



# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

143rd YEAR, No. 92

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2015

ONE DOLLAR



“Walkable home” in tow, Lawrence Scible, 58, from West Virginia, prepares to enter Astoria after a brief break on the roadside Wednesday afternoon. The activist plans to stay in Astoria for a few days, then continue on his mission to found a church, where he hopes to mass-produce mobile homes.

Photos by Erick Bengel/The Daily Astorian

## A new bridge for the ‘Big One’

Cannon Beach to request grant for pedestrian span for safety

By DANI PALMER  
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — Trying to ensure residents and visitors survive the “Big One” that could strike at any time, the Cannon Beach City Council voted Tuesday night to pursue a Connect Oregon VI grant for a new pedestrian bridge over Ecola Creek.

The city’s evacuation plan directs pedestrians south because of the likelihood of a bridge collapse over the creek. Public Works Director Dan Grassick said the Fir Street Bridge is “woefully inadequate” when it comes to seismic and resulting tsunami activity. From downtown, where many shop, the trip south to high ground is a longer route that could waste precious time.

“The creek is a physical barrier that will cause a lot of deaths if you don’t have some way to cross it,” Grassick said. “Scores of people will lose their lives trying to escape the tsunami.”

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## Veteran takes his home for a stroll

Lawrence Scible hopes to build ‘walkable homes’ for the homeless

By ERICK BENDEL  
The Daily Astorian

Lawrence Scible, 58, is a survivalist — a citizen of the streets and interstate highways who travels by foot and pulls a homemade home-on-wheels.

In April, the wandering Rastafarian left Spokane, Washington, with his 400-pound walkable home in tow and has since logged more than 1,000 miles, roving north and south along Oregon’s Interstate 5 and down to California. On Wednesday, Scible (aka, “Ras Ible”) rolled into Astoria via Lief Erikson Drive for a sojourn.

“I just follow the wind, man. Wherever the Lord leads me, that’s where I go,” he said.

Scible may not have a destination, but he has a goal: to find a financier that will help him buy property and build a church where he can mass produce walkable homes for the homeless.

After leaving West Virginia — where, Scible said, he served prison time for possessing and trafficking marijuana, an experience he has written about — he built his own walkable home as a prototype.

“This right here gives you shelter. I close this door, and it’s like being in a house,” he said. “I’ll never be homeless again.”

A carpenter and handyman originally from Maryland, Scible built the wood-frame box with little more than a hammer and a handsaw — no electricity needed.

Draped in canvas and lined with Styrofoam, Sci-



Lawrence Scible checks the traffic on Lief Erikson Drive Wednesday afternoon. He hopes to found a church on the Oregon Coast that will become the base of his Walkable Home Project.

ble’s human-powered mobile home — whose name, “Peacemaker,” is etched in a hunk of driftwood — has enough room to sit, stand and sleep. He hangs his clothes from a rod near the ceiling. He heats his coffee and cooks his food in metal pots and pans heated by a plumber’s torch. He goes to the bathroom in a small plastic basket lined with disposable doggie bags.

And, not one to waste space, Scible has turned the outside into a political billboard. Among the colorful decorations — the rainbow streamers, plastic flowers and miscellaneous flags — is a serious message: his belief in abolishing marijuana prohibition.

But Scible, a Navy veteran, isn’t a one-issue activist, for painted near a pair of pot leaves are 22 red crosses tallying the daily average of suicides among America’s veterans, as estimated by the U.S. De-

partment of Veterans Affairs.

Even with his life compressed down to a space 4 feet wide, 6 feet long and 5 feet 8 inches high, Scible remains a cheerful optimist, one with a legion of Facebook friends and followers helping to promote his Walkable Home Project.

“All walks of life have pitched in and helped this mission,” he said, adding that he hopes to produce a documentary on his journey.

Wherever Scible ends up founding his church, he said it will be open to all faiths and, if possible, it will be in Oregon, a state that “has everything I could ever want,” he said.

“It’s got pine trees. It’s got mountains. It’s got the coast. It’s got the backwater. It’s got the ocean,” he said. “Man, this is God’s country right here.”

## Gearhart drops some party barn charges

City struggles to fill code gaps after judge rules in Smith’s favor

By R.J. MARX  
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — Two days after Municipal Court Judge John Orr found on behalf of Shannon Smith, the owner of Neacoxie Barn, the city is scrambling to fill zoning gaps that could permit a wide variety of uses.

Smith had been cited for illegal use of her barn to hold commercial enterprises, including weddings hosting up to 99 people, despite her lack of a conditional use permit to do so.

“We’re going to dismiss all those charges having to do with the zoning

code,” City Manager Chad Sweet said at Wednesday’s City Council meeting.

Judge Orr in his decision Monday said the city’s code was inadequate, and did not specifically prohibit the activities Smith was being cited for. The tickets came with \$500 penalties, which were dismissed.

On Wednesday, City Attorney Peter Watts told members of the council he planned to drop additional citations against Smith, delivered after similar functions were held at the barn later in the summer. The citations also carried a \$500 fine.

“Given the judge’s ruling on the zoning, we’re in agreement that it makes sense to dismiss those other citations,” Watts said.

Watts urged the city to address gaps in the code’s language.

Watts said, according to Orr’s rul-

ing earlier this week, the zone code did not prohibit a private wedding party for compensation. “That can have some ripple effects,” he said.

Uses not updated for three decades

Watts said the last modifications to the code were written about 30 years ago, and lists allowed, permitted and prohibited uses in a residential zone.

“Judge Orr’s reading of our code was in the absence of that direct prohibition on the activity, the activity would be allowed,” Watts said. “Right now the rental of a property for a wedding would be allowed under this interpretation in an R-1 zone.”

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## Mental health troubles aired at town hall

Report could support change in services statewide

By DERRICK DePLEDGE  
The Daily Astorian

A nine-hour wait for help at a hospital emergency room. Misdiagnosis. A lack of access to care. Poorly trained therapists and administrators.

These themes surfaced Wednesday night at a town hall forum on behavioral health care at The Loft, led by the Oregon Health Authority and state Sen. Sara Gelser.

Part of a series across Oregon, the exercise encouraged people to candidly share their experiences with mental health services.

The anecdotes were then summarized and read aloud, dialogue that the health authority will gather in a report that could help influence public policy statewide.



State Sen. Sara Gelser

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