

# Hood to Coast: Many complained about effects from event

Continued from Page 1A

“Although the Seaside Chamber of Commerce and many of the area’s lodging facilities benefit financially, many of us year-round business owners feel that the overall impact of hosting this massive event during the busy summer tourist is negative,” wrote business owners in a letter delivered to the council. “For this reason, we request that the Seaside City Council resolve that future Hood to Coast events not be allowed to be scheduled during the months of July or August, during the Memorial Day or Labor Day weekends, or during weekends hosting our annual car shows or the Miss Oregon Pageant.”

Councilor Randy Frank said the value of the Hood to Coast event is “overstated.” While the world-class event “does put us on the map, what I don’t like is the quality of life for first-time visitors, or those who just happen to book a room.”

“I can’t believe we’re having this conversation,” Councilor Dana Phillips said. “Against an organization that chooses to come into this community and the millions of dollars of free advertising we get all over the world — you’re almost making them feel unwelcome.”

## Hood to Coast ‘party time’?

Many in the audience complained about rude behavior from runners, street closures and a lack of communication with the organizers.

Business owners said organizers arbitrarily closed streets, tapped into private power sources and illegally sold wares on the street.

“The hotels should be filled with families, not with people who are using us as a day-and-a-half destination and party time,” Steve Hinton of Taco Time said.

Frank and others urged considering a late-September date or a mid-to-late June event.

“That would be a lot easier on the town and on our services,” he said.

He took Hood to Coast organizers — none of whom were present — to task for failing to respond to local concerns. “It seems like every request we have, they shrug or don’t respond,” he said.

Benefits to the city failed to match the costs, and runners may have diverted otherwise profitable summer weekend business.

In the face of August’s windstorm the morning of the race, Jeff Ter Har of Ter Har’s said he found “severe shortcomings” with organizers’ backup plan as runners “took over our street and blocked our businesses.”

Councilor Tita Montero said Hood to Coast organizers failed to provide contact information, which led to “disastrous” consequences during the storm. “I witnessed the lack of respect from volunteers for personal property, for people who live here and people who visit here,” Monte-

ro said. “I was taken aback by all of that.”

## A ‘monumental’ event

Councilor Phillips said when event organizers originally chose Seaside, the weekend before Labor Day was selected because it “was traditionally one of the slowest weekends in the summer.”

Moving the date, she said, would affect both volunteer participation and the workforce, many of whom would be unavailable after the start of the school year. Weather would be another factor — too cold on Mount Hood in June, too stormy in Seaside in September.

“I am not opposed, in any way, to enter into a dialogue with Hood to Coast about the options for other dates,” Councilor Jay Barber added. “I’m open to sitting down with Mr. Foote and others and discussing it. But my business takes me all over the country. When I say I’m from Seaside, Oregon, invariably they say ‘I ran

in the Hood to Coast to Seaside, and after I was there, I brought my family back because I love that little town.’ I think there’s a much greater benefit to the Hood to Coast than just the impact that it has on that weekend. I am totally supportive of the Hood to Coast event.”

“When people finish a race, that is one of the most monumental things they’ve ever done,” added Jon Rahl of the Seaside Visitors’ Bureau. “There are pictures of racers at Tillamook Head all across the world. That’s something significant we can never put a measurement on.”

Seaside’s Piper O’Brien said Hood to Coast benefits not only the city’s downtown core, but the Seaside Chamber of Commerce, nonprofits, schools and student organizations. Overall, the event raised \$557,000 for Providence Cancer Center.

Broadway Middle School receives income from shower rentals and high-schoolers participate in Hood to Coast academic and sports fundraising

drives, she said.

Longtime volunteer Doug Barker said moving the event date would have repercussions “all along the line.”

“One thing I haven’t heard in any discussions, that to change the date in Seaside, you change the date all the way back 198 miles to Mount Hood,” Barker said. “You affect organizations, government agencies, police — a lot of people who have come to rely on that event this time of year. You could set off a real firestorm. You really need to discuss this with people down the line.”

