

# Communities need 'skin in the game'

One aspect of the tsunami threat is undeniable. Kids in our schools are at risk. The Oregon Coast can anticipate an earthquake offshore will generate a tsunami similar to the March 2011 earthquake in Japan. The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries — DOGAMI, rhymes with “tsunami” — offers inundation maps that show whole “downtown areas of Cannon Beach and Seaside as being prone to complete inundation.”

Last month Seaside School District Superintendent Doug Dougherty said the district is considering a new bond to move Seaside schools — Broadway Middle School, Seaside High School and Gearheart Elementary School — to safer ground. It was tried in 2013 to the tune of \$128.8 million, and soundly defeated by voters. The physical threat remains the catalyst: “There are four schools along the Oregon Coast in the inundation zone, and we have three of those,” Dougherty said. “Our goal is to have students out of every one of these schools as soon as possible.”

Dougherty said he expects a bond to be presented within a year and a half or later, because the economy here “has not fully bounced back.” In addition, the district still has to pass a local option levy in November to maintain staffing levels. Since two initiatives, one to replace school buildings and one to maintain staffing, are unlikely to pass in one year, the clock will have to wait on needed safety measures, or “physical retrofits,” as government officials call them.

Same issue, new bond, only three years later? Sell that to voters. Many

Cannon Beach residents are still miffed at the way Cannon Beach Elementary School was shuttered.

Before all the horses and all the king’s men have to put Humpty-Dumpty together again, citizens, civic leaders and government officials of good faith must work together so the next bond won’t be a failure. Planning should begin now.

At a breakfast meeting of the Seaside Downtown Development Association July 9, state Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scapoose, responded to an audience member who asked how the district could replace Seaside’s schools without breaking taxpayers’ backs.

“We need to move our high school and middle school up to a safer location,” Johnson said. “On the face, it seems so simple: Get our kids out of danger. But it is actually a very complex question.

“Part of the problem is, it’s not as easy as ‘let’s move the school,’” Johnson said. “Seaside has a two-part whammy. When your last bond failed so dramatically, you didn’t have property or site control, and the site you chose created additional costs in the architectural requirements because it was odd terrain. You have to figure out how to get ownership of the land.”

Land-use architecture, urban growth boundaries and site location are critical to provide options for school siting, Johnson said, all of which require a “breathtaking amount of money.”

Johnson has been through this process before, after flooding in 2007 destroyed three schools in Vernonia.

## CANNON SHOTS

By  
R.J.  
MARX



**Clearly any steps in the future will require a coalition of local, state and federal entities.**

“A lesson I learned from rebuilding three schools in Vernonia after a natural disaster: The community has to have skin in the game,” Johnson said. “It can’t just be, ‘Let’s go to the state and get them to pay for it.’ First, we can’t. It cost us \$40 million to rebuild three schools in Vernonia. The costs are so dramatic.”

The urgency is growing, and will shape policy in Salem not just in terms of natural disaster funding in our region, but through every future capital project.

“It was actually the presence of Seaside and some other coastal schools in the tsunami zone that caused me to be so adamantly opposed to the Senate president’s pet project of rebuilding the Capitol building, to the tune of \$350 mil-

lion,” Johnson said. “When he was in trying to break our arms to get us to vote for that, I said, ‘I cannot, Mr. President, go back to my coastal communities with any modicum of integrity and look parents in the eye and say, ‘I took care of a box full of politicians before I took care of a box full of kids.’” That was not what he wanted to hear.”

There is some hope in Salem as legislators show a growing awareness of the threat and its immediacy. The Senate considered two bills this year to address seismic dangers.

State Senate Bill 778 gave the state’s geological arm, the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, DOGAMI, the power to require mitigation measures for buildings, with the aim of reducing risk to the public. What legislators didn’t like and why the bill ultimately failed was the bill would also give DOGAMI the power to block development if it decided a building could not be made safe. “Nobody wanted DOGAMI to be in charge of anything,” Johnson said, citing a history of bad management and overreach by the agency.

While that measure failed, the Senate did pass Bill 447, with \$125 million that will allow schools in certain situations to apply to the state to move certain facilities or allow schools to apply for seismic retrofits.

The bill establishes grant program to provide matching fund grants to school districts for capital costs of school districts. Johnson calls it a “pathway” to upgrades in Seaside and Cannon Beach.

According to Johnson, the rules for implementation have not been



R.J. MARX/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE  
**Sen. Betsy Johnson speaking before members of the Seaside Downtown Development Association July 9.**

determined. The bill is currently awaiting the governor’s signature.

Whether or not Superintendent Dougherty can use the proposed state funds remains to be seen, but money was made available, Johnson said.

Clearly any steps in the future will require a coalition of local, state and federal entities. Whether the school district and its voters have the stomach to approach this again after only three years remains to be seen. The cities may also look to include other stakeholders including educational foundations and environmental organizations when developing a potential site. Any new building effort will require not only school board, city and state participation, but grassroots support and a capital commitment on the part of our communities.

## At the Library CARLA O'REILLY

# A thank-you to all those who helped with book sale

By Carla O'Reilly  
Cannon Beach Gazette

Summer is definitely happening at the Cannon Beach Library!

First of all, since we are a nonprofit library, we need to work hard on our fundraisers each year. Our Fourth of July book sale is one of our most important — hard work, but definitely a fun way to get together as a community and also meet some of our wonderful visitors. We are delighted to report that this year’s July Fourth sale was a very enjoyable and successful event.

Those of you who weren’t able to attend the book sale simply must stop by and see the newly installed Sroufe Memorial Fountain in front of the library! The fountain is beautiful, and along with Beth Holland’s amazing landscaping vision, it has added much to enhance the appearance of our library. Many thanks to Beth and also to Tracy Sund of Cannon Beach Public Works for all the hard work. We would also like to thank our visitors and patrons for dodging heavy equipment

and sometimes having to enter the library by detouring through the bank parking lot for access while our project was in full swing! A dedication ceremony was held Thursday, July 9. Thanks to everyone who attended!

But the big news at the library is our newly up-and-running Library2Go eBooks program, whereby active patrons can access thousands of books and digital audiobooks online. Even those of us who were definitely around before computers were a factor in daily life will be able to learn the process easily (and without asking grandchildren for assistance!) Stop in at the library soon and receive your written instructions.

Some of our children become bored in the summertime — even by July! A good option to computer games and texting friends is available at the library right now. The summer reading contest, named “Catch a Dragon by the Tale” this year, is available to children, teens, and teens. Packets are available at the front desk; they contain sheets for track-



CARLA O'REILLY

ing each child’s progress, an explanation of how the process works, and info on the grand prize, which will be announced on Aug. 24 for each age level. Ongoing prizes will also be given each child as he or she reads books. It’s not too late to sign up!

Also, please visit our newly improved library interactive website, with improved design, quality and function. Patron accounts can be accessed from anywhere in the world in order to place holds, track checkouts, and access our newly launched online eBooks. Visit [www.cannonbeachlibrary.org](http://www.cannonbeachlibrary.org).

### Other library events

Cannon Beach Reads will meet on Wednesday,



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Timmy, a book sale customer, discovered books on how to build wooden boats.**

July 15, 7-8:30 p.m. at the library. The group will be reading and discussing “Things Fall Apart,” by Chinua Achebe, a Nigerian author. The novel follows the life of Okonkwo, an Igbo in the fictional village of Umuofia and is focused on British colonialism and Christian missionaries and their effects on the Igbo community. As always,

new members are welcome!

The quilt drawing is ongoing and will be until December. Drawing tickets are selling for \$1 each or six for \$5. The quilt is on display at the library and also will be displayed at the Cannon Beach Farmers’ Market, Aug. 18, 1-5 p.m. The drawing will be at our holiday tea in Decem-

ber, and the lucky winner — who need not be present to win — will be contacted and will receive the quilt by shipment.

So pay a visit to our library soon. Sit outside on the bench to enjoy the sunshine and access our free Wi-Fi or come on in and learn how to operate the eBooks program or check out our ongoing book sale!

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Edison will be missed at Cannon Beach Food Pantry

At their June 15 meeting, the board of the Cannon Beach Food Pantry was handed something most unexpected: the retirement letter of Molly Edison. The board accepted her announcement in stunned surprise. We understand the difficulty of her decision to retire from the pantry and we honor her decision. Molly’s almost seven years of experience in our pantry will be missed.

