

# THE PERILS AND LEGENDS OF 'TERRIBLE TILLY'



TESS RATTY PHOTO

Local author Brian D. Ratty with his recently released book "Tillamook Rock Lighthouse: History and Tales of Terrible Tilly"

Author Brian D. Ratty discusses lighthouse, new book at History & Hops on May 31

By REBECCA HERREN  
FOR COAST WEEKEND

**K**nown for her fortitude to withstand nature's elements, the Tillamook Rock Lighthouse is not much more than a ghostly shell of her true glory. She is battered, beaten and abandoned, but still, she stands nearly 134 feet above sea level on a solitary rock off the shore of Tillamook Head.

There are six known books about the lighthouse — most of them out of print. The newest book "Tillamook Rock Lighthouse: History & Tales of Terrible Tilly" by Brian D. Ratty, a local author who enjoys writing historical novels, was released last month.

Ratty is the featured speaker at the Seaside Museum & Historical Society's next History & Hops event, 6 p.m. Thursday, May 31, at Seaside Brewing Co., 861 Broadway St.

His book is mostly written in a narrative form and includes correspondence letters and logbook excerpts kept by former lighthouse keepers. There are passages from the book "Tillamook Light" by James Gibbs, a young Coast Guardsman who spent tours of duty on the rock in 1945 and to whom Ratty dedicates this book, as well as accounts from local newspapers. He writes about the different ownerships and how they came to buy the lighthouse after its decommission on Sept. 1, 1957.

### Before 'decapitation'

Ratty includes historical photos

Continued on Page 16