

Will politics as usual derail tsunami safety efforts?

State Rep. Deborah Boone came to Seaside's Chamber of Commerce breakfast at the Twisted Fish July 31, not long after the close of the 2015 legislative session in Salem.

Boone represents District 32, which includes Seaside, Cannon Beach and all of Clatsop, half of Tillamook and parts of western Washington County, center of the Cascadia subduction zone.

A former member of the Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Council, she sees her job as helping prepare and protect residents from a quake or its aftermath. Legislators, she said, are not always receptive to contemplating disaster scenarios.

"When we discovered how much there was to consider on the mass casualties, nobody wanted to talk about that," she said. "You think it's hard to get a tent on the table in case of an earthquake or tsunami? Nobody wanted to talk about body bags."

Policy adviser, seismic grants

In reviewing the spring 2015 legislative session's achievements, Boone touted passage of House Bill 2270, which creates the position of resilience policy adviser reporting directly to Gov. Kate Brown.

"If it had been part of the Department of Human Services, it would have been just a desk, someone doing a million other things," Boone said. "Since the governor is commander-in-chief, it makes sense for it to be there. I really stomped my feet to get that."

Boone lobbied hard for a \$300 million grant program to safeguard schools in earthquake zones. Grants between \$4 million and \$8 million will provide matching funds to school districts for seismic assessments and long-range facilities plans.

Funding was delivered as part of the Capital Construction bill, presented at the end of the Legis-

CANNON SHOTS

By
R.J.
MARX



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lature's session.

Boone referred to it as the "Christmas Tree" bill.

"Everybody comes to it to get their favorite ornament," she said. "If you play the game all session, you may get your ornament after you've been told there's nothing available all session. You have to be the squeaky, whiny child."

Boone said she is constantly honing the art of deal-making.

For example, the Democrats' 2015 caucus platform was built on more funding for schools, support for small business, greater access to health plans, economic incentives for the middle class and helping small communities, Boone said.

With those goals in mind, however, the end result didn't always look like that.

While Boone voted with House Democrats just under 97

percent of the time this session, including votes for authorizing retail marijuana sales and chemical disclosure rules, she supported a self-service gas pump bill and initially voted to extend an exemption for a firearm criminal background check requirement. She later joined with her caucus in opposing the exemption in the bill's third reading.

And as a member of the energy committee, "I was very generous on my side giving my colleagues on the east side of the state everything they want," she said.

Who's on first?

These kinds of trade-offs are necessary for all legislators in Salem.

"It's all politics all the time," Boone said. "Some of the votes you take, you literally hold your nose to vote for, because you know if you don't vote for that particular bill with your caucus, you can kiss your whole portfolio goodbye. I'm serious. Not only that, if you're a chair, you can be stripped of your chairmanship."

Political in-fighting, even between members of the same party, can sink or stall a piece of legislation, especially for those on state committees.

"Who's on first, who's likely to have a bad election, who's targeted, everything's taped — you have to watch what you say and do when you're on committee," she said. "All that's constantly being considered for 'hit' pieces for the next election. That's a given, which is really disappointing, because there's a lot of expended energy that is not conducive to good policy."

"That being said, I try to help my colleagues," she added. "I don't even think about what party they are. I look at the bill or policy they're trying to pass."

According to Boone, there are "two guys" who dictate what happens in Salem, and one person can stop anything depending on their position.



R.J. MARX PHOTO/SEASIDE SIGNAL

State Rep. Deborah Boone in Seaside.

"The Joint Ways and Means co-chairs, Rep. Peter Buckley and Sen. Richard Devlin, decide — with direction at times from the House and Senate leadership — which programs and services, along with amounts of funding for agencies, get funded," Boone said. "Members lobby them for their support, and decisions are guided by the majority leadership tempered by certain members' wants and needs. Bills that do not require funding don't normally go to Ways and Means, so the leadership decides on these."

"In reality there are a handful who run the show," she added. "House speaker, Senate president, House and Senate majority leaders, governor. Also in the mix are committee chairs who can refuse to hear any bill or just give it a courtesy public hearing but not a work session, so no vote."

With clean fuels passage, transportation package stalled

The clean fuels bill divided legislators throughout the session, and its passage had the unlikely domino effect of sinking

seismic safety measures.

Along with many Republicans and some Democrats, Boone opposed the extension of the clean fuels bill "because it didn't really do much," Boone said. "Would it add a penny at the gas pump or a dollar? No one could answer that."

