



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Cheri Lerma waits for customers to arrive at her cafe in downtown Cannon Beach.

Flood maps: ‘People aren’t fully aware of the circumstances’

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“This mapping project was tied together as a countywide effort,” Ratté said. “When we shared draft information in 2013, there were concerns with some of the results in the estuary.”

But the delays have cost Steve Sinkler, who owns The Wine Shack and Lazy

Susan in Cannon Beach, thousands of dollars in insurance.

Sinkler attended a FEMA open house last year where it was projected that the new maps were to be adopted by this spring. He had recently purchased the two properties, and was working with his mortgage company and FEMA to reconcile the discrepancies

between the maps and how much he would have to pay in flood insurance. Through this process he went from being required to pay the highest level of insurance to not being required to buy flood insurance at all.

“We saw that timeline and thought, ‘Great, we won’t have to pay \$9,000 by this time next year,’” Sinkler said. “But then

we had to again.”

The appeal process did not start until the fall, mostly due to the change in presidential administrations, which stalled the publication of most, if not all, notifications in the Federal Register, Ratté said. Cities now will be expected to update any necessary flood ordinances around the summer of 2018.

‘Government moves slowly’

A lack of communication about the status of the project is what has driven people like Bruce Francis, the property manager of Breakers Point Condominiums, to raise the profile of the issue at city meetings. Since 2015, Francis has been paying thousands of dollars in insurance

for two buildings out of 20 that touch the boundary of the flood zone.

“People aren’t fully aware of the circumstances, I think. With so much money involved, people should be more aware of it,” Francis said. “We know government moves slowly, but we’ve waited. And now we are making noise and complaining.”

Puffins: ‘I want to be able to say I helped recover them’

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on the West Coast has been on the decline for more than 20 years, Stephenson said. In the 1990s, 5,000 of the birds were nesting on the Oregon Coast. Today, it is just a few hundred. Despite the fact Haystack Rock still hosts more than 85 percent of the puffin population in Oregon, last year only 124 puffins were counted — a sharp decline from the 612 recorded in 1988.

Stephenson has a few guesses as to why. Rising ocean temperatures could be driving the type of fish puffins eat deeper into the water,

past depths where the puffins can dive. But without more research, he can’t say for sure.

In the last 20 years, there have been no significant studies done on puffins in Oregon beyond monitoring population size, Stephenson said, partially due to limited federal funding.

“It’s not going to be just one thing,” he said.

Securing the grant would allow researchers to collect blood samples, which could reveal more information about what puffins eat and their genetic history, Stephenson said. That could lead to revelations about any illnesses or

subspecies that could affect the colonies. It would also finance transmitters, which could track migration patterns to determine how far the birds need to go out to find food.

Answering these questions are some of the first steps to solving the problem of why fewer and fewer puffins are returning to Haystack Rock.

“No one wants to be at U.S. Fish and Wildlife when puffins blip out. I want to be able to say I helped recover them,” Stephenson said.

Stephenson said.

Education

The other 20 percent of the sweatshirt proceeds will be geared toward educational programs offered through Haystack Rock Awareness Program, program coordinator Melissa Keyser said.

The programs include

events like the “Puffin Welcome” hosted for kindergartners, as well as expanding the annual “Puffin Walk” in the first week of July.

“In the past, we’ve done more basic outreach with our basic beach routine,” Keyser said. “We want to amp up this event with more activities and a guest speaker with these funds to educate people as to why populations

are declining.”

Keyser said she is excited to see the community engaged with the fundraiser.

“We want to make sure our educators are educated and those who are interested have the resources to know how to educate themselves when it comes to this issue,” Keyser said. “The more we know, the more we know what we can do.”

GAME MEAT PROCESSING

Debbie D's will be at **Cash & Carry** in Warrenton at **10:00 a.m. every Saturday** to pick up and deliver meat for processing.

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2017 COAST WEEKEND Photo Contest

Official Rules:

Who can enter?

- Photographers of all ages; must be residents of Oregon or Washington state.

What photographs are eligible?

- All subjects are welcome.
- Digital entries: Digital photographs may be color or black-and-white and must be JPEGs, maximum of 5MB, 300 dpi resolution and at least 5"x7" in image size.

Submission deadline:

- Entries will be accepted Friday, Nov. 17 through Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017

Results:

- Top 10 photographs will be published in the Coast Weekend print edition on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2018.
- Top 25 photographs will be published online at CoastWeekend.com on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2018.
- Gift cards will be awarded for first-, second- and third-place winners, plus a People's Choice winner voted for online Dec. 18 to Dec. 24.

Other contest rules:

- All photographs entered may be used in future publications by the EO Media Group
- Each entry must include the entrant's name, home address, age, a description of the photograph and email address.

Submit all photos online at: www.coastweekend.com/cwphotocontest