

We must be vigilant to protect our state's 'birthright'

When you enjoy Oregon beaches you're walking in shadows—yes, even on our precious sunny days. You're walking in the shadows of those who fought to keep our shoreline open to all. Many Oregonians have helped protect what Governor Oswald West called our “great birthright”—chief among them West himself and one of his successors, Tom McCall.

McCall was governor from 1967 to 1975 and even if he had done nothing else during his eight years in office, he would have secured his legacy forever by his labors in the spring and summer of his first year on the job. That was when he seized his bully pulpit to give the Beach Bill new life after it had been buried in a legislative committee.

You may know the basics—how Governor West's 1913 bill secured the wet sands portion of the beaches as a public highway, but by the 1960s, property owners had started to encroach into the dry sands area. A couple of who long enjoyed the beach in front of the Surfsand Motel and were distressed to find it blocked off by driftwood logs, a motel employee shooing them away.

GUEST COLUMN

By
BILL HALL

We don't have a Tom McCall anymore to warn us about 'the grasping wastrels of the land.'

McCall staged one of the most memorable photo-ops in Oregon history; some say the picture of him in his Pendleton jacket, jaw thrust forward, scowling at the Surfsand is the single most iconic photograph in Oregon history. The people won, the great birthright was preserved, and on July 7, 2017 (7-7-17), I hope you'll join me, my friend and publisher Matt Love, and thousands of other Oregonians in what will be one of the great celebrations in Oregon history.

It's great to celebrate the birthright, but we also have to be vigilant to protect it. We can imagine how awful it might have been if developers had been allowed to drive piles into the sands and place million dollar mansions, tacky-tack commercial development bringing candy shops and candle stores to the edge of the sea. We can also imagine how it could have been better—and still can be.

Earlier this year, Nestucca Spit Press published my utopian novel *McCallandia*. *McCallandia* imagines Tom McCall becoming Richard Nixon's successor as president of the United States. It's a new way to examine McCall the man, McCall the leader, the times he lived in, and what the unfulfilled possibilities were. When I was researching the book, I almost ached when I discovered we could have had a national Beach Bill.

Future Congressman Bob Eckhardt was a Texas state legislator in 1959 when the Lone Star state passed a beach bill that was one of the models for the Oregon law a few years later. Yes, Texas once had progressive leaders. When Eckhardt went to Washington at the end of the sixties, he introduced a national Beach Bill. The measure always



SUBMITTED PHOTO/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Gov. Tom McCall in Cannon Beach before signing of the Beach Bill in 1967.

died in committee, often not even getting a hearing. But suppose the president in the White House hadn't been Nixon or Reagan? Suppose the president had been a man who cared deeply about preserving the environment, including the public's right to access the beaches? Suppose the man in the Oval Office had been Tom McCall?

I had fun imagining McCall and Eckhardt working together on a Beach Bill. I hope you might have fun reading about that might-have-been. And I hope you'll resolve to

do what you can to make it happen someday. The leaders you choose at the local, state and national levels do make a difference. They work for all of us. We don't have a Tom McCall anymore to warn us about “the grasping wastrels of the land.”

We don't have another Tom McCall among us, so it's up to us to follow in his footsteps to protect the birthright.

Bill Hall is a full-time Lincoln County Commissioner and part-time novelist. “McCallandia” is his first book.

Meet the 'cheese guy' at workshop

For Cheese Lover's only! Introduction to Cheese and Cheese Making Workshop will be held at the Cannon Beach Chamber Community Hall on Wednesday, Dec. 9, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The workshop includes a cheese tasting of the seven major cheese families and a hands-on session where participants work in pairs to convert milk to cheese. Other sessions focus on the history and categorization of cheese and learning about the key steps of the cheese making process.

The class is offered and taught by Marc Bates, aka “Cheeseguy,” who has 48 years of experience in the industry. During this time, he managed the WSU Creamery and made “Cougar Gold” cheese. He more recently managed the OSU Creamery where he assisted with the startup and development of “Beaver Classic” cheese.

Bates has taught numerous cheesemaking short-courses in Washington, Idaho, Oregon and California. He has served as an official judge for the U.S. Cheese Championship and World Cheese championships hosted by the Wisconsin Cheesemakers Association, and also at competitions of the American Cheese Society and American Dairy Goat Association.

The intended audience is high school through adults who want to expand their love of cheese. The cost of the workshop, including samples and materials, is \$85 per person. Tickets to the event are advance purchase only through Eventbrite at cbcheese3.eventbrite.com

Transferring your ticket to another is welcome up to the start of the event.

Email cheeseguy@charter.net or phone Marc Bates at 509-595-8652.

Printmakers Collective exhibits work at Seaside library

Beginning Tuesday, Dec. 8 and running through Jan. 26, the North Coast Printmakers Collective will be showing original artwork at the Seaside Public Library. The exhibit will be displayed in the Community Room and foyer.

The North Coast Printmakers Collective endeavors

to promote education and excellence in fine art printmaking. Formally established in 2010, this group originally formed to raise public awareness of printmaking as an art genre and to find venues for their collective work, and has thus far offered six successful public exhibits. The group is comprised of

established and emerging artists working frequently in a unique community-based program with some shared studio space at Clatsop Community College in Astoria.

These inspired and obsessed artists produce quality original prints reflecting personal insights and shared aesthetics.

Included in the NCPC's repertoire are monotypes, monoprints, intaglio prints of all varieties, and relief prints including linocuts and woodblocks.

The Seaside Public Library is located at 1131 Broadway. For more information call 503-738-6742 or visit www.seasidelibrary.org.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Monday, Dec. 7

Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District Board of Directors, 6 p.m., Cannon Beach Fire Station, 188 Sunset Ave.

Tuesday, Dec. 8

Cannon Beach City Council, 6 p.m., work session, City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Wednesday, Dec. 9

Cannon Beach Networking, 8 a.m., Pizza a Fetta, 231 N. Hemlock St.

Thursday, Dec. 10

Elsie-Vinemapple RFPD, 7 p.m., 37564 Highway 26, Seaside.

Monday, Dec. 14

Cannon Beach Rural Fire Department, 7 p.m., 188 Sunset Ave.

Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District Board of Directors, 6 p.m., 188 W. 2nd St.

Tuesday, Dec. 15

Seaside School District, 6 p.m., 1801 S. Franklin St., Seaside.

Wednesday, Dec. 16

Cannon Beach Networking, 8 a.m., Pizza a Fetta, 231 N. Hemlock St.

Thursday, Dec. 17

Cannon Beach Parks and Community Services Committee, 9 a.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Cannon Beach Design Review Board, 6 p.m. City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Tuesday, Dec. 22

Cannon Beach Public Works Committee, 9 a.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Monday, Jan. 11

Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District Board of Directors, 6 p.m., 188 W. 2nd St.

Monday, Jan. 19

Seaside School District, 6 p.m., 1801 S. Franklin St.

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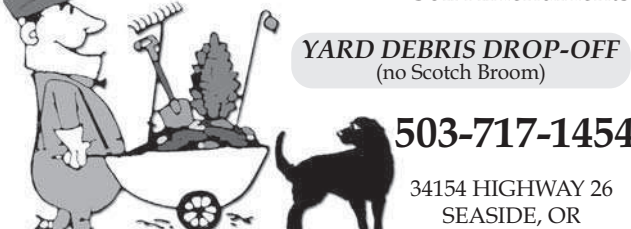
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