She said the bill could raise the gas tax anywhere from 4 cents to \$1, "and puts the money into the ethanol industry in the Midwest and Brazil but does nothing to improve Oregon's transportation system."

In the grand scheme, the bill was a "negotiable chit" and proved pivotal in the collapse of the state's \$343.5 million transportation package crafted at the end of the session. Bundled into the package were millions for earthquake protections, especially bridge and road improvements.

Bruised after the passage of the clean fuels bill, Republicans withheld their support for the transportation package and negotiations collapsed in the 11th hour. The failure of the package strips funds for bridge, road and infrastructure repairs.

Meanwhile, should a quake hit, detours will be scarce.

"Driving from Tillamook to Bay City, you cross over seven bridges," Boone said. "That's just a small little piece of 101. All these bridges along the coast are going to be destroyed by an earthquake, and it wouldn't even have to be a 9.0. Plans to renovate those bridges are not going to happen now."

Boone looked back on the legislative season by paraphrasing Mick Jagger. "'You don't get everything you want,' that was my mantra," she said. "Those Rolling Stones songs have some truth."

"In 12 years down there as a rep and 17 as an assistant to different representatives, I'm still surprised how things work," she added.

Reflections ELAINE TRUCKE

Remembering the contributions of the 41st Infantry

Most of us drive Highway 26, or Sunset Highway, at least once a month, maybe even more. Many assume that the highway's name refers to the east to west direction, or perhaps the beautiful shores that the highway will take you to, but in fact, the windy road is named for something a bit more honorary.

But first, a little history is in order. Construction of Highway 26 or Wolf Creek Highway began in January of 1933 and was a joint venture of the W.P.A. and the C.C.C. Portions of the highway officially opened to the public on September 19, 1941. For those inspired to make their way to the coast still had quite a journey. The trip usually took a full day to make, but

was still better than going by train.

On Dec. 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor was attacked, pulling the United States into the Second World War. Troops across the nation set sail (or flew, of course) to Europe or other parts of the world. The Pacific Northwest's 41st Infantry Division was no exception. The 41st Infantry Division was an Oregon and Washington State National Guard unit. Initially the 41st conducted coastal defense duty from the Canadian border south into Oregon. However, many eventually set sail for Australia as one off the first U.S. Army division sent overseas. Australians welcomed the 41st, as most of Australia's troops were



ELAINE TRUCKE

in Europe and the Middle East and many feared Japan may attack from the north.

While in Australia the 41st Infantry participated jungle and amphibious training that would later prove useful. In December 1942, they were sent to a combat zone at Papua, New Guinea. In April 1944, the

division made amphibious landings at Hollandia and Airtape, where resistance was minor. It was part of the U.S. military's "island-hopping" campaign, attacking or bypassing Japanese-occupied areas as it pressed west and north across the South Pacific.

The division's bloodiest engagement was on the island of Biak, off New Guinea's coast. Oregon's 162nd and 186th regiments plus the 163rd defeated over ten thousand well-trenched and well-led Japanese forces. The campaign extended from May through August 1944, and the 41st earned a new title, "The Junglers."

In February and March 1945, the 41st Division landed at Zamboanga and

Palawan in the southern Philippines. In August, the soldiers were preparing for a Japanese invasion when the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This action caused Japan to surrender, ending World War II. The division performed occupation duty in the Kure-Hiroshima area of Japan until Dec. 31, 1945.

In 1946, the 41st reorganized as the Pacific Northwest's Army National Guard division. In case you are wondering how the story gets back to Highway 26, here it is. The 41st Infantry Division's shoulder-sleeve insignia is a red half-disk with a yellow setting sun over a blue baseline representing the Pacific Ocean. It was this for

this patch that the "Sunset Division" was named, honoring the bravery of the 41st. On Jan. 17, 1946, U.S. Highway 26, from Portland to Seaside, was officially named the Sunset Highway in the division's honor, although it took another three years until its completion in 1949.

If you'd like to learn more about the 41st Infantry, stop by the Cannon Beach History Center & Museum to see their latest exhibit "World War II on the Oregon Coast." The exhibit features paraphernalia from the 41st Infantry and also shows a documentary about them daily. The museum is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Monday and admission is by donation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A thank-you for community support from Campuzano family

We want to thank all the people who have donated to the Campuzano Family Fund set up by Rex and Diane Amos at Columbia Bank. When thieves stole our Tahoe SUV and trailer and burned the SUV in California on our way to Mexico, we never thought we would recover. After the articles about this were in the newspapers, many good friends came to our aid. Some of the people we know and some we do not, but they are all in our prayers because we believe that God has worked through them. Money from the fund has helped Victor to replace some of the tools that were taken so he could continue working. It also helped to pay our utility bills, to replace some of our personal necessities that were stolen, and to put food on the table. Even more than the money, we appreciate all the love people in the community have shown us. We don't have the right words for it, but all we can say is thank you from our hearts.