In the end, without participation from Hood to Coast, the session ended as it began, in division.

“If I saw this and I’m Mr. Foote, I’d start looking for a new location,” Barber said.

“He can’t find a new location,” Councilor Frank said. “We are in the driver’s seat. We have to dictate to him what’s happening in our city, not him dictate to us what happens in our city.”

# Armory: There are lots of efforts to help skaters in the region

Continued from Page 1A

to help skaters regulate their speed. The process of building ramps, he said, has been ingrained from years of skating, and his family’s background in carpentry.

The group received about \$1,000 in materials from the Houses, who regularly promote skate-related efforts. City Lumber gave discounts, and the park organizers received donations from locals, including a Street Fighter II console from Smithart.

## All ages

Watching the skaters Monday was 4-year-old Lincoln Martell and his mother, Vashti. Munching on some Cheetos and nursing a cold, Lincoln had been skating the park last week with his father, and looked amazed at what other boarders were doing.

“It makes me happy that my child is going to grow up in this town,” said Vashti Martell, a transplant from Portland who has been skateboarding for 15 years; her husband, John Dalgren, has been skateboarding for 25. At the same time, she said, it is providing more positive things to do, using a for-



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Skaters stand on a ramp waiting for their turn to go.

merly vacant building.

If not for the park, skaters said Monday, they would have to find cover at a parking garage, schools — or just not skate at all until the weather improved.

“It’s about time,” local skater Josh Jensen said. “It’s a rainy town. People don’t want us out and about their property.”

Russ House, a member of the Facebook group “Skaters

over 50,” said he even likes to ride the pipes at the Armory at times.

Looking around the region, he said, there are a lot of efforts to help skaters, a historically marginalized sporting group. Long Beach, Washington, with the help of City Councilor Del Murry, is trying to build its own skate park. Cathlamet, Washington, recently held the seventh Downhill Corral Longboard Festival. Clats-

kanie to the east and Nehalem to the south both have covered outdoor skate parks.

“We pay attention to those things,” House said. “We want to bring a little of that here.”

Julie House is speaking with Astoria High School to see if a senior wants to take on covering the Tapiola Skate Park as their senior project.

But for now, come the fall and winter rains, skaters will have a dry place to shred.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Kai Dakers catches air off a ramp at the Armory Skatepark Monday. The ramps are built in a way that helps regulate the skaters’ speed.

# Playbook: Individuals, families should build earthquake kits

Continued from Page 1A

events could kill as many as 25,000 people, destroy tens of thousands of structures and leave tens of thousands of people without shelter, according to the document.

The situation will be worst in Oregon’s coastal counties: Clatsop, Tillamook, Lincoln, Douglas, Curry and Coos. People who live on the coast will have as little as 15 minutes warning before a tsunami.

Within minutes of the earthquake, the playbook calls for emergency management staff to notify Oregon’s adjutant general, who oversees the Oregon National Guard and Office of Emergency Management. After the adjutant general informs the governor, the governor will notify the president or secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. Other state officials will get in touch with federal agencies, and Oregon will begin the process to declare a statewide disaster to begin the process of mobilizing health care and other emergency services.

Ideally within two hours, the governor — or secretary of state or state treasurer, if the governor is not available — is supposed to decide whether the damage is severe enough to ask the president to declare a major disaster and mobilize help from the federal government.

“We know that if a Cascadia earthquake and tsunami happens, it’s going to be an automatic federal disaster declaration,” Grogan said.

The playbook calls for the mobilization of first responders starting within minutes of the earthquake to evacuate people from the worst hit areas. The state will coordinate an aerial assessment of shelters and

supply staging areas, identify “lifeline roadways, bridges and tunnels and facilitate debris removal” and work on getting supplies and emergency personnel to earthquake and tsunami-damaged areas.

