

# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Founded in 1873



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## Forestry has come a long way

Modern Oregon residents love loggers but don't love logging. This is one way of interpreting results of a survey conducted by the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, reported in a Capital Press story we published Tuesday.

Oregonians exhibit a fairly sophisticated understanding of the role forestry plays in job creation, open-space preservation, supporting local government operations, and providing other benefits. Fully 68 percent of residents have a favorable view of the forest products industry — popularity most politicians and industries would sell their souls for.

However, only a quarter of Oregonians say clearcutting is an acceptable practice. Another 30 percent express neutrality or ambivalence.

In rapidly urbanizing Western Oregon, such attitudes translate into votes for and against restrictions on logging. Decisions based on visceral emotions and aesthetic factors — without enough consideration for rural economies and technical practicalities — could worsen the divide between the urban counties around Portland and the rest of the state.

The institute speaks of a need to do better “visual management” of clear-

cuts. This translates into things like contouring harvest boundaries to resemble natural meadows, leaving green belts along highways and leaving clumps of trees standing.

It is important to continue protecting the overall vitality of watersheds and riparian areas, and to make sure the public understands that logged areas are replanted. There undoubtedly are ways in which logging practices can be improved, but the industry has come a very long way in recent decades. It deserves credit for all it does, even while residents advocate for longer periods between harvests and refinements like avoiding excessive chemical applications.

Forestry isn't the all-important economic segment it was generations ago, but it still produces vital products and is a key ingredient in maintaining the viability of many rural towns and counties. We all should do what we can to make sure it survives.

## Oregon kinda, sorta matters

*The Wall Street Journal* recently published a list of the remaining state primary elections. The *WSJ* failed to include Oregon's May primary. While it was wrong, the omission did reflect a certain truth — that the Oregon Primary has not mattered in presidential politics in quite awhile.

It is true that former President Bill Clinton spoke on the plaza of the Columbia River Maritime Museum in spring 2008, to boost the fortunes of his wife, Hillary. And Barack Obama spoke in Pendleton.

But one must go back decades to find an Oregon primary that saw candidates criss-crossing the state. It is hard to believe, but in spring 1960, U.S. Sen. John F. Kennedy stumped in many locations across Oregon. The publisher of this newspaper saw JFK speak in the Hawthorne Grade School cafeteria on that occasion. The elegant Jacqueline Kennedy stood in a receiving line in that humble setting.

“He cared enough to come” was Nelson Rockefeller's appeal to Oregon Republican voters in the 1964 primary. It worked, with Rocky beating Arizona Sen. Barry Goldwater among Oregon Republicans.

Bobby Kennedy and Eugene McCarthy made Oregon appearances in 1968. McCarthy prevailed.

Now that Ted Cruz and John Kasich have a strategy that involves Oregon and a few other states, we might see a lot of Kasich. And Bernie Sanders will likely win the Democratic vote.

When we receive our ballots in the mail over the weekend, it will be a medium thrill. Yes, we have the presidential races in both parties. But our statewide races demonstrate once again that the Oregon Republican party has no bench.

It will be fun to have a semblance of the presidential primaries in Oregon. So we kinda, sorta matter this time around.

## South County's Earth Day High School

### How local high school teachers made a difference

Earth Day is a big deal in Cannon Beach.

I had no idea when I moved here last year the extent of the appreciation of the land, its preservation and maintenance. Where else does a parade take place celebrating Earth Day? Where else do residents celebrate it for 12 days — four days longer than Passover.

Earth Day here is “a sacred celebration of our relation with this wonderful place,” District 5 County Commissioner Lianne Thompson said recently.

The celebration of Earth Day draws us in intellectually, and our hearts and souls, she said.

“We're here together in this place, no matter how we get together crosswise, we're together in this sacred place.

“The best of what we do is to come together and celebrate and pay attention. We have an awareness this is what it means to be here, it calls us and tells us to be responsible and careful in taking care of this land as we work here and play here. I love it.”

### Of puffins and pinnipeds

Over the last year, on the Oregon Coast, I've learned to look around in ways I never had before.

When I first went for an outdoor run, I noticed a crow hovering above me on a tree. As I ran, it flew to the next tree, and then the next, keeping pace, before peeling off in another direction.

Now I always look up at the trees, especially at the top of the trees. It seems like there's always something avian keeping an eye on you.

My first story for this newspaper upon arrival was on dune grading.

Homeowners spoke of the “Frankendunes” that swallowed up their view.

Other citizens feared long-term results of grading and setting a precedent for more grading, upsetting the beach's natural order.

Subsequent stories brought a college-level education in geology, marine life, archeology, forest management and seismology. The irony of the “Twelve Days of Earth Day” — as bounteous as it is — that it is only the tip of the iceberg (one of the few natural wonders Cannon Beach actually doesn't have).

Local authors wax poetic about the prehistoric beauty of the region. With it come some prehistoric-looking creatures.

One of the fun parts of watching these shores is discovering wildlife we never knew existed. The many kinds of seals and sea lions. I learned the word “pinniped.”

I still haven't seen an elephant seal, which came to Cannon Beach in 2007, but I hope to. Author Doug Deur said he saw one recently.

I can't imagine the combination of an elephant and a seal, but it does stimulate the imagination.

### ‘Mr. Earth Day’

It's hard to imagine the one-two punch of a Seaside High School science department in the decades of the 1980s and 1990s with Ed Johnson and Neal Maine, teachers worthy of a top-notch university.

Geologist and environmental consultant Tom Horning, a Seaside High School graduate, recalls an Earth Day assembly at the high school with a visit from none other than Gov. Tom McCall.

