

# City Council moves ahead with citizen survey plan

## Questionnaire could 'entice residents to Cannon Beach'

By **DANI PALMER**  
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH—The Cannon Beach City Council has narrowly approved a \$30,000 strategic plan that could guide future policy choices in Cannon Beach.

According to City Manager Brant Kucera, the National Citizen Survey relies on citizen input to provide a detailed analysis and summary of community viewpoints, and is used by cities as large as 2 million and as small as a few hundred.

The survey is administered by the National Research

Center and the International City/County Management Association, and serves as a tool for short- and long-term planning. The survey will cost \$15,000, with another \$10,000-\$15,000 for facilitation, Kucera said.

For the price the city's getting, Kucera said he is "not sure how it's a bad deal." He said he has administered the survey in at least six other communities with successful results.

"For me, I think that the ability to cross-tabulate ourselves with other communities and from year to year are very important things to see as far as how we rank and then are we having a process of continuous improvement," he said.

He noted that the survey results could be used to entice residents to Cannon Beach.

Councilor Mike Benefield

**'That's what a strategic plan is: a road map in how to get from here to there.'**

— **Wendy Higgins**  
Cannon Beach city councilor

agreed that attracting more full-time residents than second homeowners should be the goal for the future of the town.

Mayor Sam Steidel said he is more concerned about the people already living in Cannon Beach than attracting potential newcomers, and would rather see a service needs survey.

Steidel said he did not like the National Citizen Survey's format, which uses the terms "poor, fair, good and excellent" which could

be considered subjective. He noted that he believed the survey would be a "waste of time and money."

Steidel added that he had no interest in comparing Cannon Beach to other communities, because of its uniqueness. "We are Cannon Beach. Cannon Beach is us," he said.

Some in the audience agreed. In the crowd of about 15, a handful stood up to speak against the survey before the strategic plan discussion even began.

Jillayne Sorenson said a

national survey may not be the best route for a community like Cannon Beach with its specific characteristics. "I think there are a number of ways of receiving feedback from the community," she said, adding the survey shouldn't be the only source of input.

The way questions are posed could have an impact on the results, Sorenson said, and the survey may not be worth the expense.

Kucera said the questions can be customized and suggested going with the national survey to avoid bias. An in-house survey may inadvertently offer leading questions, he added, noting the national survey is statistically defensible.

Benefield said he wants the city to be proactive, and a strategic plan would assist in that.

Councilwoman Wendy Higgins said the survey would provide an opportunity for staff and elected officials to utilize community input for future plans and budgets. "That's what a strategic plan is: a road map in how to get from here to there," she said.

Councilor George Vetter said he wasn't sure the survey was the best way to spend money and discussed putting it off.

Benefield countered that he didn't see what another month of rehashing would do.

Councilors Benefield, Higgins and Melissa Cadwallader voted last Tuesday in favor of the survey. Mayor Steidel and Vetter provided the "nay" votes in the 3-2 decision.

The survey administration period is estimated to take 17 weeks. Resulting data will be used to develop a strategic plan draft before the new year.

## North Dakota doctor accused of sex abuse

By **KYLE SPURR**  
The Daily Astorian



Robert John Gustafson

A North Dakota doctor is accused of sexually abusing a young girl multiple times in Clatsop County over a two-year period.

Robert John Gustafson, a surgeon in the 1,200-person town of Hettinger, N.D., pleaded not guilty Monday in Clatsop County Circuit Court to 10 counts of first-degree sex abuse and two counts of first-degree encouraging child sex abuse.

The alleged abuse occurred in Clatsop County between Jan. 1, 2009, and Dec. 31, 2011, according to the indictment. The sex-abuse charges relate to Gustafson allegedly touching the girl, under 14 at the time, and having the girl touch him.

Gustafson, 46, appeared in court Monday via video link from Clatsop County Jail, where he is being held on \$250,000 bail.

His defense lawyer Paul Hood said Gustafson plans to post the required 10 percent amount of bail to be released from jail, and return to North Dakota.

"He is a surgeon at the West River Health Center in Hettinger, North Dakota," Hood said. "I contacted the health center today, they are holding his job for him. He is the only surgeon at the facility."

As part of his release agreement, Gustafson would nor-

mally not be allowed to leave the state. However, Clatsop County District Attorney Josh Marquis did not object.

"The normal conditions would prohibit he leave the state. The defendant is a doctor apparently licensed in North Dakota, where he lives," Marquis said. "The state does not object to him leaving the state, but we ask he have no contact with any children and surrender his passport."

Judge Philip Nelson granted the release agreement, and allowed Gustafson to return to North Dakota. Gustafson is required to have no contact with the victim, her family or any children under 18, unless it is necessary at the health center where he works.

His next scheduled court appearance is an early resolution conference in September.

Hood will request the court let Gustafson not appear in person at the next hearing, since he will be in North Dakota.

## Massive debris removal begins in Alaska

By **BECKY BOHRER**  
Associated Press

JUNEAU, Alaska — A massive cleanup effort is getting underway in Alaska, with tons of marine debris — some likely sent to sea by the 2011 tsunami in Japan — set to be airlifted from rocky beaches and taken by barge for recycling and disposal in the Pacific Northwest.

Hundreds of heavy-duty bags of debris, collected in 2013 and 2014 and stockpiled at a storage site in Kodiak, also will be shipped out. The barge is scheduled to arrive in Kodiak by Thursday, before setting off on a roughly one-month venture.

The scope of the project, a year in the making, is virtually unheard of in Alaska. It was spurred, in part, by the mass of material that's washed ashore — things like buoys, fishing lines, plastics and fuel drums — and the high cost of shuttling small boatloads of debris from remote sites to port, said Chris Pallister, president of the cleanup organization Gulf of Alaska Keeper, which is coordinating the effort.

