

# Balloons carried explosives over Pacific

For many of us, the word balloon is synonymous with happy memories; childhood water balloon fights, birthdays, celebration. The concept of a balloon being used for destruction and mayhem is shocking, but that's exactly what happened towards the end of World War II.

Even in 2013, many were unaware that these armaments had ever existed. A surprising fact when one considers that these bombs were possibly the first known example of intercontinental weaponry.

What many may not understand is how the Japanese figured out how to use the Pacific jet stream. During the 1940s the Axis power conducted several atmospheric experiments. Part of this was mapping out air currents by launching balloons with measuring instruments attached from the west side of Japan and retrieving them on the east side. During this study researchers discovered a strong air current known as the Jet Stream.

It was conjectured that something could travel this stream of air and possibly reach the United States. In November of 1944, they did just that. Japan admits that the first of the balloon bombs were released into the jet stream towards the end of the war. The tables had turned, and in what many consider a last-ditch effort Japan began launching balloons carrying explosive and incendiary bombs. An amazing feat if you think about it.

What is even more impressive is how the United States figured out where these devices were coming from. The point of origin wasn't apparent upon landing, so it was up to those who discovered intact devices to figure out exactly where they had come from. According to an article published in National Geographic several years ago, it was forensic geologists who made the discovery of where the balloons were coming from. They used sand discovered in the ballasts of the balloons, to pin point that the balloons were most likely being launched from the island of Honshu, Japan.

