

# How can we be better prepared for the 'Big One'?

A lot of people read "The Really Big One," Kathryn Schulz's New Yorker article about the Cascadia earthquake and tsunami that are forecast to strike the Pacific Northwest.

The article caused shockwaves of its own across our region.

The information is not new to most of us here at home, but the vivid description of the risk to lives and the regional economy has generated a really big amount of anxiety in Oregon.

It's alarming to read that the largest natural disaster to hit North America might happen right here at home. But as a lawmaker, I am also deeply concerned about the article's reminder that we are nowhere as prepared as we can and should be given how much we know about this threat. In the article, OSU earthquake expert Chris Goldfinger discusses the growing gap between what we know and what we should do about it.

I have made closing this gap a priority in my work in Congress. I've supported additional research, advocated for federal investment in resilience, and raised awareness among my colleagues in Congress. But there is still work to be done.

Many Oregon communities are already taking action. For example, Cannon Beach set up cache sites in

## GUEST COLUMN

By  
**U.S. REP. SUZANNE BONAMICI**

evacuation areas where residents can store food, water, and supplies in barrels. Last year, I participated in their Race the Wave 5K walk/run, which followed the tsunami evacuation route from the beach to the cache site so residents and visitors are familiar with the route.

At the state level, Oregon lawmakers authorized The Oregon Resilience Plan. This comprehensive plan recommends policies to protect lives and the economy during and after a Cascadia event. Oregon Emergency Management is working with FEMA on Cascadia Rising, an earthquake and tsunami functional exercise that's planned for next summer. And the Legislature just passed several resilience-building bills, including provisions for seismic rehabilitation of schools and other critical infrastructure.

The state is making progress, but the federal government can and should do much more. FEMA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are engaged in earthquake and tsunami research



ERICK BENGEL/THE DAILY ASTORIAN FILE

**U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, D-Ore., explains the importance of investing in tsunami preparation to the fun run participants in October. Taking measures now, she said, will not only help to ensure that more people survive, it will make it easier for cities to rebuild after the disaster.**

and education, but these efforts are not nearly enough. Oregonians face the complicated task of needing to prepare for an event on a scale not experienced in more than 315 years. Unfortunately, federal funding for hazard mitigation and resilience is generally limited to events that have already occurred and caused damage, like Hurricane Katrina or Superstorm Sandy. This tendency to be reactive rather than proactive is shortsighted, and I'm committed to doing what I can to work on prevention.

We can start by providing federal funding for research and development. The U.S. Geological Survey just awarded \$4 million to universities in the Pacific Northwest and California for an earthquake early warning system. And I am pleased that one of the first bills the U. S. House passed this session was my bipartisan Tsunami Warning, Research and Education Act. Once it passes the Senate, this Act will support NOAA's tsunami research and community-specific

outreach and resilience activities. It's a good start, but only a small part of a long list of research and outreach needs.

Local and state governments also need resources to assess, plan, and respond to a Cascadia earthquake. At an implementation meeting for the Oregon Resilience Plan last year, we discussed the importance of planning and response training for communities. The disruption to transportation and communications systems will likely mean that many communities, particularly in rural areas, will be cut off from relief services. Communities need to be able to react and respond so people are safely evacuated, able to shelter in place, and endure winter weather, fire, medical emergencies, or food and water shortages.

The scope of what we face can seem overwhelming, but it is not insurmountable. I will continue to advocate for preparing for a Cascadia earthquake and tsunami. Smart investments now will save lives, property, and money later, and will help the regional economy recover faster. Join me in building on this momentum toward a more resilient future for Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.

*U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, D-Ore., represents the 1st District.*

## Boac's Bird Notes **SUSAN BOAC**

# How to identify the immature song sparrow, cowbird

Paradoxically for me, identifying birds is the tricky part of birding and it's the most interesting part of birding. Not only are some species very very similar in certain regards, they can be especially challenging to tell apart as juveniles and during molt. Sometimes Song Sparrows don't look like song sparrows to me at this time of year!



SUSAN BOAC

nests, they lay eggs (up to three dozen a summer) in others with the hopes they get adopted, like the one I saw. The size difference was comical! Cowbirds are much larger than most sparrows.

In our area, song sparrows and friends start



SUSAN BOAC PHOTO

A song sparrow in Cannon Beach.

molting about mid-August, sometimes through September. Researchers have found that females start

to molt a little later than males. I start to notice a lot of little brown birds with no tails at my feeding stations.

These little guys are able to fly during molt, but without a tail, landing can sometimes be rather comical! That makes me smile even more than usual.

I take a plethora of pictures this part of the year, in my attempt to identify and become familiar with all these little friends. And I keep hoping I am seeing something new. Mostly, I find that by will alone I cannot transform a molting adult or juvenile into a new species no matter how hard I try.