The Anchorage landfill also began requiring that fishing nets and lines — common debris items — to be chopped up, a task called impossible by state tsunami marine debris coordinator Janna Stewart.

Pallister estimates the cost

of the barge project at up to \$1.3 million, with the state contributing \$900,000 from its share of the \$5 million that Japan provided for parts of the U.S. affected by tsunami debris.

Many of the project sites are remote and rugged. Crews working at sites like Kayak and Montague islands in Prince William Sound, for example, get there by boat and sleep onboard. The need to keep moving down the shoreline as cleanup progresses, combined with terrain littered with boulders and logs, makes it tough to set up a camp, Pallister said. There's also the issue of bears.

Alaska has more coastline than any other state. And Alaska cleanup operations often are expensive and dangerous, said Nikolai Maximenko, a senior researcher at the Hawaii-based International Pacific Research Center.

"Even without the tsunami, Alaska is well-known for being polluted with all these buoys and other stuff from fisheries activity and from other human activities," he said.

It can be hard to definitively distinguish tsunami debris from the run-of-the-mill rubbish that has long fouled shorelines unless there are identifiable markings. But Pallister and others say the type and volume of debris that has washed up in Alas-



Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation/AP  
Debris litters the shore on Montague Island, Alaska.

ka is different since the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, which killed thousands in Japan.

Crews plan to do cleanup work in the Gulf of Alaska this summer, which will add to the material that has already been cached in heavy-duty bags above the high-tide line. All this would be loaded onto the barge. The logistics are complicated.

Dump trucks are expected to ferry the large white bags of debris from the Kodiak storage yard to the barge after it arrives. Tom Pogson with the Island Trails

Network, which worked on the Kodiak-area debris removal, said that will be the easy part.

In other locations, the bags will be airlifted by helicopter to the barge, which Pallister expects will be "pretty maxxed out" when the barge, roughly the size of a football field, is fully loaded.

Debris will be sorted for recycling in Seattle, with the remaining debris taken by train for disposal in Oregon, according to the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

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**WORLD WAR II SPECIAL EVENT & 1940's Days**  
at Fort Stevens State Park Historic Site  
WEEKEND OF JULY 18<sup>TH</sup> & 19<sup>TH</sup>  
Saturday 10am-4pm | Sunday 10am-2pm

- Inviting EVERYONE to participate in 1930's-1940's home-front or civilian dress
- Ideas for home-front costumes: Civil defense, local police or sheriff officers, fire wardens, enemy aircraft spotters, Rosy the Riveter, etc. NO WEAPONS PLEASE!
- Add to the authenticity of the World War II living-history military groups that will be present.
- Civilian and home-front participants may represent nations, such as the United States, Great Britain, France and Russia.
- Participants are even encouraged to bring out an old-fashioned picnic lunch!
- Anyone wanting to display a 1930's or World War II-era vehicle is also encouraged to bring it out!

If interested in dressing up in 1930's-1940's-style clothing and costumes, or displaying a vehicle, you need to call the event coordinator: Bill Lund, between July 7-18 during daytime hours at (503) 325-5783

Sponsored by FRIENDS OF OLD FORT STEVENS 1863 1947 OREGON'S DEFENDER

Guess what day it is!  
**It's Hump's Day!!!**  
AT HUMP'S RESTAURANT EVERY WEDNESDAY 5-8 PM  
14 OUNCE NEW YORK STEAK & BAKED POTATO \$9.95  
All You Can Eat Chicken & Dumplings \$6.95 Every Thursday 5-8 pm  
Hump's Restaurant Just 15 min. from the Lewis & Clark Bridge on Hwy. 30  
50 W. Columbia River Highway Clatskanie, OR. 503.728.2626

**evening jazz**  
Coast Community Radio  
KMUN 91.9 FM Monday-Thursday 6-8 PM

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
Seaside Senior Dining Center

- The Seaside Senior Dining Center at the Bob Chisholm Center Serves more than 13,000 meals a year to senior citizens. Over 7000 of those meals are delivered to seniors who are homebound or are unable to cook for themselves. This could not happen without the help of a dedicated volunteer team, committed to serving seniors in the Seaside area.

**Meals on Wheels volunteers are desperately needed right now**

- Volunteer Meals on Wheels drivers not only help ensure good nutrition but also check on our senior citizens well-being and connect them with vital resources in the community. Often times, the Meals on Wheels drivers are the only people homebound seniors will see during the week.
- Drivers may use their own vehicles and receive .575 per mile reimbursement or use the agency vehicle. All drivers must pass a criminal background check and have a valid driver's license prior to starting work. Lunches are delivered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and take about 2-3 hours.
- Come join our cheerful, "can do" volunteer team at the Seaside Senior Dining Center. Call Michelle Lewis at NW Senior and Disability Services at 503-861-4202 or the Bob Chisholm Senior Dining Center at 503-738-9323 for more information.

NWSDS.org

**2015 CLATSOP COUNTY FAIR**  
JULY 28 thru AUGUST 1

- ▶ TUE. 28TH • CAR-LOAD DAY  
Everyone in the car gains admission for \$10
- ▶ WED. 29TH • SENIOR DAY  
Seniors (61 and up) get in for \$1
- ▶ THUR. 30TH • BUDDY DAY  
Two-for-one admission. Buy one all-you-can-ride bracelet get the 2nd ½ price
- ▶ FRI. 31ST • LUM'S AUTO CENTER APPRECIATION DAY  
Military Personnel, Fire Fighters, Police and Teachers and their families admitted for \$1 each
- ▶ SAT. 1ST • LAST DAY OF THE FAIR

For more information go to www.clatsopfairgrounds.com