## Communications

State officials will also work to set up communications systems so that emergency responders can talk to cities, counties, tribal governments and utility companies. The state and local public works employees will try to restore public services — such as potable water and sewer — where possible to serve survivors.

The playbook checklist also includes a topic state emergency officials wish they did not have to plan for, but which they know from experience they must include in the response: handling bodies of people who died in the earthquake or tsunami, landslide or other events that followed.

“It’s hard for us to think about,” Grogan said. “But it’s extremely important to deal with it ... We know with Cascadia that’s going to be an issue, so it’s important to deal with it in advance.”

Grogan said emergency officials saw what could go wrong during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Bodies laid in the streets for a week, as state and federal agencies disagreed over who was responsible for recovering the victims.

The playbook also lists actions the state will take to set up facilities to care for livestock and pets following the disaster, and reunite the animals with the owners.

## A week without help

It could take 24 hours to a week for Oregon to begin receiving help from outside the

state, including from agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Transportation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, according to the playbook. The Department of State will even get involved, to manage offers of assistance from foreign countries and international humanitarian organizations.

State officials hope they will be able to begin recovery work — initial steps to restore basic community services such as law enforcement, health care and schools — within eight days, although part of the work consists of identifying long-term recovery needs such as rebuilding systems to provide potable water and telecommunications.

## Have a plan

Although the playbook focuses on how the state will respond to a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake, state officials said there are also actions that individuals, communities and the state can take to increase their chances of surviving the major quake.

“It’s still really important for individuals to have a plan and be prepared, as well, to empower themselves during a disaster,” Grogan said.

Individuals and families should build earthquake kits with enough food, water and other supplies to last two weeks. Grogan said Cannon Beach took an innovative approach by creating a cache on high ground outside the tsunami zone where people can store their emergency kits.

The state is also holding The Great Oregon ShakeOut at 10:15 a.m. on Oct. 15, to raise awareness and encourage people to plan for earthquakes. During the drill, people are supposed to drop to the ground,

take cover under a sturdy desk or table, and hold onto it.

## More in the works

Other state agencies are working on projects that could change make earthquake and tsunami planning a larger factor in the way coastal communities plan for future development.

Ali Ryan Hansen, earth science information officer for the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, said the agency is in the process of updating its tsunami inundation line to more accurately reflect areas that will likely be submerged under a giant wave.

Oregon does not allow construction of new “essential

structures” such as schools, hospitals and police stations on the seaward side of the tsunami line, and Ryan Hansen said the agency plans to hold public meetings on the new proposed line in March. A state board could vote to adopt the new line in summer 2016.

The redrawn line would mean an additional 30 to 40 percent of land in coastal cities would be off-limits for new “essential structures.”

Officials at the geology agency and Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development are also waiting to hear whether the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will award Oregon

a \$600,000 grant to improve mapping and time estimates for tsunami evacuation routes. The state would also provide the tools for cities and counties along the coast to use in land use planning decisions.

“The focus really is on more comprehensive planning and development of code at those local levels to increase resilience and reduce risk,” Ryan Hansen said. “It’s really about bringing these tools to the communities, and then providing the support they need to make these decisions.”

*The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.*

## WANTED

### Classified/Inside Sales

The Daily Astorian is looking for an individual with excellent customer service skills, both in person and over the phone. Someone who brings an upbeat and “go get ‘em” attitude to the table, works well with a team as well as alone.

This position requires great computer skills, accurate spelling, the ability to receive incoming classified advertising calls as well as calling advertisers back for ad renewals.

Manage special monthly projects requiring cold calls. Must be persistent and be able to handle rejection with ease. This is a full time position, working Monday through Friday. Evenings and weekends off, plus paid holidays!

### REWARDING CAREER

Competitive wage plus commissions. Benefits include paid time off (PTO), insurances and a 401(k)/Roth 401(k) retirement plan.

Send resume and letter of interest to EO Media Group, PO Box 2048, Salem, OR 97308-2048, by fax to 503-371-2935 or e-mail to: hr@comediagroup.com