Of the 9,000 balloon bombs that Japan has admitted to send-

**REFLECTIONS**  
ELAINE TRUCKE



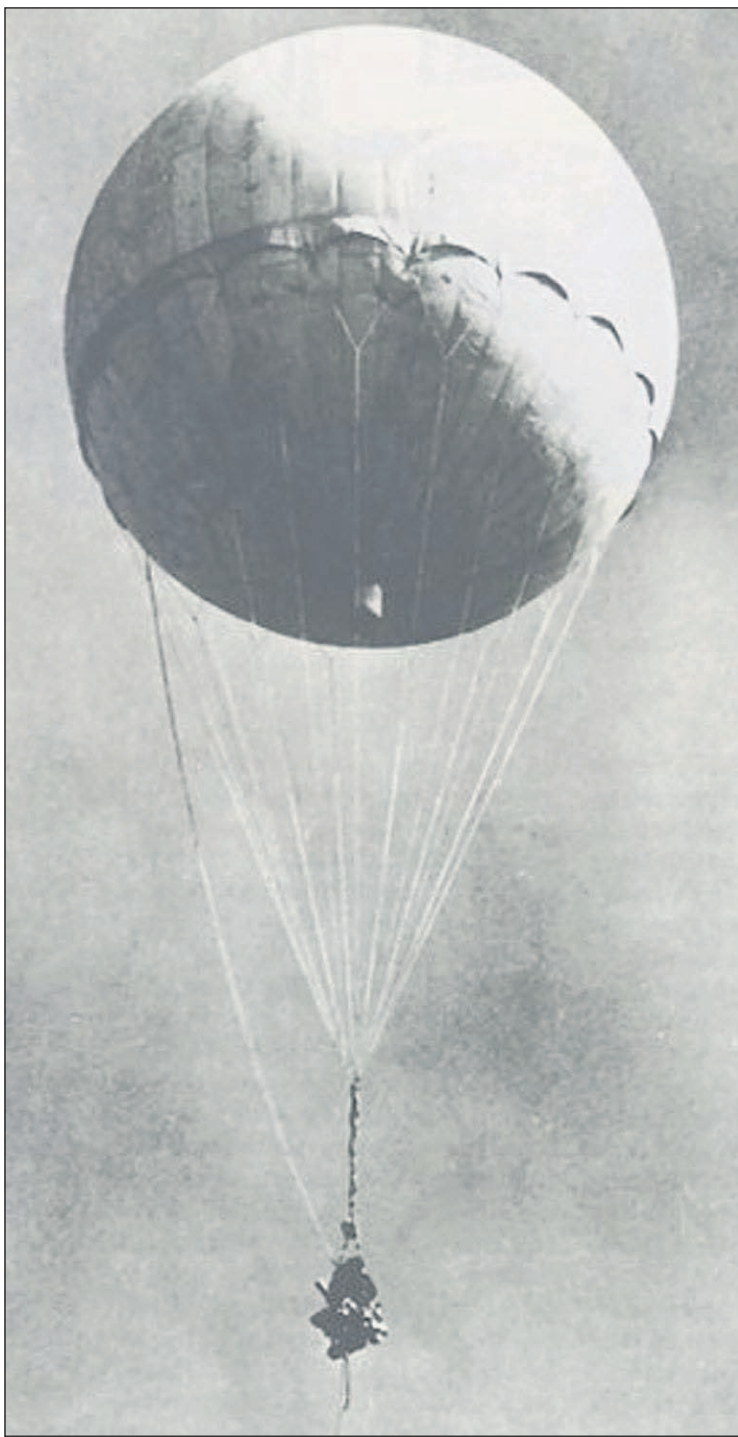
## Balloon bomb facts

- ◆ These bombs were possibly the first known example of intercontinental weaponry.
- ◆ Forensic geologists used sand in the ballasts of the balloons to trace them to the island of Honshu, Japan.
- ◆ Of the 9,000 balloon bombs sent to the U.S. there were only 342 incidents.
- ◆ 45 bomb incidents occurred in Oregon.
- ◆ In May 1945, a pastor's pregnant wife and several children from their church accidentally triggered a bomb and were killed.

ing to the U.S. there were only 342 incidents. Of these, 45 occurred in Oregon. Of all of these incidents only one resulted in casualties, a fact that was kept secret until the war was over.

It seems clear that there wasn't a specific target. They were simply releasing something capable of destruction and hoping that it would wreak havoc. It was not an unusual move for Japan during World War II. They had made multiple attempts in Oregon to cause forest fires, with limited success. The balloons were successful in one way, their ingenuity. Balloons reached as far inland as Detroit, surprising fact to many. Most probably ended up deep in Oregon, Washington, and Californian forests far from civilians. Unfortunately, at least one balloon found a target.

In May 1945, a pastor's pregnant wife and several children from their church were picnicking just outside Bly. While exploring they happened upon an unusual object, which turned



SUBMITTED PHOTO/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

**Balloon bombs were transported by winds over the Pacific Ocean during World War II, many landing in the United States.**

out to be one of the incendiary bombs from a balloon bomb. They accidentally triggered it and were killed.

The citizens and media of Bly and surrounding towns were asked to keep this loss secret. The military did not want to let Japan know that one of their devices had been successful. This was the only casualty to have occurred on the continental United States during World War II. The

balloon bombs were and are still dangerous. Not the joyful creations of your youth, but things made for war. For more information on World War II on the Oregon coast visit the Cannon Beach History Center & Museum, open Thursday through Monday from 1 to 5 p.m. For an even more exciting perspective on the balloon bombs check out the documentary "On Paper Wings" by Oregon documentarian, Ilana Sol.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Economic development group hosts February workshops

Clatsop Economic Development Resources, the county's primary economic development agency, has several workshops for small business owners coming up in February at Clatsop Community College.

All classes have preregistration. For more information or to register for class online, visit [www.clatsoped.com](http://www.clatsoped.com). For questions or help in registering, call 503-338-2402 or email [sbdc@clatsopcc.edu](mailto:sbdc@clatsopcc.edu)

### Clinic hopes to offer primary, substance abuse services

Wendy Hemsley, who helped set up Awakenings by the Sea, a drug and alcohol treatment center in Seaside for women, said a thought kept coming to her.

"I kept saying that someone should open a clinic that provides primary care and ancillary support for people with substance abuse," said Hemsley, who runs her own medical billing company and has helped start up several clinics.

Late last year, Hemsley turned her thought into reality, opening the North Coast Medical Clinic inside the Spexarth Building in downtown Astoria, offering a hybrid of primary care, substance abuse and mental health care services.

The clinic recently moved to 441 30th St. in the Mill Pond neighborhood, where it will hold an open house from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday.

### Newmans at 988 presents anniversary dinner

Chef John Newman and his wife Sandy are hosting a celebratory dinner Friday, Feb. 5, to commemorate their 10-year anniversary of Newmans at 988 in Cannon Beach on the Oregon Coast.

The dinner will replicate the cult movie classic "Big Night" set in the 1950s on the New Jersey shore and will feature six courses with wines.

This is their 10th year in recreating the menu featured in the movie.

The meal is centered around a pasta dish called "timpano," or drum. Also on the menu are soup, a risotto course, a fish course and porchetta and of course dessert. Specially selected Italian wines will accompany each course and be presented by wine maker Aaron Coe.