Johnson is Cannon Beach's “Mr. Earth Day,” and he celebrated as he does every year at the “Twelve Days of

## Open forum

### The ideoes of Trump

Youth of our community have a lack of knowledge and appreciation for our government, as well as civics. In this day in age, we see more kids in the fourth grade staring at cell phone screens rather than a book.

Yes, I get it, as I have problems with most books, too. If a kid is only interested in social media and simple-minded tasks, then they will never realize the importance of the knowledge that lies around them in everyday life.

Getting back to the important stuff, my point for writing this letter is that with all of the distractions that clutter peoples lives in such a small world, take the time to teach your kids about the political process now, so when they do turn 18, they aren't choosing a candidate who is an embarrassment to the country. Or else, beware of the ideoes of Trump.

DAKOTA SEVERSON  
Astoria

### Another option

Gearhart is at a crossroads, facing a serious situation which will



The Daily Astorian/File Photo  
 Naturalist and photographer Neal Maine, of PacificLight Images, speaks to a full house at Seaside Public Library about “How To See a Rainforest.”

## SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

BY  
R.J.  
MARX



### Where else do residents celebrate Earth Day for 12 days?

Earth Day” potluck dinner.

Like Horning, he's been celebrating the holiday since its inception.

Johnson's grandparents moved to Cannon Beach in the 1940s, and he settled here after he got his master's degree at Cornell and taught with the school district for 17 years, at Broadway Middle School and at the high school, alongside Maine, another early adopter and founder of the North Coast Land Conservancy, author, naturalist and philosopher.

Maine is still sharing his vision, whether it's how to see a rain forest, saving a displaced osprey or a renewed appreciation of the sand on our beaches. His lecture, “Beaches: More than Sand,” was part of this year's “Twelve Days” program.

Seaside's High School science department in the 1980s “was so good, it had to end,” Johnson quipped.

“Ed Johnson was one of my all-time favorite teachers,” Seaside High School grad Jeanne Braun said in an email. “Because of his passion for teaching and his wonderful sense of humor, I remember always looking forward to being in his classroom.”

Maine is the reason why Braun started volunteering for North Coast Land Conservancy more than 10 years ago, she said. “Neal is the kind of person who inspires you to look at nature in a whole new way — with your eyes and ears and mind wide open.”

Both Johnson and Maine continue to share with us their deep passion and knowledge of nature and the importance of taking care of our natural world, Braun said. “The impact that they both have made in our community and continue to make should inspire us all to be better stewards of this precious place that we call home (or as Neal would call it: paradise!).”

It wasn't just naturalists who thrived at Seaside High School.

Horning remembered chemistry teacher Leo Sayles as having “more



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian  
 “Mr. Earth Day,” former Seaside High School teacher Ed Johnson.

impact on me than any university professor.”

He was just a “really good instructor,” Horning said. “Anybody who took his class really enjoyed it.”

Horning became a chemistry major at Oregon because of experiences in Sayles' class, he said.

“And I still rely on the things I learned his class,” Horning said. “It was something about the way we were immersed in it, whereas opposed to the university, where you could only carve off a little bit of time. Ultimately it turned out to be really relevant to being an exploration geologist in geochemistry.”

### On location

The landscape that is celebrated in film, from “The Goonies” to the latest production, “Seaside” being shot at Hug Point and Arch Cape, is filled with “dangerous beauty,” in the words of filmmaker Sam Zalutsky, who grew up in Portland spending summers on the coast.

It is that dangerous beauty that is our most tangible reminder of the environmental responsibilities in this fragile land.

“People moved to Cannon Beach for its aesthetic beauty and they did everything they could to protect it,” Horning said.

Cannon Beach is proactive toward the environment, Horning said, acting in a sustainable manner, taking care of trees, watershed and expand watershed protection.

“They're always ahead of the curve,” he said. “The important thing is to hold the line. It's death by a thousand pinpricks that sets back a community. If you don't draw the line and set a standard, you wonder where everything went.”

If you were to say anything to the city of Cannon Beach about Earth Day, we asked, what would it be?

“Keep up the good work,” Horning said.

We would add: and start with a good science teacher.

R.J. Marx is *The Daily Astorian's* South County reporter and editor of the *Seaside Signal* and *Cannon Beach Gazette*.

affect its future greatly in the years to come. There is a solution. This solution is simple. We can have both a market and a brew pub. Our market has been an institution in our town forever. We need a market.

A viable, thriving market is possible, and this has been proven in Clatsop County repeatedly. Currently, some small town grocery stores supported by their communities are: Peter Pan Market in Astoria, Main Street Market in Warrenton, Ken's in Seaside, Mariner Market in Cannon Beach and the Astoria Co-Op. I apologize for not listing them all.

People go out of their way to shop in these stores, and even travel from other towns to do so. Gearhart can have such a market. A well-stocked, friendly store with fresh, inviting produce, quality meats, dairy, organic options, condiments, along with other basic necessities, is something we all need.

The present owners of Gearhart Grocery have another option — a property they own, which is already zoned for a brew pub, the property directly across U.S. Highway 101 from the Gearhart Dairy Queen. It

even has a parking lot and it is pre-approved for serving alcohol. Not only that, this property is available, and for lease. Furthermore, a conditional use permit would not be required, because this choice exists. And, residents, non-residents and visitors alike could still walk to the brew pub.

This controversy is not only about location. It is also about money. A fair number of people who do not reside full time in Gearhart support the brew pub. A fair number of these people work in Gearhart, but live in the small gated community to the north, and even in Portland.

I am asking: Residents of Gearhart, is this what you want? Is this what you need? It is hard and it is difficult to make a stand, but please make the time to attend the public hearing which will be held on Tuesday, May 3, at 6 p.m. at the Gearhart Fire Station. This is your opportunity to hear what is happening, and to speak up and preserve the beautiful town we love.

Man cannot live by brew alone.  
 SUSAN EDY  
 Gearhart