Under Molly’s leadership, the pantry has progressed from an idea to a well-organized effort. Our pantry provides food and essentials to those who pass through our doors every Wednesday. She led us into our first pantry at the Cannon Beach Bible Church and then to our new home in the vacated Cannon Beach Elementary School.

The devotion and attention to detail she provided cannot be overstated, Molly is the face of our pantry. She is well-respected throughout the region. She had a smile for everyone and a shoulder for every care. Words are not adequate to express the high esteem we hold for Molly.

Her departure from the pantry leaves a void. One thing it does not do is bring about the end of our pantry. The pantry board and volunteers have been able to move efficiently to take up Molly’s work load, a tribute to Molly’s leadership. Before her depart-

ure she saw to it the pantry functions in accordance to all rules and regulations, is financially stable, and feeds the hungry in a loving and compassionate manner.

Thank you, Molly, for your years, your caring, and your devotion.

**Carla O'Reilly  
Cannon Beach Food Pantry  
Board of Directors**

### Recognize efforts of historian Peter Lindsey

Many members of the Cannon Beach community are anticipating the publication of the second edition of Peter Lindsey’s “Comin’ in Over the Rock: A Storyteller’s History of Cannon Beach.” The second edition will be graced with a forward by Peter’s old friend Karl Marlantes, author of the best-selling Vietnam War novel “Matterhorn.” Rainmar Bartl, Cannon Beach’s retired city planner, has dedicated himself to this project and enlisted several of Peter’s friends to proofread “Comin’ in Over the Rock” and make corrections that were missed in the first edition published in 2004.

There has been one impediment to this process, and it is coming from the Cannon Beach History Center. When Peter was gathering material for the first edition, the History Center gladly lent him photos which he copied and promptly returned. Some

of the historical photos now available at the history center were donated by Peter and his family. Over the years the history center has used Peter as a resource, calling him when they need information about the history of Cannon Beach. This time, the board of directors is asking Peter to pay \$30 for each scan, an unaffordable sum for a volunteer effort. Sometimes an organization does not recognize a feather when it’s tickling its nose. Were the History Center to help Peter with the photos for the second edition of “Comin’ in Over the Rock,” Peter would acknowledge the center fully as he did in the first edition. That it would be good publicity for the center seems to have been overlooked by the board of directors when they insisted that Peter pay for the photos.

Our dear Professor Lindsey is not without fans in Cannon Beach. He is our eyes and ears. He is a local treasure, an icon. He’s the mayor of Bill’s Tavern. People love Peter! The Cannon Beach History Center should, too. He is our history! But here’s the added insult: After denying Peter the photos to be scanned gratis when the center gladly helped him free of charge for the first edition, word has it that they would like to have Peter volunteer to speak at one of their fundraising functions. There’s a feather for you, but they didn’t put it in his hat!

**Rex and Diane Amos  
Cannon Beach**

## South from Alaska, Dani Palmer joins the Gazette

Dani Palmer joined the Cannon Beach Gazette this week as the city’s local news reporter. Palmer will be covering city government, features and breaking news. Her work will appear in the Gazette and The Daily Astorian.

Palmer most recently served as full-time reporter for the Petersburg Pilot, in Petersburg, Alaska. Prior to that she was a reporter for the Newport News-Times, where she covered education, the cities of Toledo and Siletz, and the news of Lincoln County. She attended University of Southern Indiana in Evansville, and graduated with a degree in journalism. She is originally from southern Indiana.

Palmer won second place, nondeadline news reporting, for her story package “Staggering debt,” from the Indiana Associated Press Media Editors in 2013. She also won second place from the Society of Professional Journalists for best



**Reporter Dani Palmer joined the Cannon Beach Gazette this week.**

education reporting in 2013, also for her series on student debt. She won the University of Southern Indiana Senior of the Year for Journalistic Excellence and Achievement 2011, and numerous awards from the Indiana Collegiate Press Association.

“I’m excited to be back in Oregon and covering Cannon Beach news,” Palmer said.

Palmer invites story ideas and tips. She can be reached via email at [dpalmer@cannonbeachgazette.com](mailto:dpalmer@cannonbeachgazette.com), or at 503-738-5561.