**Carmen, Victor, and the Campuzano Family
Rex and Diane Amos
Cannon Beach**

Let's show some respect for Visitor Center employees

We have a home in Cannon Beach and have been coming to the beach for over 25 years. An article in the Cannon Beach Gazette, dated May 22 titled "Committee proposes 1 percent room tax hike," contained a very offensive and disturbing quote by

Steve Sinkler, president of the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce. Under the sub-headline "Paying Peanuts," he said, "There's a saying: 'You pay peanuts, you get monkeys,' and we're paying peanuts." The logical conclusion of that statement is: we're getting monkeys. That is, the current hourly employees at the Visitors Center are monkeys. I was taught that it is wrong, let alone offensive and rude, to compare people with monkeys.

Interestingly, a number of times I witnessed one of those so-called monkeys, longtime Cannon Beach resident Dave Springer, helping visitors at the center with their questions. He was warm, personable and informative with each visitor, who ended the conversation with "Thank you very much, you have been very helpful." Ironically I also witnessed, albeit once, one of the Visitor Center's non-monkeys (I think that's a person in Mr. Sinkler's lexicon), Courland Carrier, the center's executive director, who also attempted to assist two visitors. Let's just say it was more monologue than dialogue, ending with the visitors' puzzled looks.

My point is that, yes the Visitor Center employees are people, not monkeys, no matter what their hourly wage, and they certainly deserve the respect of the president of their employer. Plus, at least one of these employees (PEOPLE) is doing a great job and is an excellent representative of the Chamber of Commerce and the City of Cannon Beach.

**Peter Musser
Seattle**

Tickets available for Cottage and Garden Tour

The Cannon Beach Cottage and Garden Tour provides an opportunity for visitors to see the work of closet artists, private collectors and some of the best beach designs. The tour begins Saturday, Sept. 12, at noon, with a luncheon prepared by Culinary Capers at the Tolovana Inn, 3400 South Hemlock St. A round-table discussion moderated by museum board president Kimberley Speer-Miller will explore the unique history and stories of Cannon Beach.

After the presentation, attendees are invited to begin the self-guided home and garden tour at 1 p.m. The tour features dream homes, historic splendors, cottages, and well-manicured gardens.

The Cottage & Garden Tour is the Cannon Beach History Center & Museum's annual fundraiser, and contributes a significant amount of the nonprofit's annual income. The event was started 11 years ago by author and historian Jill Grady, her colleague Connie Crow, and board.

In its heyday the tour welcomed at most 60 peo-

ple. When the City of Cannon Beach's Tourism and Arts Commission awarded the museum funding to promote the event to now reach several hundred attendees. The Tourism and Arts Fund is awarded to nonprofits in order to promote tourism and the arts of Cannon Beach. With the funds, the tour has expanded to include a concert and wine reception, as well as a Sunday garden tea.

All attendees are invited to the Cannon Beach History Center & Museum for wine, live music, and hors d'oeuvres prepared by Sweet Charity. The quilt raffle will take place at 7 p.m. The quilt was designed and created by local quilt artist Constance Waisanen. The quilt, "Jellyfish," is a colorful exploration of the tide pools of Haystack Rock. Raffle tickets are \$5.

The final event will be an English-style garden tea at the Tolovana Inn. Enjoy a selection of Oregon-made teas, homemade scones and other treats in a flower-filled setting. Debbie Teashon, owner of the Rainy Side Gardener and co-author of "Gardening for the Home-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A kitchen on display during the Cannon Beach Cottage and Garden Tour.

brewer: Plants for Making Beer, Wine, Gruit, Cider, Perry, and More," will be giving a presentation, "Life Beyond the Two-Season Garden Party."

Tickets for each event are available to purchase separately. Luncheon and lecture tickets are \$25; Cottage & Garden Tour tickets are \$30, and Garden Tea tickets, \$20. A weekend event package is \$60. Tickets are available through the museum's online gift shop at www.cbhistory.org or call 503-436-9301.