

At the Library **CARLA O'REILLY**

Members of Cannon Beach Reads explore book genres

Cannon Beach Reads, our library's book club, has chosen the nonfiction and fiction books to be read for the first six months of 2015. The group, now beginning its ninth year, hopes these selections will attract additional readers.

The group — which meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month — will kick off the new year Jan. 21 with a discussion of Peter Stark's *Astoria: Jon Jacob Astor and Thomas Jefferson's Lost Pacific Empire*.

Feb. 18, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, will be discussed. Marquez, a controversial Columbian novelist, received the Nobel Prize for literature in 1982.

Elizabeth Kolbert's *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* will focus the group's March 18 discussion on the disastrous impact humans have had on planet Earth.

April 15, the group will discuss Sinclair Lewis' *Babbitt*, a classic novel satirizing American business in the early 20th century. In 1930, Lewis was the first American author to receive the Nobel Prize in literature.

The Black Count: Glory, Revolution, Betrayal, and the Real Count of Monte Cristo, by Tom Reiss, will be the focus of the May 20 gathering.

June 17, discussion of *The Dinner*, by Dutch author Herman Koch, will focus on how, during an upscale five-course meal, two middle class brothers and their wives justify a heinous crime their sons have committed.

The library stocks a single copy of each title for checkout. Additional copies are available for sale at the Cannon Beach Book Company, 130 N. Hemlock St.

At each Cannon Beach Reads session, one participant presents a context for



CARLA O'REILLY

the book and its author and then moderates an informal discussion of the work.

Founding member, leader and participant Marjorie MacQueen was part of an earlier reading group that met monthly at members' homes for dinner and discussion. Over time, MacQueen says, this early group decided to no longer meet in one another's homes over dinner. "It was just too exhausting!" she said.

Another reason for start-

ing the reading group was to have a winter activity for avid readers at the library. The original idea was to meet only during the winter doldrums; however, as spring and summer approached, the members decided to continue all year long. To this day, the group's mission is to provide a place where people who love to read can come and share their ideas and comments about interesting books.

MacQueen finds the group beneficial because "it leads me to read books I would not otherwise have read; it opens my mind to other interpretations of books and authors; and has added an interesting group of fellow readers to my life."

"I enjoy the blend of new titles I'm unlikely to read on my own and classic books I want to revisit and discuss with a group of friendly, intelligent readers," says Joe Bernt, who joined a year ago. "It's remarkable how

much richer a book becomes as a result of group conversation."

New members are welcome to join us by the fire as we kick off the 2015 Cannon Beach Reads at 7 p.m. Jan. 21 in the library.

Upcoming events

The Northwest Author Series will host author Matt Love at 2 p.m. Jan. 10 in the library. Love will talk about his book, *Rose City Heist: A True Crime Portland Tale of Sex, Gravy, Jewelry, and Almost Rock and Roll*. The author and his friend became chief suspects in the biggest jewelry theft in Portland history. No one was ever arrested in the case, and the stolen jewelry never was found. Years later, with the statute of limitations expired, Love is free to confess what really happened.

From 7 to 8:30 p.m. Jan. 14, The World of Haystack Rock lecture series will offer "A Rising Tide: Coping

With a Changing Coast." Charlie Plybon, Oregon field manager of Surfrider Foundation, will be the speaker. The World of Haystack Rock is a series of free community lectures at the library. The series is co-sponsored by The Friends of Haystack Rock and the Cannon Beach Library.

Thank you!

An enthusiastic thank you to everybody for supporting our recent fundraisers — the Fall Festival, the Stormy Weather event and the sale of Steidel prints. A special thank you to Bill Steidel for his generosity in providing the prints, the sales of which have greatly benefited the library. Also, we appreciate the community's response to our annual appeal letter.

Reminder: There will be no membership meeting the first week in January. Please join us in February for our library birthday brunch.

Boac's Bird Notes **SUSAN BOAC**

Local birders participate in Christmas Bird Count

It comes around every year at this time. For 115 years, to be exact!

The Christmas Bird Count, a massive citizen scientist world event, gathers information from designated "circles" for a substantial amount of data on birds. Audubon and other organizations use the data for monitoring bird populations and for conservation action.

Any day between Dec 14 and Jan. 5, teams of birders

are assembled and sent out to count every bird possible in a circle with a 15-mile diameter. In our area, the circle centers on the Columbia River/Young's River Bay covering Warrenton, Astoria and across the Columbia to parts of Pacific County, Wash.

This was my third year of being involved and the best yet. On Dec. 14, the weather was agreeable with mostly sunny skies, unlike the first two years where it rained re-



SUSAN BOAC

lentlessly one year and was very foggy the next. It was

my pleasure to be teamed up with a great birder, Dennis, from Portland.

We jumped in the car at 7:15 a.m., supplied with binoculars, scopes, books, cameras and warm clothing, the basic equipment for birding. Our mission for the day was to see and count every bird we could along the Columbia River and Young's River on the Astoria side.

We started at the Astoria sewage ponds (Oh, how

we birders love our sewage ponds!), popped "inland" to several backyard feeders and continued along almost to the fairgrounds on Highway 202. We saw our last bird at 4:04 p.m.

Among our great finds of the day were the tropical kingbird at Fultano's and an orange-crowned warbler at a feeder by the Astoria jail. One of the memorable sightings for me was the "water dance" (flock) of 250 western grebes at the

mouth of Young's River.

Collectively, our group of about 20 birders saw 125 species and over 47,000 individual birds. It was a great day to be a birder.

After spending hours driving her avid birder parents around, Susan has taken up birding as a passion, to the mixed emotions of her husband Scott. The Boacs reside on Neawanna Creek in Seaside where their backyard is a birder's paradise.



ERICK BENDEL PHOTO

Foreground from left: Cub Scout Ryan Smith, 10; Assistant Fire Chief Frank Swedenborg; and Fire Captain Matt Gardner. Background from left: Seaside High School students Alexy Remos, 15; Kirstin Lent, 15; Emma Dutcher, 16. The volunteers hit the Shorewood Apartments first, then the Elk Creek Terrace Apartments.

Gift boxes: 'We're giving back to the community'

Food from Page 1A

potatoes, eggs, onions, carrots, celery, corn, dressing, etc. Some contained spaghetti noodles and marinara sauce, chilies and soups, mac-and-cheese, milk and cereal. And all contained candy from Bruce's Candy Kitchen, said Stacie Gilligan, a Legion auxiliary member.

Smaller households received one box; larger households three. Toys were delivered separately to households with children the day before.

"It's important because we're giving back to the community," Gilligan said.

The giving of the Christmas baskets has been an annual charitable event since the early 1970s, said David Boehm, commander of Post 168.

Low-income households — some of which have single, older people living alone — sign up to receive one or more gift baskets. Local merchants, including Mariner Market, Family Market, U.S. Bank and

Columbia Bank collect donated food items in barrels and give them to the Legion, which also keeps a food barrel.

The Cub Scouts, who also participate in "scouting for food" activities that bring food to the Cannon Beach Food Pantry, get to "see the full cycle of what their help generates," Jason Schermerhorn said.

"This is the most volunteers I have ever seen show up for this (event) in the last six years that I have been involved," Gilligan said.

Highway improvements up cost of development

Council from Page 1A

Once the council has reviewed the draft plan, it may ask City Planner Mark Barnes to begin work on expanding the city's urban growth boundary, which could take the better part of 2015, he said. "The master plan is an essential part of that UGB expansion," Barnes said.

The vision for South Wind needs further refinement, including the cost estimates for developing the 58.3-acre site, which comprises two parcels: a 55-acre parcel purchased from Campbell Global in 2013, and a 3.3-acre parcel acquired from Clatsop County in 1990.

Sticker shock

While Barnes can't speak for anybody on the committee, he "would guess that the thing that was not what they had hoped was the improve-

ment costs," he said. "The things you need to develop that property are very (expensive), and that's going to really have an impact on the city's ability to see that property developed."

The big ticket item — expected to cost roughly \$2.2 million, according to a 2014 estimate — is the Oregon Department of Transportation improvements that

committee" that the highway improvements wouldn't involve a simple driveway running from the highway to the site, he continued.

Instead, the transportation department will likely require the highway — where South Wind has about 1,600 feet of frontage — to have an all-out intersection: a right-turn deceleration lane, a right-turn acceleration lane, a left-turn refuge, shoulder enhancements, signage, lighting and drainage improvements, according to the draft plan.

As the landowner and developer, the city has "an obligation to see those improvements get made before we can see development on the site," Barnes said.

With water, sewer and electrical power thrown in, the total cost just to prep the site — before any buildings go up — is projected to be more than \$5 million, said Public Works Director Dan Grassick.

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City Planner Mark Barnes

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks to fire departments

To the editor,
Thank you to our volunteers.
Once again we would like to thank the following fire departments: Cannon Beach, Seaside, Hamlet, Gearhart, Astoria, Nehalem, Lewis and Clark, Olney Walluski, Knappa and Banks.

Please accept our deep thanks and gratitude for your service and support during the fires of January and November 2014.

Thank you for protecting us from Stimson Lumber!

Tom and Kate Merrell
Arch Cape

BIRTHS

Joel Mark Harris
Dec. 4, 2014

HARRIS, David and Kathryn, of Cannon Beach, a boy, Joel Mark Harris, born at Providence Seaside Hospital. Grandparents are Leslie and Rebecca Clawson, of Centennial, Colo.; Scott and Pam Harris, of Murrieta, Calif.; and Bill and Ruth Boylan, of Temecula, Calif.

Thomas James Shaw
Dec. 2, 2014

SHAW, Mikey Shaw and Katie Loomis of Astoria, a boy, Thomas James Shaw, born at Providence Seaside Hospital. Siblings are 6-year-old Madalyn Aiken and 3-year-old Michael Shaw. Grandparents are Joanne Dunn, of Astoria; Becky Worrell, of Astoria; Fred Loomis, of Rainier; and Ben and Shirley Turman, of Astoria.