The cost per person is \$99 and space is limited. This is a family-style seating event unless prior arrangements are made. Call 503-436-1151 for more information or to make reservations.

Newmans at 988 is located at 988 Hemlock at the corner of Harrison Street.

# 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 FEBRUARY 2016

<b>2</b>	<b>City Council Regular Meeting</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>City Council Work Session</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Design Review Board</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>Planning Commission</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>

### CITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION, January 5, 2016

Council met in executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2) (b) to consider the dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent who does not request an open hearing.

### CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, January 5, 2016

- Authorized staff to apply for a State Homeland Security Grant which could be used to purchase emergency management equipment, such as command tents, generators etc. This is a non-matching grant so there would be no cost to the City;
- Reappointed Sharon Clyde to the Budget Committee, Todd Rowley to the Design Review Board and Hank Johnson to the Planning Commission;
- Approved adding a section to the Council Rules of Procedure to address 'tie votes';
- Approved the selection criteria for the Auditing Services Request for Proposal;
- Approved the selection criteria for the following Request for Qualifications: Parks, Water & Waste Water master plans;
- Approved the ground lease agreement between the City and the Cannon Beach Library until the year 2070;
- Approved the renewal of a 5 year ground lease agreement between the City and the Tolovana Arts Colony.

### CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING AND WORK SESSION, January 12, 2016

- Accepted the financial statements and supplemental information for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, with independent auditor's

- report in the Special Meeting;
- The City Planner presented maps depicting different time, place, manner options to Council to aid in their discussion of the establishment of recreational and medical marijuana retail outlets within the city, in the work session.

### EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

- The City has hired a new Receptionist/Municipal Court Clerk. Samantha Palmieri began work at City Hall on Monday, January 4, 2016;
- A Team Building session has been organized for City Councilors. This will take the place of the annual goal setting. Goals will be set at the Strategic Planning scheduled for later in the spring;
- The Citizen Survey will be mailed to every household in Cannon Beach in mid-February. The results of this survey will help the City draft its Strategic Plan.

**DESIGN REVIEW BOARD** - At their December 17, 2015 meeting the DRB discussed:  
**DRB 15-14**, Harding, Application for Major Modifications at 277 Beaver Avenue - **Approved with Conditions**  
**DRB 15-15**, Haystack Gardens, Application for Landscape Modifications at 148 E Gower Street - **Approved with Conditions**

At their January 21, 2016 meeting the DRB discussed:  
**FS 16-01**, Cottage Crafter's Collection Sign Located at 1347 S Hemlock Street - **Approved**

**PLANNING COMMISSION** - At their December 21, 2015 meeting the Planning Commission discussed:

- SR 15-05**, Tolovana Architects Request for a Setback Reduction in Conjunction with the Construction of a New Garage at 159 Center Street - **Continued to February**
- PD 15-01**, Nicholson Request for Final Approval (Stage Three) Criteria for PD 14-01, Plan Development at 532 N Laurel Street - **Continued to January**

The Planning Commission is scheduled to meet January 28, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

### HELPFUL TIPS FROM YOUR CANNON BEACH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

#### Winterize Your Vehicle

Check or have a mechanic check the following items on your car:

- **Antifreeze levels** - ensure they are sufficient to avoid freezing.
- **Battery and ignition system** - should be in top condition and battery terminals should be clean.
- **Brakes** - check for wear and fluid levels.
- **Exhaust system** - check for leaks and crimped pipes and repair or replace as necessary. Carbon monoxide is deadly and usually gives no warning.
- **Fuel and air filters** - replace and keep water out of the system by using additives and maintaining a full tank of gas. A full tank will keep the fuel line from freezing.
- **Heater and defroster** - ensure they work properly.
- **Lights and flashing hazard lights** - check for serviceability.
- **Oil** - check for level and weight. Heavier oils congeal more at low temperatures and do not lubricate as well.
- **Thermostat** - ensure it works properly.
- Windshield wiper equipment - repair any problems and maintain proper washer fluid level.

- **Install good winter tires** - Make sure the tires have adequate tread. All-weather radials are usually adequate for most winter conditions. However, some jurisdictions require that to drive on their roads, vehicles must be equipped with chains or snow tires with studs.

#### Update the emergency kits in your vehicles with:

- A shovel
- Windshield scraper and small broom
- Flashlight
- