

Emergency container debate continues

Containers from Page 1A

above the tsunami inundation zone at the east end of Elk Creek Road, on the South Wind site in Tolovana and on Old Cannon Beach Road.

Police learned some of the barrels contain guns, alcohol and cash after break-ins at two of the sites last summer, when one of those firearms was reported missing.

Cannon Beach Police Chief Jason Schermerhorn said in an emergency, conflicts could erupt over items contained in the barrels.

Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair Carolyn Adamson pointed out that many residents carry guns in their go-bags, though, often made up of supplies such as food and water to last at least 24 hours during a natural disaster.

But there's a matter of liability with the items sitting on city-owned property.

Committee member Paula Vetter suggested forming a legal agreement prohibiting residents from placing certain items in the containers.

Mayor Sam Steidel said there are restrictions, but that a written agreement got "watered down at some point in time."

Vetter also mentioned having someone monitor the loading of barrels and requesting an inventory list.

Kucera said an inspection would be plausible since the containers are located on city property.

There are currently about 100 personal barrels loaded with supplies, Steidel noted. They come in three sizes — five-gallon plastic buckets, 30-gallon plastic barrels and 55-gallon metal barrels, ranging from \$5 to \$55 — and are placed in shipping containers.

While Cannon Beach plans to continue the program with alterations, it wants to assist all residents in an emergency.

The city encourages the go-bags for short-term survival, but Steidel said staff need to work on helping "people stay alive" for longer than a few days after a major disaster.

There have been discussions about providing a cache for all residents, not just those who opt to purchase barrels.

What supplies to put in such a cache is the question. There is a food bank in town, though it's located at the former elementary school in the tsunami hazard zone, and Cannon Beach Community



ERICK BENGEL PHOTO

City crews load a barrel into an emergency supply shed in 2013. The barrels contain personal supplies for residents, second homeowners and employees in Cannon Beach.



NANCY MCCARTHY PHOTO

Although two emergency supply sheds on the north and south ends of Cannon Beach were broken into, the supply barrels in the shipping containers on Elk Creek Road weren't touched.

Church that stores items for those in need.

Balancing valuable objects such as food, water, tents and more for the city's

1,600 residents, second-home owners and many visitors in case of an emergency is a "yin-yang budget problem," Steidel said.

Final decision on room tax allocation coming next month

Tax from Page 1A

A plumber Bryden hired gave her a list of possible issues. Since Bryden is an "end of line," the residence could be impacted by neighboring water usage.

The Public Works Committee rejected her request for utility relief twice because she could not prove that her household had not consumed the water as billed.

Councilor Mike Benefield said it seemed plausible the problem was a running toilet, or perhaps a friend who was watching the house may have had a role in the water consumption.

With no definitive answer, there were talks of delaying a decision, but Councilor Melissa Cadwallader suggested cutting \$100 from the bill to assist the pair and avoid further public works costs. The city council endorsed that decision and voted for the reduction.

Dry weather leads to dusty road

Resident Mike Dwyer said the heat and lack of rain have exacerbated the dirt

being kicked up by vehicles in the area, causing potential health issues.

"I reiterate we have to do something about the dust," Dwyer, a Coos Street resident said.

He suggested the council consider implementing a previous paving policy, where the city and residents split costs to pave Coos Street.

Nonprofits awarded grants

In addition to approving the room tax, the City Council unanimously approved the Parks and Community Services Committee community grant recommendations, which were provided at a work session in July.

A total of \$75,000 is being given to 20 nonprofit organizations that serve Cannon Beach and the county, such as the Clatsop County Court Appointed Special Advocates and Tolovana Arts Colony.

The money is intended to support the agencies in educational, environmental, recreational, social and cultural projects that benefit residents and visitors.

Grassick: Fire danger, irrigation drive increased demand on reservoirs

Water from Page 1A

July, well below the 1.51 inch average. There were 21 consecutive days without rain from the end of May into June and another 21 straight from the end of June through July, according to the National Weather Service.

Grassick said it became a struggle to keep the reservoirs full.

It was during the middle of June that demand began exceeding capacity. At first, it was just once a week, not much to worry about, Grassick said. The reservoirs could be filled back up over a couple of days.

But then two weeks passed and staff still hadn't

been able to fill the reservoir fully.

Hot, dry weather

With the hot, dry weather forecast to continue, Grassick said it became important to keep the reservoirs full for safety reasons, in case of a fire.

Demand is higher on the weekends, too, when more tourists are in town, especially in late July and early August.

Grassick said the bulk of the demand has been irrigation, which started a month sooner than usual with the dry weather.

July water demand increased significantly year over year, by about 20 percent, he noted. "The normal

trend has been around 6 to 7 percent per year for this month," Grassick wrote in his monthly report to the City Council.

Ecola Creek Watershed Council member Jan Siebert-Wahrmund asked the city about scaling back on irrigation to save water during a Parks and Community Services meeting in July.

"I'm very prepared to stop irrigating if asked," public works employee Kirk Anderson replied.

Not in 'dire straits'

There have been talks of implementing a water conservation plan, but Grassick said that likely won't be necessary. He added the

city would seriously consider one if Cannon Beach reached 50 percent of what it can take from Ecola Creek.

The city has a water right of 1 cubic foot per second from the creek, which has a flow rate of nearly 10 cubic feet per second. Grassick said that 1 cubic foot covers the entire city, so reaching that high of a demand is not an issue they expect to encounter.

"We're not in extremely dire straits yet," he added.

But if it does come to a water conservation plan, irrigation would be a primary target. Business owners and residents would be asked to decrease their usage.



ALEX PAJUNAS/THE DAILY ASTORIAN

A female coho salmon, sporting a worn and battered tail from scouring a redd in the gravel, rests along the bottom of the north fork of Ecola Creek last fall.

Local author celebrates America's lighthouses with book signing

Cannon Beach author Gregory E. Zschomler was selected to sign and share his new book "Louie, the Lonely Lighthouse" at the National Lighthouse Museum on Staten Island, N.Y., for National Lighthouse Day, Aug. 8.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Author Gregory Zschomler received an award from the National Lighthouse Museum.

"Louie" was modeled after several iconic Oregon coast lighthouses by Florence, Ore., artist Roxanne Bowman. Proceeds from the book sales are designed to help fund lighthouse restoration and preservation projects from coast to coast.

Zschomler will present a reading from the book and sign copies as part of

the celebration of the new museum building. Read more about his New York excursion including a harbor cruise of 14 lighthouses and Lady Liberty on Instagram @author_gregory.zschomler.

Zschomler is a digital artist and the author of nine books including the Bayou Boys Adventure series, "The Amish vs. the Zombies" for older teens, and the children's picture book "I'm Samson," said Sydney. For more information see www.gregoryzschomler.blogspot.com.

Volunteers knock on doors to protect Crater Lake

By Dani Palmer
Cannon Beach Gazette

Last month, Environment Oregon, a nonprofit environmental advocacy organization, launched a grassroots effort in Cannon Beach to protect Crater Lake.

"Our primary concern is the deforestation around the park," said Audrey Dannar with Environment Oregon.

The group is protesting the proposed Bybee timber sale, which includes more than 16,000 acres and goes up to the western boundary of Crater Lake National Park. If it's clear-cut, it won't just affect the area, but the ecosystem, Dannar said, as animals would have to move to a different area.

Crater Lake and the surrounding forest serves as habitat for elk, bear, bald eagles, Coho salmon and more. OR-7, also known as Oregon's wolf Journey, has taken up residence somewhere in the area with his mate and pups, Dannar added.

In June, another conservation group, Oregon Wild, filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Forest Service over the sale,

asking a judge to order a closer examination of the harm the logging may do not only to the wilderness, but the wolf den, as well.

"Crater Lake is the crown jewel of Oregon. Its deep blue waters and steep rim walls make it one of the most incredible places in Oregon," said Rikki Seguin, Environment Oregon's state director, in a press release. "But year after year, timber sales threaten our only national park and the wildlife that calls it home."

Timber groups say the Bybee proposal is primarily thinning, not clear-cutting, and would help improve health of trees in the area.

In its reports, the Forest Service said the proposal would "improve stand conditions, diversity, density and structure to increase forest resiliency and overall forest health," which would actually benefit wildlife such as the northern spotted owl.

The Bybee timber sale would also provide a sustainable supply of timber products while reducing the risk of wildfire and disease, according to the report.

Dannar said they're try-

ing to reach as many Oregonians as they can about the logging and let people know they can still contact Oregon's congressional delegation. In 2013, the group and its partners delivered over 11,000 public comments to the U.S. Forest Service in opposition of the sale.

During the middle of July, the group knocked on doors in Cannon Beach.

Cannon Beach resident Brian Hill said he understands the objective of improving tree health, but that the impact on wildlife in this particular proposal concerns him.

"OR-7 is Oregon's first wolf in over 50 years," Hill said. "It'd really be a shame to chase him and his family out."

Environment Oregon is appealing to Senator Ron Wyden to permanently protect Crater Lake by introducing a bill that would create a 500,000-acre wilderness area in and around the national park.

More information can be found at environmetoregon.org.

The Bybee timber sale is now awaiting review in the courts.

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