

CB Chamber honors its members

Academy Awards ambience accompanies awards

By Erick Bengel
Cannon Beach Gazette

If only because it offered the singular experience of seeing Cannon Beach Police Chief Jason Schermerhorn in a tux — “tuxed up,” as Fire Captain Matt Gardner flatteringly dubbed it — the second annual Chamber of Commerce’s Member Awards ceremony, held at the Community Hall on March 20, will not soon be erased from local memory.

Schermerhorn’s excuse is that he currently serves as vice president of the Chamber Board, working with board President Steven Sinkler; Treasurer George Vetter; Secretary Sheri Russell; the chamber’s Executive Director Courtland Carrier; and its Administrative Assistant Jim Paino.

Against a glitzy Academy Awards-themed backdrop — awash in ruby-red lighting, bedecked in miniature golden statuettes and featuring an imposing life-size Oscar cutout holding up a film reel He-Man-style — they and



ERICK BENDEL PHOTO

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Courtland Carrier, dressed as a film director, reviews the chamber’s achievements from 2014 in the Cannon Beach Community Hall. The membership awards were handed out shortly thereafter.

dozens of other members of the Cannon Beach community honored their fellow employees and business leaders for everything they achieved during 2014.

Sinkler and Russell, supported by a nostalgia-inducing Disney mix compiled by DJ Dan Moe, handed out awards in five different categories. This year’s recipients were: Excellence in Customer Service - The Ocean Lodge, accepted by Wendy Hig-

gins, general manager; Excellence in Leadership - Tom Drumheller, accepted on his behalf by Patrick Nofield; Annual Supporter of the Year - Cannon Beach Vacation Rentals, accepted by Tanya Waddell, bookkeeper, on behalf of owner Linda Beck-Sweeney, owner; Volunteer of the Year - Tracy Abel, owner of Abel Management; and Member of the Year - Cannon Beach Yoga Arts, accepted by Christen Allsop, owner.



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Trinity Diak, 4, of Cannon Beach, gets into the spirit of the Academy Awards-themed Chamber of Commerce Membership Awards ceremony while her mother, Katie Diak, stands behind her.



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Nancy McCarthy, retiring editor of the Cannon Beach Gazette and Seaside Signal, snags a lemony treat at the Chamber of Commerce Membership Awards. McCarthy was nominated for the Excellence in Leadership Award.



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Tracy Abel, center, accepts the award for Volunteer of the Year. Left: Sheri Russell, secretary of the chamber board. Right: Steven Sinkler, president of the chamber board.

At the Library CARLA O'REILLY

Collection features many books on marine, coastal wildlife

Spring is finally upon us, and most of us by now have noticed the booted, red-jacketed group in front of Haystack Rock pointing out various forms of life in the tidepools or setting up their telescopes on the beach — our hardy group of HRAP volunteers!

What many may not realize is that in support of the Haystack Rock Awareness Program’s beach efforts, the Cannon Beach library has a special section of books about marine animals, seabirds, and other coastal wildlife. The collection of books is a reality due to the initial vision of two generous local men — Bob Carey (now deceased) and Joe Hummel, who still lives actively among us.

Samantha Ferber, HRAP’s wonderful program coordinator, says that as HRAP celebrates 30 years of service on our beach, she would like to see volunteers make more use of the collection at the library. When asked why more volunteers do not make adequate use of the books, Ferber said, “Maybe they haven’t been made enough aware that the collection is available. As we celebrate the 30th year of HRAP, we’d like to make sure that all our staff and volunteers know that the books are at the library. By becoming more educated about the beach and its species, they will be better educators of the many people who come to the beach.”

“The World of Haystack



CARLA O'REILLY

Rock” lecture series is also a joint effort by beach folks and library folks. Co-sponsored by Friends of Haystack Rock and the library, this series of free community lectures is held at the library the second Wednesday of each month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. There is only one

lecture still on the schedule. On April 8, Ram Papish, wildlife artist, biologist, and author will focus on “Seabirds of the Falkland Islands.”

Children’s Programs

During spring break, we at the library will make sure our little visitors are well provided with reasonably-priced books and fun entertainment. From March 21 through April 4, we are holding a book sale especially for children and juniors. Each sale book will cost just 50 cents.

At 1 p.m. Saturday, March 28, we will be offering a free children’s event — Twisty Balloons by Dean. Balloon artist Dean Deonier will delight children of all ages as he twists

balloons into various shapes with a “Pirates and Princesses” theme! Each child will receive a balloon to take home — a not-to-be-missed event for local and visiting children!

Northwest Author Series

At 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 18, author Tony Wolk will be discussing his book *The Parable of You*. Mr. Wolk is an English Professor at Portland State University. He is also author of the Abraham Lincoln time travel trilogy. In this latest book, he presents a feast of stories that challenge our assumptions about history, reality, and what stories reveal about their tellers.

Cannon Beach Reads

The next book to be read and discussed by the library reading group, Cannon Beach Reads, will be Sinclair Lewis’s classic novel *Babbitt*. This event will be held at the library from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on April 15. The group welcomes new members.