### First Sunday bird walk

Something new! Please join a group of people on the first Sunday of the month for birding in the

Cannon Beach area. We will meet at the Lagoon Trail parking lot on Second Street at 9 am and bird until about 11. Bring binoculars and wear appropriate clothing. Everyone is welcome!

*Susan has spent her life enjoying the great outdoors from the lakes and woods of Northern Minnesota, Mt. Adams in Washington and now the Oregon beach environs. After spending many pleasurable hours driving her avid birder parents around, she 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

### Mental health outrage

Regarding the article "In Clatsop County, gaps in mental health safety net" (The Daily Astorian, Aug. 24): My professional life has been spent in the area of human social services, public and private. I am very aware of the significant and complex issues with institutionalization pre-1960s, as well as de-institutionalization from the 1960s to today. I understand the heavy burden and heartbreaking lack of services and funding causes for individuals, families, neighbors, cities, counties and states.

Clatsop County, tragically, is typical. I am writing this letter, however, because of my newest outrage resulting from reading the second to the last paragraph of the above article. It follows: "On Sunday afternoon, four days after he was picked up by the state trooper for having a mental

breakdown on Highway 26, the man was given a courtesy ride to the Astoria Transit Center. Police bought him a bus ticket to Portland."

The untreated (the lack of services was clearly described in previous paragraphs), ill person was placed, apparently alone, on a public bus for a 2-hour, 100-mile ride to Portland. What does this "solution" say for the welfare of the man, the bus driver and passengers, as well as other motorists on the road at that time?

I thought public safety was the primary concern of sworn officers in our cities and counties. What would be the city's liability if an "accident" had occurred? Granted, a courtesy drive to Portland by an officer would be costly, but consider the possible alternatives.

**Melissa Cadwallader  
Cannon Beach**

### New volunteer training at the Harbor

Volunteer training with the Harbor begins Tuesday, Sept. 29. Class will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Come learn the basics in compassionate communication, crisis intervention, active listening, the impact of oppression on individuals and communities, domestic violence and the law and more. The training includes educators from the Harbor as well as experienced guest speakers from the community.

Volunteer opportunities are available at the shelter, during community events and special projects. Some volunteers work in the Harbor's client service office, Déjà Vu's donation center, and as ongoing advocates for individuals accessing services.

All volunteers will need to attend the first training. Training requirements vary depending on the type of volunteer posi-

tion. Contact Chris, volunteer coordinator, at 503-325-3426, or visit 1361 Duane St, Astoria to pick up a volunteer packet.

### Add your voice to Cannon Beach Chorus

The Cannon Beach Chorus, under the direction of Dr. John Buehler, will begin the fall 2015 performance season on Monday, Sept. 14, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Cannon Beach Community Church, 132 E. Washington St., Cannon Beach. Entering their 27<sup>th</sup> year, the chorus will begin rehearsing choral literature representing music from the 1800s to the present and includes Mass in G by Franz Schubert with organ and string quartet; a collection of carols by British composer, John Rutter and a collection of seasonal favorites, all of which will be presented

at the December concerts.

The 55-voice chorus is open to singers age 16 and beyond. For more information about the Cannon Beach Chorus, visit cannonbeachchorus.org or call 503-436-0378.

### Bereavement support at Providence Seaside

A six-week bereavement support group, "Journey through Grief," for family and friends of those who have lost a loved one takes place at Providence Seaside Hospital Mondays, Sept. 21-Oct. 26 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. The group will meet at Providence Seaside Hospital Family Consult Room. There is no charge for the sessions but pre-registration is recommended.

The hospital is located at 725 S. Wahanna Road. Call Cynthia Livar at 503-717-7233 to register.

### Workshop will teach how to use Excel

Clatsop Economic Development Resources will hold a workshop Sept. 15 on using Microsoft Excel.

The workshop will teach participants how to navigate worksheets, organize data into rows and columns, format text and cells, write formulas and create charts.

The workshop costs \$15, payable at the workshop by credit card. The first installment takes place at the South Count Center, 1455 N. Roosevelt Drive in Seaside, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Sept. 15. The second runs from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Towler Hall Room 105 on the college's main campus, 1651 Lexington Ave. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/qy78tjn> for more information.

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## Welcome Dr. Wisbey Martin

**Erin Wisbey Martin, MD**  
Obstetrics/Gynecology  
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Dr. Wisbey Martin specializes in Women's Health (*Obstetrics and Gynecology*) and Family Medicine. She is accepting new patients and looking forward to building a practice in North Tillamook County. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Wisbey Martin and her husband to the community.

**To make an appointment, call:  
(503) 368-2292**

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