



Mayor's Message

by Henry Balensifer III

Surviving, if not thriving

Last week I had the distinct and eye-opening pleasure to observe the capability the US Navy can bring to our coastline should a major disaster occur.

Several elected officials including myself and Mark Kujala, the county commissioner for our district, were briefed at Camp Rilea about the process by which active-duty military assets are requested or tasked to assist in major disasters.

We then rode out to the USS Anchorage on a hovercraft to see firsthand the capabilities the Navy could bring to bear.

It's extremely important for all of us to consider emergency preparedness with personal responsibility in mind, as well as reasonable expectations. We should be ready and able to survive for at least two, if not three, weeks after a major event.

What does that mean to survive for at least two weeks? I mean to survive, not thrive. We can live quite some time without food, but water is vital. That said, if you pack enough water and food for two meals a day for two weeks in a backpack, it would be unwieldy. One week alone would be too much. So let's look at preparedness with a practical lens:

Recommended daily water intake for *thriving* is 64 ounces. That's half a gallon each day, or 3.5 gallons a week. At 8.34 pounds per gallon, that means if you packed just a week of water in your backpack it would weigh 29 pounds! Two weeks is just about 60 pounds!

To *survive*, you need to consider how far the evacuation zone is from your home or place of work. Using that information, determine what you can reasonably carry with-

in the time window for the tsunami that will affect you. Free tsunami evacuation maps are available at City Hall if you don't have one. The map outlines the evacuation routes and areas that will be affected in a nearshore or distant tsunami.

I'll stop short of recommending a pack for legal reasons, but I'll tell you what sustenance I have in my pack and the philosophy of use behind it. This isn't everything in my pack, just the water/food.

I have two bottled waters (about 32 ounces) and an empty wide-mouth Nalgene bottle. I have both a cheap LifeStraw (for direct filter drinking) and a Katadyn water filter for pumping water into empty bottles.

So I can drink with the lifestraw out of water sources directly, or I can pump filtered water into bottles to save. I've also got purification tablets in case a filter breaks. I carry enough electrolyte packs to have a dose each day for three weeks — the brands are Nuun and DripDrop.

I also have two Solas ration packs (same as found in emergency kits on lifeboats).

Am I going to thrive in bad conditions with these? No. Will I survive? Yes. Any more and my pack with all the other items becomes too heavy to travel on foot to safety.

We live on the coast because we love the place where we live. Our choice to live here has consequences, good and bad.

The place that provides beautiful sunsets and great clam-digging is the same place that has the potential to suffer catastrophic natural disasters or big windstorms as in 2007.

Every individual has a responsibility to be prepared for themselves and their family.

Summer programs kick off with sign dedication

Warrenton Community Library kicked off its summer reading program last weekend with the dedication of a new sign and about 40 children and adults pledging to read books.

"It went off quite well; we had quite a few people there," site manager Nettie-Lee Calog said.

The county's other libraries participate with summer programs as well. Children and adults have a chance to win prizes for reading.

"We want to keep kids so they don't forget stuff over the summer," Calog said.

The library recently purchased new chairs and tables for the children's area, with money for part of it donated by Human Bean, which held a fund-raiser for the library's children's programs.

The cedar planks for the sign were donated by Warrenton City Commissioner



Alissa Trotter of Human Bean coffee in Warrenton presents a \$210 check to Mayor Henry Balensifer on Saturday, after the company held a fund-raiser to support children's programs at the library. At left is Rick Newton, who donated wood for the sign.

Courtesy Warrenton Community Library

Rick Newton and Coast Hardware donated brackets for the project.

Warrenton High School graduate and resident Dennis Thomas designed and made the sign. Thomas also made the sign in front of Warrenton Fire Department.

"It's interesting that the sign cost \$350 and the permit for it cost \$350," Newton said.

The sign permit fee came out of the city's library fund.

"It comes out of the bigger budget we have," Calog said. "It's fair that we pay our share, too."

Fisher/cable cooperative wins state award

Oregon Fishermen's Cable Committee, an Astoria based nonprofit group that works with commercial fishermen and fiber-optic cable providers, received the Department of State Lands 2018 Partnership Award from the State Land Board on Tuesday in Salem.

The award is based on innovation, consistency, effort and setting a good example for partnership with state agencies to protect natural resources.

The award recognized the OFCC's more than 20-year history of working cooperatively with submarine cable owners and installers.

The installations have been done in a way that minimizes impacts on coastal seas and the Oregon fishing industry while providing significant benefits to the state.

Chairman Scott McMullen, left, and founding member Terry Thompson receive the Partnership Award from Gov. Kate Brown on Tuesday in Salem.

Courtesy OFCC



"This ongoing collaboration has resulted in responsible, sustainable stewardship of the territorial sea and the natural resources it contains," Oregon Secretary of State Bev Clarno said.

The increasing number of undersea cable landings in Oregon has meant a more robust internet backbone for the state, development of data centers and cloud storage facilities and better connectivity for tech companies,

she said.

"Working together, the OFCC and submarine cable owners have achieved what neither could accomplish alone — making Oregon a very successful place to land west coast fiber-optic cables while maintaining a vibrant fishing industry," Clarno said.

The group's work has been held up as an example globally, not just for marine spatial management, but in other industries as well."