

A 70-year-old business like Englund Marine is a boon to a small town such as Astoria. Edward Stratton chronicled Englund's anniversary celebration in our Tuesday edition.

Relatively few family businesses move past their first generation. Englund Marine is in its third generation of family owners. Over seven decades, the Englunds have been smart, agile managers. As Stratton reported, Englund Marine has moved well beyond Astoria's boundaries, with locations up and down the Pacific Coast as well as inland. Englund employs 126 companywide.

There is an erroneous image that fishing and fish processing are dying industries. It is true there are fewer processors in Astoria than there were in 1970, for instance. But those that remain are healthy. And these survivors are, by definition, quite intelligent in how they operate.

Englund Marine's health is directly related to the health of the coastwide fishing industry. When Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber stupidly and unilaterally curtailed gillnet fishing on the lower Columbia, Englund felt the pain of its longtime customers who ceased to invest in their boats. Kitzhaber's ignorance reflects the myopic urban perspective on the natural resources economy.

Englund and other successful businesses here realize that economic diversity is essential. We all appreciate the sports fishermen who spend money here and bring enthusiasm to local streets and waters. But the Englunds have a front-row seat from which to observe how commercial fishing dollars also circulate through the community, making house payments and paying grocery bills for families that may never have the luxury of casting a fly line or trolling from the deck of a charter boat.

The virtue of local business ownership is the contribution it makes to community causes. The Englunds typify that. Jon Englund did a good job on the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission before Kitzhaber apparently decided our area doesn't deserve a voice in resource management, leaving our seat unfilled since 2012.

Seventy years is a great achievement. Attaining another 70 will require not only smart and rugged entrepreneurial skills, but also attitudes in Salem and Washington, D.C., that support small businesses and responsible use of natural resources.

Tribes should get control of sea lions

U.S. Reps. Kurt Schrader, D-Ore., and Jaime Herrera Beutler, R-Wash., are taking another shot at trying to pass legislation in limbo since 2011 to support tribal efforts on behalf of salmon.

First introduced by now-retired Eastern Washington Congressman Doc Hastings, the Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act acknowledges the reality that California sea lions have fully rebounded from threat of extinction, while an excess of marine mammals in a few locations impedes the expensive recovery of Columbia River salmon.

Few citizens of the Pacific Northwest begrudge sea lions their place in the natural world. This willingness to co-exist is probably strongest among members of Indian tribes, who shared the environment with marine mammals for thousands of years. They hunted sea lions, but in sustainable ways. They competed with them for salmon but there is nothing to suggest they tried to annihilate them.

The proposed law would place Northwest treaty tribes on par with the states of Oregon and Washington in terms of being able to kill individual sea lions that persistently gobble returning salmon in bottlenecks such as the waters below fish ladders. It would be far from a blank check to slaughter sea lions and harbor seals. It requires tribal managers to first try physically removing salmon gluttons before escalating to lethal measures, with training by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Warm Springs, Umatilla, Yakama

and Nez Perce tribes would be granted the new authority.

Paul Lumley, executive director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, is a tribal member with a fine reputation for environmental stewardship. He says, "Our tribes are working hard to restore balance, wherever we can, in a highly altered and degraded river system. The Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act are thoughtful laws that need to be reconciled with one another. The Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act honors the underlying intent of both laws while providing professional fisheries managers with tools to manage both Protected and Endangered Species."

This endorsement is about as good as it gets for natural resources legislation.

The bill accelerates the process for granting lethal take authority; limits the cumulative level of lethal take to 1 percent of annual biological potential removal level; further limits the lethal take to 10 animals per permit holder; and requires the Secretary of Commerce to report on any additional legislation needed to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act within two years.

Similar legislation has gone nowhere in the previous two congresses. Western issues in general get short shrift in the nation's capital. But we should continue advocating for more realistic and farsighted ways of rebalancing the Columbia River back to something more like it was.

A winter pastime: setting goals to last all year long

Winter is becoming my favorite time of year the longer I live on the North Coast.

There's something to be said for January and February, when the streets are free of traffic, business owners have time to talk and, if your favorite restaurants are open, there's no waiting line.

When I drive down the vacant Hemlock Street in Cannon Beach or Broadway in Seaside during the dark of night or in the early morning, sometimes I can put myself back decades ago and imagine what it was like before the North Coast became a tourist mecca.

Seaside historical author Gloria Linkey painted the picture of Seaside in the winter just before and during World War II for those attending the Seaside Chamber of Commerce breakfast last week.

Linkey was a young girl, then, and she talked about how 500 people might show up at a community sing-along because there wasn't anything else to do. She recalled walking downtown with her friends, buying a bag of caramel corn and watching the swimmers at the natatorium.

During the war, she said, everything was dark; no streetlights could be turned on at night, for fear that they would be seen by the enemy. That fear was justified when a Japanese submarine fired on Fort Stevens in the middle of the night June 21, 1942.

But the darkness that surrounds us in January and February nowadays I find comforting. It signals a quiet, peaceful opportunity to reset intentions. I never make New Year's resolutions: Instead, I work on "goals."

The local cities also find that winter is the time to set their goals as well. The Seaside and Cannon Beach city councils have already held goal-setting sessions, and the Gearhart council plans to do the same Feb. 17.