Upcoming 4th of July Book Sale

Finally, this is a good time for each of us to be weeding out our bookcases and storage areas for used books to donate to the library for the 4th of July Book Sale. The earlier we receive the books, the better — as there is much sorting and pricing involved. Get those books to us as soon as possible!

Boac’s Bird Notes SUSAN BOAC

Be sure to take advantage of every birding opportunity



SUSAN BOAC

My mom was in town for a few days last week and we took every opportunity to look for birds.

We kept a backyard bird count one day, and even though we were both gone for several hours, we broke the old record (36 species) with a whopping 40 species identified! What joy spending time like this with my original birding inspirational parental unit.

During her stay, my work took me to Tillamook County and I talked her into accompanying me. At about mid-day, we took a break from work and headed out to the Air Museum to find the Say’s phoebe that has been repeatedly reported. After checking out my regular spot there, we went in search of the entrance to the museum. That’s when we saw the cemetery road. My children have me trained

to turn into every cemetery, hence the detour. Much to our delight, we found the magical bird spot. With hundreds of widgeons, teal, ruddies, scaup and mallards in the settling pond (yep, a sewer lagoon) and several visits from raptors in the minutes we spent there, it was considered a highlight of Mom’s visit. We even saw a Red-tail hawk hack up a pellet!

Sadly, the phoebe was no-

where in sight, but there is always next time. I know where I’ll be eating my lunch from now on. It was pure enchantment there by the Air Museum. Next time, we may even go in!

Reminder: Coming up on April 11 is the North Oregon Coast Birdathon, a one day birding event in conjunction with 12 Days of Earth Day and fund raiser for the Wildlife Center of the North

Coast. Join us for birding or help by sponsoring a participant. More information is on the birdathon Facebook page.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Saving Razor Clams

I was much encouraged by testimony at recent public hearings in Cannon Beach expressing great concern for the population of razor clams along our beaches. I have been asked to foster a greater awareness of their plight and to campaign on their behalf for better living conditions. So I formed a group, ‘Friends of Razor Clams at Chapman Point.’ We have 18 members so far, and more are being encouraged to join.

You may recall from recent coastal geology lessons that wind and water currents predominantly run northward along the beaches in winter and southward in summer. Tillamook Head is a barrier to sand transport in either direction but is also a barrier to the free-swimming razor clam larvae that result from the spring spawn. Those that would like to head north have a tough time against the southbound currents.

Razor clam larvae can grow

rapidly and by late summer to early fall they are ready to ‘set’ — that is, pick a spot on the sandy bottom of shallow waters and dig in. It is during the set that juvenile razor clams are most vulnerable to being wounded and killed — by gun, by shovel, or by large boot. It is for this reason that ODFW prohibits razor clamming north of Tillamook Head from mid-July through the end of September. Such protection is vital to achieving a sustainable population. I sense that our local population would like to migrate north to find a safe place to set, and have a chance to enjoy life, and to procreate a little. But as nature conspires to thwart their desires, I believe it is time for human intervention. Yes, I mean by having a closed season here, south of Tillamook Head.

We do understand that ODFW will have to make a law to get the season closed here. We believe a city resolution to that effect would help (I have one avail-

able but it requires the signature of the mayor and city manager). But we also have to send a petition to ODFW before they will act, and for that we need more signatures. The other 17 current members are still free-swimming juveniles. They can’t vote yet, and therefore can’t sign a petition.

When you see me with a clipboard at Whale Park this summer, please stop by and lend the weight of your signature to this important conservation movement.

I thank you. And my friends thank you.

**Ken McQuhae
Cannon Beach**

‘Disappointed’ in Cannon Beach Council

To the editor:

I am very disappointed that four members of the city council who were elected to uphold the ordinances of the city of

Cannon Beach chose to override the decision of the planning commission to deny the application of Jeff Nicholson to amend the city’s zone map, to obtain a variance to the slope-density requirement, and to build a planned unit development on his property at 532 N. Laurel.

Municipal code 17.84.030 clearly states that variances should be granted only if a strict interpretation of the code would be inconsistent with the objectives of the comprehensive plan. The comprehensive plan calls for controlling development in areas with slopes exceeding 20 percent and areas subject to potential geologic hazards so that potential adverse impacts can be minimized. The property in question exceeds the 20 percent criterion and is composed of the accretion of sand held together with native vegetation.

Since the councilors claim to have visited the site, I

wonder why they were so impressed with the model the applicant presented of the proposed development which portrayed the area as essentially flat. Much of the property is composed of a deep ravine. The applicant’s solution of building a wall 120 feet long and up to ten feet tall would add yet another wall to two others already in the area to support the building of Oak Street.

My hope is that councilors, if given the opportunity, will be willing to listen to arguments opposed to changing city requirements for the benefit of an applicant intending to build four houses and sell them for a profit. If the councilors refuse to reverse their decision, they will in essence have subsidized a commercial venture rather than upholding the codes that were written for the good of the community.

**Diane Amos
Cannon Beach**