



TSUNAMI PREPARATION

After the BIG ONE

When the tsunami hits... then what?

By Nancy McCarthy
For Cannon Beach Gazette

When a tsunami washes over Cannon Beach, where will the estimated nearly 7,000 survivors go?

They first will head to 10 assembly areas plotted out by the city's emergency preparedness committee. But, while those assembly areas are in places that should be safe from high water, they aren't outfitted with the supplies necessary to ensure survival.

Although city officials originally planned to immediately move survivors from the assembly areas to three cache sites where barrels containing residents' personal supplies have been stored, that plan is being reconsidered.

Instead, the assembly sites will have the temporary shelters, food, water and communications gear necessary to help people for a few days until the initial crisis has subsided.

A map distributed by Les Wierson, a member of the emergency committee, during the committee's work session Jan. 13, shows that the roads leading to the cache sites, as well as U.S. Highway 101, will be closed due to debris. The debris — fallen trees from the Cascadia subduction zone earthquake that will trigger

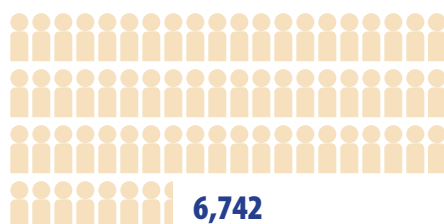
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CANNON BEACH ASSEMBLY SITE ESTIMATES

The Three Estimated Most populated Assembly Areas in Cannon Beach



Estimated total number of reaching all 10 assembly areas



DATA ACCORDING TO A STUDY CONDUCTED BY HARRY YEH, OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY



Designated tsunami evacuation assembly areas

1. Eighth Street and Ecola State Park Road
2. Sixth Street and Old Cannon Beach Road
3. Cannon Beach Bible Church, Hills Lane
4. Sunset Blvd.
5. Spruce Street and Arbor Lane
6. Elk Creek Road
7. Yukon Street at Milepost 30
8. Mid-Tolovana at Surfcrest Street
9. Haystack Heights and E. Chinook Street
10. Tolovana Mainline Road

- Legend**
- U.S. highway
 - Local route
 - Corp. city limit
 - State/local park
 - Assembly area
 - Inundation boundary (Maximum extent of Cascadia earthquake and tsunami event)

Source: City of Cannon Beach, Emergency Preparedness Committee
Alan Kenaga/EO Media Group

'LESS THAN 20 PERCENT OF THE SURVIVORS CAN REACH A CACHE SITE IN A REASONABLE OR SAFE TIME.'

LES WIERSON,
EMERGENCY COMMITTEE MEMBER

Ex-fire chief sues over firing

Balzer claims breach of contract, wrongful discharge, more

EO Media Group

The former fire chief in Cannon Beach has filed a lawsuit against the Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District alleging that his firing had nothing to do with his job performance.

Mike Balzer, who served as fire chief from January 2012 until he was fired in October, claims the fire district's board retaliated against him because of critical comments made by his wife on social media. He also alleges that board directors made comments about him after his firing that defamed him and damaged his reputation.

Balzer, who alleges breach of contract, wrongful discharge and defamation, is asking for more than \$525,000 in damages and his reinstatement as fire chief.

An attorney representing the fire district's board could not be reached for comment about the lawsuit, which was filed in Clatsop County Circuit Court in December.

Balzer's firing has caused an uproar in Cannon Beach.



Mike Balzer

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Zoning code would limit retail pot sales

Outlets would be few and far between

By Nancy McCarthy
For Cannon Beach Gazette

Even if the Cannon Beach City Council decides to allow retail marijuana outlets in town, there would be few locations available for them.

The council will discuss the issue at the next council meeting beginning Feb. 2, at 7 p.m. in City Hall. If the council decides not to allow retail outlets, the issue must be submitted to voters, according to state law. The vote would occur next November.

City Planner Mark Barnes told the City Council during January's work session that only the city's limited commercial zone (C1) would allow a recreational or medical dispensary or retail store as an outright use that could be permitted without a public hearing.

Other zones would require a conditional use permit, which means the applicant would have to appear before the city's planning commission to receive approval.

The city has three areas with the C1 zone: downtown, midtown and Tolovana Park. The area covered by C1 zoning includes 28.4 acres and 114 lots.

Marijuana grow operations probably would be allowed under the city's general commercial zone (C2), which permits "plant nurseries," Barnes said. Cannon Beach's only C2 zone is on the east side of U.S. Highway 101. The zone covers 5.2 acres and includes the city's public works yard, a Pacific Power substation, Cannon Beach Business Park and Coaster Construction. Expansion of the zone would require the council to approve amendments to the city's zoning ordinance.

Marijuana-related businesses — stores that sell paraphernalia but not marijuana — would be outright uses in both the C1 and C2 zones, according to Barnes.

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Boone seeks re-election for seventh term

By R.J. Marx
Cannon Beach Gazette

Rep. Deborah Boone announced this week she will seek her seventh term of office in Oregon House District 32.

On Monday, Boone, who lives in Hamlet and whose office is in Cannon Beach, filed for re-election to represent the district, which includes all of Clatsop and parts of Tillamook and Washington counties. She is a member of the House Environment and Energy Committee, Vice Chairwoman of the Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee and a member of the



Deborah Boone

Human Services Committee.

"We've made big strides on Oregonians' biggest priorities, but we still have a lot of work to do," Boone said in a statement. "Last year, we passed the largest K-12 budget in state history, funded full-day kindergarten for the first time, and made big investments in higher education. We also approved bonding for seismic upgrades for schools and public safety buildings that will make them safer in the event of earthquakes and will provide hundreds of jobs in the process."

Boone became a member of the House in August 2004, after she was named to replace Rep. Elaine Hopson.

In 2014, Boone garnered 61 percent of the vote, winning 14,831 votes to Warrenton Republican Rick Rose's 9,677.

Top priorities

Boone said she was running to protect education, public safety and to improve the region's economy.

As a legislator, Boone introduced the Oregon Resilience Plan and helped create a senior policy advisor position on resilience in the governor's office, promoting renewable energy projects, ocean and fisheries policy and services for seniors and veterans.

Previously, Boone served 16 years as a legislative assistant to seven legislators. She also served as a Clatsop County commissioner, among other roles.

"One of my top priorities is emergency and tsunami preparedness," Boone said in a phone interview Monday.

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