Unlike many of us who want to exercise, lose weight or spend more time with our families, the councils have loftier plans.

IMPRESSIONS

By
NANCY
MCCARTHY



Seaside's strategy

In Seaside, Mayor Don Larson continues to set his sights south of town. He wants to annex that area, clean it up, extend the urban growth boundary and encourage new development there.

It won't happen overnight, he says: It could take at least four years — just about as long as his next term as mayor will last.

The Seaside City Council also will:

- Make a decision on the proposed \$25 million expansion of the Seaside Civic and Convention Center. A real question, however, is what will be done for parking?

- Determine how the city's parks will be managed. Although they are under the purview of Public Works Director Neal Wallace, Wallace is already "overworked," Larson said.

- Develop a priority list for maintenance on the city's public buildings;

- Continue work on Seaside's proposed natural history park and develop a trail plan;

- Create a complete sewer master plan for the city; and

- Deal with Larson's pet peeve: Take bicycles off Broadway sidewalks and put them on the street behind the cars.

Cannon Beach's goals

It was obvious from the Cannon Beach City Council's long discussion last Saturday that reworking the council meeting agenda is a priority. Audience members will benefit from this: Instead of waiting through a two-hour meeting to talk about what's on their minds, the public will be first on

the agenda to speak.

The Cannon Beach council also plans to:

- Conduct a citizen survey and create a strategic plan;

- Tackle the affordable housing issue; the solution has eluded the city for years;

- Negotiate on a property purchase that could expand the Ecola Creek Forest Reserve;

- Decide on the Cannon Beach Academy's request to use a portion of the city's RV park for a temporary location;

- Hire a finance director and an information technology manager: The finance director's job has been contracted out since the former director — who also handled information technology — resigned last year.

- Discuss the creation of more "pocket parks" around town; and

- Consider whether an events center is necessary, and if so, where it would be.

What goes in Gearhart?

There's no telling what Gearhart city councilors might propose for the city's goals. The council may wrap up work on ordinances focusing on fences, RVs and marijuana dispensaries.

It might even come up with an ordinance on short-term rental housing that everyone can live with.

Depending on how the state Land Use Board of Appeals case involving the historic livery stable goes, there may be a conclusion to that issue, too. The barn may eventually meet all of the safety codes required by the city and finally become the events center that has been proposed for the past several years.

But at the top of Gearhart's list, there should be a goal to settle the dispute between Mayor Dianne Widdop and those who want to recall her. Perhaps a recall election will be the final arbiter.

If the issue isn't settled soon, the cozy winter will become only darker, and the peaceful silence could be disturbed by a few volleys heading toward City Hall.

Nancy McCarthy covers South Clatsop County for The Daily Astorian, and she is the editor of the Cannon Beach Gazette and the Seaside Signal. Her column appears every two weeks.

Guest column

It's time Oregon put a price on carbon

By CAMILA THORNDIKE
and DAN GOLDEN

Climate change hurts Coastal Oregon, and we are already seeing the impacts, from warming oceans to sea level rise to increasing ocean acidification.

The warming ocean is detrimental to many Northwest fish species, particularly anadromous fish, such as salmon and steelhead, and increases the likelihood of algal blooms and shellfish poisoning.

Sea level rise generates conditions that promote far greater ocean storm damage and flooding, increasing erosion and compromising coastal tidal flats, estuaries and marshes. Ocean acidification harms carbon-based shelled marine organisms, such as clams and oysters.

These hardships are tiny compared to the challenges our children and grandchildren face if we fail to act on climate change. Every reputable authority — from the Pentagon to the United Nations — warns that our current trajectory will lead to unprecedented social, economic and military crises. If we cannot secure a transition from fossil fuels before the end of the decade, it will not be possible for future generations to adapt.

Fortunately, the solution is in



Camila
Thorndike



Dan
Golden

The Oregon Legislature should hold polluters accountable for the damage they do to Coastal Oregon by making them pay to pollute.

sight. Oregon has the rare opportunity to lead our country and the world with the policy economists and climatologists say we need. We can hold out-of-state polluters accountable for climate change with a price on carbon, either by charging them a fee or by requiring them to buy permits before they burn fossil fuels.

Last month, the Northwest Economic Research Center at Portland

State University presented to the Legislature their long-awaited study on the impacts of a carbon pollution fee in Oregon. It showed a significant reduction in carbon pollution and a negligible effect on the Coastal economy.

Our problem is not a shortage of solar panels or ethanol or hybrid cars, nor is it an abundance of gas and oil pipelines. Our problem is underpriced fossil fuels. We do not pay their hidden costs when we fill our tanks — that comes later, in the form of emergency drought relief, hurricane cleanup and forest fires. If polluters were accountable for these costs, a price signal would reverberate throughout our economy. It would reward smart decisions and punish wasteful ones. Both proven and novel energy alternatives would attract new capital. Nothing but a price on carbon can spark the systemic transformation we need, and that's because it targets the problem at its source.

The Oregon Legislature should hold polluters accountable for the damage they do to Coastal Oregon by making them pay to pollute. And 100% of the revenue should be distributed evenly among all Oregonians, because the natural beneficiaries are the victims of climate change — all of us.

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