

Community opens their hearts, homes to fire victims

As fire roared through Canyon Creek and over the hills just south of John Day, those who were ordered to evacuate recall details they probably never will forget.

Dean Elliott, who lost his home of 53 years, remembers the sound of the wind. It was like a locomotive, he said.

His wife, Betty, recalls how the oxygen was sucked out of the air and she could hardly breathe.

Mike Mannell, who was woken by a friend, tells how he ran through the smoke to put a sprinkler on his Harley Davidson and another sprinkler on his neighbor's house.

If his friend hadn't woken him that morning, says Mannell, whose cabin that he had been building for six years burned to the ground, "I probably would have perished in that fire."

And with tears in his eyes, the neighbor, Bryan Nelson, whose home Mannell saved, calls Mannell a "hero."

These stories abound in the canyon. They are told and retold to friends, relatives, restaurant waitresses, store clerks. They are told because people in this community know each other, and most importantly, they care about one another.

The fire, one mile south of John Day, has burned 69,606 acres — about 109 square miles. It has destroyed 39 homes. More than 200 people had to evacuate during the height of the fire, which started as a 10-acre brush fire Aug. 12.

For nearly two weeks, *Blue Mountain Eagle* staffers Cheryl Hoefler and Angel Carpenter have been keeping a running list of all the donations, services, offers of homes and other resources available to

IMPRESSIONS

By
NANCY MCCARTHY



The stories will remain long after the fires.

those who were affected by the fire. Response has been pouring into the Eagle's Facebook page from those both in the area and throughout the region, asking how they can help.

That's what you do in a crisis. Where I live — on the North Oregon Coast — we are a small community, too. Most all of us have ties to each other — through family, work, volunteer activities, civic duties or friendship.

We also have emergencies. Usually, it's flooding or windstorms in the winter because it rains so much along the coast, where we live on a narrow band of land between forest and ocean.

Our largest, overriding concern, however, is the potential Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake that is expected to occur 50 to 75 miles offshore and trigger a tsunami that would wipe our communities off the map.

It seems that, no matter where you live, some sort of disaster looms, threatening to destroy all we hold dear.

The difference between the North Coast and Eastern Oregon, however, is that the Cascadia earthquake happens every 300 years, and fires are a real possibility here every 300 days.

We are constantly in the emergency planning mode on the coast. We worry about where we would evacuate to escape the wall of water heading toward us 15 minutes after the earthquake drops the ground out from under us. We gather "go bags" — backpacks filled with emergency supplies; we test out evacuation routes leading toward ground higher than 80 feet; and we organize Community Emergency Response Teams to help us deal with the immediate crises that will occur when people finally reach pre-established gathering spots.

After observing and reporting on how John Day and Canyon City area residents and emergency crews are responding to this crisis, I have hope that we will do just as well when disaster hits us on the coast.

The local fire departments, U.S. Forest Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, Grant County Sheriff's Office and Red Cross all began working together to fend off the fire and keep us informed. In only a day or two, when it was obvious the fire couldn't be controlled locally, nearly 1,000 firefighters from throughout the region responded, and two incident commanders trained to supervise massive wildfires took charge.

Meanwhile, local volunteers opened their hearts, wallets and homes to those who needed immediate help.

Where I live, they say not to count on outside help being able to reach us for several weeks — or



ANGEL CARPENTER/EO MEDIA GROUP

Sherry and Mike Dress embrace after looking over property destroyed by the Canyon Creek Complex fire.

even months. We will be on our own to cope.

This experience, in this small community, shows me that it can be done.

The details of our potential crisis will be different. We will have different stories to tell. Instead of a wall of fire, we may be fleeing a wall of water. Instead of fire consuming our homes, it will be an enormous ocean wave.

But I hope — and expect — the

community response will be the same. We will take care of each other.

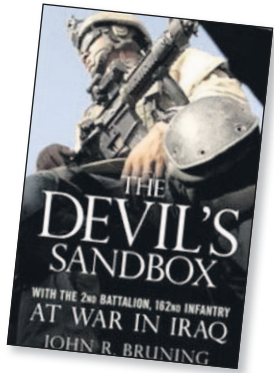
Because that's what communities do in a crisis.

Nancy McCarthy is the former editor of the Seaside Signal and the Cannon Beach Gazette. She has been working as interim editor of the Blue Mountain Eagle for the past four weeks. Her column appears monthly.

Military scribe John Bruning to kick off Northwest Author series at the library

John R. Bruning will be the leadoff speaker for the 2015-16 season of the Cannon Beach Library's Northwest Author series. A prolific military and aviation historian, Mr. Bruning will discuss his upcoming book, "Indestructible," scheduled to be released in 2016.

The book is the biography of Paul "Pappy" Gunn, one of the great figures of the Pacific War. In 1941, when the war in the Pacific broke out,



Gunn was pulled into the Army Air Corps. While on a

secret mission, his wife and four children were captured in Manila by the Japanese Army. Over the course of the next three years, Gunn did everything he could to rescue them from Santo Tomas internment camp. In the process, his actions changed the course of the Pacific War.

A professional military historian and writer since 1990, Bruning is the author of "Crimson Sky: the Air Battle for Korea,"

"Jungle Ace," "Elusive Glory," "Ship Strike Pacific," and many others. His book, "The Devil's Sandbox: With the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry at War in Iraq" was written while he was embedded as a civilian historian with the Oregon National Guard in Iraq.

Bruning consults for museums in the U.S. and Europe, and helped produce more than a dozen historical documentaries. The Department of Defense presented him with a

prestigious 2010 Thomas Jefferson Award for his reporting in Afghanistan. For his work with the Oregon National Guard, he was inducted into the 162nd infantry regiment in September 2011 as an honorary member.

The Cannon Beach Library's Northwest Author series will include Valerie Geary author of "Crooked River," Oct. 10; Urban Waite, author of "Sometimes the Wolf," Nov. 14; Matt Love, "The

Great Birthright: An Oregon Novel, Jan. 9; Bill Hall, author of "McCallandia," Feb. 13; and Rebecca Harrison, author of "Deep, Dark and Dangerous: On the Bottom with the Northwest Salvage Divers."

The Northwest Author series is held at the Cannon Beach Library at 2 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month, September to May, and is free to the public. The library is located at 131 N. Hemlock St.; 503-436-1391.

MUNICIPAL MEMO

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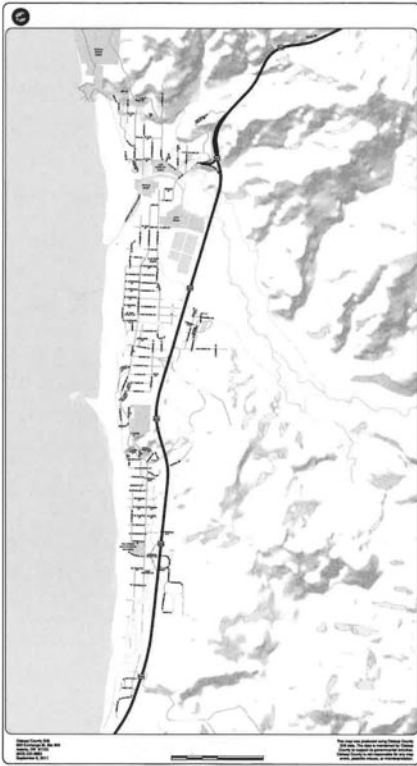
FOR YOUR INFORMATION
MAYOR: Sam Steidel
COUNCILORS: Wendy Higgins, Melissa Cadwallader, Mike Benefield & George Vetter
CITY MANAGER: Brant Kucera

MEETINGS SEPTEMBER 2015

1	City Council Regular Meeting	7:00 p.m.
2	City Council/TAC Work Session	11:00 a.m.
8	City Council Work Session	5:30 p.m.
17	Design Review Board	6:00 p.m.
24	Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, August 4

- Council was introduced to Melissa Keyser, new interim Haystack Rock Awareness Program (HRAP) Coordinator;
- Approved Ordinance 15-02, for the purpose of amending the Municipal Code, Chapter 3, to increase the amount of the Transient Lodging Room Tax from seven percent (7%) to eight percent (8%); the local Transient Room (Lodging) Tax, in accordance with Oregon Revised Statutes 320.300 to 320.350.
- Approved a \$100 reduction of a sewer bill as a result of a utility relief request;
- Approved the City Manager to sign a lease agreement with AT&T, which will bring a 3rd cellular provider to Cannon Beach (T-Mobile and Verizon already have cell towers in the City);
- Approved the FY 2015-16 Community Grant awards;
- Approved a change to the City Manager employment agreement.



- Katie Voelke, of the Greater Ecola Natural Area (GENA) presented their NeCus' visioning, as approved by the Parks and Community Services Committee;
- Staff presented the updated City Streets Standards policy to Council's approval;
- Agreed to allow staff to submit a letter of map amendment (LOMA) to FEMA regarding the adoption of new flood plain maps.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

- City Manager spoke on the OPB program "Think Out Loud" regarding the Cannon Beach Emergency Preparedness;
- City Recorder attended FEMA Public Information Officer training;
- A team of City employees have signed up to participate in the upcoming "RACE the WAVE" 5K & 10K Fun Run/Walk to be held here in Cannon Beach, Sunday, September 13 at 10:00am. This is the second annual tsunami awareness and preparedness initiative and proceeds will benefit the Cannon Beach PreSchool and Children's Center.

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD - At their August 20, 2015 meeting the Design Review Board discussed:

- FS 15-02, City of Cannon Beach and Oregon Parks & Recreation Department joint application for a freestanding public safety emergency locate sign on the beach just west of foredune within existing right-of-way, adjacent to 7th and Oak Streets. **Approved**

PLANNING COMMISSION - Scheduled to Meet August 27, 2015 at 6:00pm.

Haystack Rock Awareness Program

Save the date: HRAP's end of year celebration will be October 31st, at 12:00pm. This event is free and open to the public.

We are in need of Volunteers! No previous knowledge necessary — our fantastic Interpreters will teach you all you need to know. Come out, enjoy our beautiful beach, learn about our diverse ecosystem, and volunteer and you will receive a free t-shirt and hat!

Cannon Beach Farmers Market

TUESDAY, September 1st, 2015:

- **Cole Carr**, a singer songwriter from Portland, Oregon will be entertaining us with his blend of Folk and Pop music. Stop by and enjoy.
- **Taste of Place**, an extension of OSU will be demonstrating preparation of a recipe. You can learn, taste and pick a bottle of spice. All for free!
- **Ofalafel** will be serving their falafel wraps and other mediterranean delights. So good and authentic!
- Bob Neroni from **EVOO** will also be sharing his amazing cooking talents and bringing his proprietary line of spices!
- **Brett Willyard** will be performing his magic in the upper lot. He is amazing. Kids and adults are awed by his performance.
- **Upper Market Cafe:** Open from 1 - 5pm for your dining pleasure, featuring **Ofalafel, Casa de Tamales, Hello Waffle** and **The Wine Shack. Come dine alfresco and enjoy the music in the upper lot. Then head to the lower lot and purchase fresh grown produce, no hormone added meats, cheese, eggs, baked good, artisan products, flowers and more!**

NOTICE OF VACANCIES CITY COMMISSIONS, BOARDS & COMMITTEES

The City of Cannon Beach is seeking applications for the following vacancies:

BUDGET COMMITTEE: ONE (1) vacancy to fill a three-year term.

The primary responsibility of the Budget Committee is to review and recommend the proposed annual budget for the City. The Budget Committee meets on several occasions between the end of April and the end of June. Meeting times vary.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE: THREE (3) vacancies to fill four-year terms.

The primary responsibility of the Emergency Preparedness Committee is to plan emergency response on a city-wide basis and make recommendations to the City Council. The Emergency Preparedness Committee holds its regular meetings on the last Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. and schedules work sessions as needed.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: One (1) vacancy to fill a four-year term beginning August 1, 2015.

The primary responsibility of the Public Works Committee is to review all public works projects and make recommendations to City Council. The Public Works Committee holds its regular meeting on the third Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

To be eligible to serve on a City committee, applicants must have resided within the city or its urban growth boundary during the one year immediately preceding appointment; or at the time of appointment, shall have owned real property located within the city or its urban growth boundary for at least

one year immediately preceding appointment.

Applications are available at City Hall, 163 E. Gower Street, Cannon Beach, by email addressed to riggs@ci.cannon-beach.or.us or on-line at www.ci.cannon-beach.or.us. Applications should be returned to Colleen Riggs, City Recorder, Cannon Beach City Hall, and P.O. Box 368, Cannon Beach, OR 97110 for Council consideration. For more information, please contact Colleen Riggs by email or phone at (503) 436-8052.

Community Grants

The City Council approved the following Community Grant awards at their August 4, 2015 meeting:

Organization	Grant Amount
American Legion Post 168	2,800.00
Camp Kiwanilong	770.00
Cannon Beach Arts Association	8,658.40
Cannon Beach History Center	720.00
Clatsop CASA	2,970.00
Clatsop Community Action	7,184.00
Coaster Theatre	3,360.00
Healing Circle	1,260.00
Helping Hands	7,200.00
Lower Columbia Hispanic Council	1,240.00
North Coast Land Conservancy	5,300.00
North Coast Symphonic Band	860.00
Restoration House	4,820.00
Sea Turtles Forever	1,600.00
Seaside Hall	830.00
Seaside High School CYBORG	556.00
SEPRD	1,420.00
The Harbor	7,271.60
Tolovana Arts Colony	12,080.00
Wildlife Center	4,100.00

There will be a City Potluck at the Chamber of Commerce Community Hall Thursday September 3rd - meet at the lagoon kiosk at 6:00 PM for the Tree City USA dedication and 6:30 PM at the Community Hall for dinner to present the awards. Bring your favorite dish to share.

Community Emergency Response Training (CERT)

The City of Cannon Beach sponsors CERT training for citizens residing in Cannon Beach. CERT trains citizens to be prepared for disasters and respond to emergency situations within their communities. Trained CERT volunteers are able to give critical support to their family, neighborhood, first responders and provide immediate assistance to disaster victims. CERT volunteers also help with non-emergency projects that increase our community's preparedness and resilience.

CERT courses consist of a series of classes that focus on preparedness, hazards in the area, fire safety, basic disaster medical skills, and light search and rescue activities. Each course concludes with a mock disaster drill that tests the participants' training. First responders teach the CERT courses.

For information about the classes schedule and to enroll, please contact Laura Yokoyama at yokoyama@ci.cannon-beach.or.us or (503) 436 2811.