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ONE DOLLAR

CAUGHT 'UNPREPARED'? OPB sizes up Oregon's readiness and it's not good

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

Anyone living on the Oregon Coast — and anyone living in Seaside especially — may want to check out Oregon Public Broadcasting Thursday night.

Then again, maybe they don't.

The 9.0 Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake — the "big one" that geologists say has a 1-in-3 chance of striking the Pacific Northwest within the next 50 years — gets the Oregon Field Guide treatment in "Unprepared," a candidly titled documentary examining the state of Oregon's disaster preparedness. (Spoiler alert: Oregon has a long way to go.)

OREGON FIELD GUIDE UNPREPARED

"Our country has no real concept of how ugly it's going to be after a 9.0 Cascadia quake," Allison Pyrch, a geotechnical engineer, says in the film.

The 2011 Tohoku megaquake and tsunami that hit Japan and killed more than 15,000 people may be a mirror-image of what Oregonians can look forward to. But Oregon is nowhere near as prepared as Japan.

As one expert told "Unprepared" producer Ed Jahn: Oregon won't be like Japan, whose infrastructure bounced back pretty quickly; rather, Oregon will be like Haiti after the country's 2010 Port-au-Prince earthquake.

And, of Oregon's coastal cities canvassed in the film, none faces a grimmer future than Seaside, which sits at sea level and, where Cascadia is concerned, is perhaps the most vulnerable city in Oregon.

With so many residents and buildings trapped between the ocean and the Necanicum River — whose old bridges will almost certainly fail during the quaking — the city has the highest concentration of risk on the Oregon Coast, Jay Wilson, chairman of the Oregon Seismic Commission, informs the viewer. After Cascadia, Seaside will be a ruin, all but scoured off the map.

"This is not a super feel-good story," Jahn said. "I don't like to bring people down and hit people over the head with hard information like this."

The one-hour special presentation, which kicks off Oregon Field Guide's 27th season, airs at 8 p.m. on OPB and will be available for streaming online at watch.opb.org. It represents the capstone of the network's larger multimedia campaign to raise awareness of the geologically imminent megaquake and how Oregonians can better prepare for it.

Fight-or-flight

The "Unprepared" crew interviewed well-known Cascadia experts like Chris Goldfinger, an Oregon State University professor of geology and geophysics, and Yumei Wang, a geotechnical engineer at the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

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Dylan McCord/Submitted Photo
Japanese fire trucks line a road in this aerial photo of Sukuiso, Japan, taken March 18, 2011, a week after a 9.0 earthquake and subsequent tsunami.



Abuzz over the biplane

Residents seek
to vary summer
tour's flight path

By KATHERINE LACAZE
EO Media Group

The Seaside Airport Advisory Committee wants to talk with Jim Grant about his summer biplane tours. But the group's "hands are tied" when it comes to restricting activity by licensed pilots like Grant who observe Federal Aviation Administration rules, members said.

On Sept. 22, the committee considered action after reports of noise, low-altitude flying and environmental impacts to the Necanicum Estuary, a wildlife reserve designated an important bird area.

Gearhart's Mayor Dianne Widop, a committee member, said she has received "a lot of complaints" from residents about the biplane.

"When you start to hear those undercurrents, you start to worry a little," she said.

Gearhart resident John Dudley said the unvarying tour route is "a repetitive issue," and would like the route changed "to minimize the impact on any one corridor."

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It is in the water

Source of high
bacteria readings
in Cannon Beach
is elusive

By DANI PALMER
EO Media Group

Second of two parts

CANNON BEACH — With high bacteria levels in local waterways, environmental groups are asking Cannon Beach officials to notify the public faster.

The Ecola Creek Watershed Council and Surfrider Foundation have asked city officials to dig deeper for a cause as data indicates a possible problem with sewage infrastructure.

Cannon Beach has a history of high bacteria test results, especially after rain washes waterways out, but Ryan Cruse, field coordinator for Surfrider's Blue Water Task Force, said testers have seen "a constant pattern of high readings" since May, "with some exceptionally high and unsafe readings occurring this summer during dry weather."

"People need to be warned when the levels are elevated, and infrastructure should be tested to rule out human waste as a source," Ecola Creek Watershed Council President Mike Manzulli said at a City Council work session this month.

The Watershed Council is concerned for the health of all human and pet residents and visitors, he said. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, exposure to fecal bacteria can cause symptoms such as nausea, diarrhea, stomach cramps, chills and fever. Skin rashes may also occur.

The spill

In July, an 11,000-gallon sewage spill in Cannon Beach led to cordoning off some of the area.

While Manzulli said not enough was done to notify the public via the city's website or media outlets, City Manager Brant Kucera said the Public Works Department followed the state's guidelines "to the letter."

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Pelican Brewing lifts off in Cannon Beach

New brewery will
be used for research
and development

By DANI PALMER
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — The newest Pelican swooped into Cannon Beach Tuesday, as residents and city officials welcomed Pelican Brewing Co.

Pelican officially broke ground and offered crab cakes and mushrooms prepared on a grill by chef John Newman and beer during the event.

"I'm excited they're bringing a business down here; to have something anchor people here," local business owner Jill Kratochvil said.

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Court Carrier said Pelican will bring "new vitality" to an area of

town that sees less foot traffic. Many visitors stay in midtown hotels, but shop downtown.

Pelican demolished the former Dooger's Seafood and Grill at 1371 South Hemlock St., vacant since 2011, to build its third location along the coast. The brewing company first opened in Pacific City in 1996, and added a site in Tillamook in 2013. Co-owner Mary Jones said they "love being on the coast" and had contemplated the new location for years.

"As we've moved through that process, it's become increasingly clear what a great choice that's been and what a great community Cannon Beach is to be involved in," Pelican CEO Jim Prinzing said. "We're extremely excited to be apart of the community, to hopefully build more business here, bring more folks during



R.J. Marx/EO Media Group
Brewmaster Darron Welch and members of Pelican's executive team put shovel to ground Tuesday.

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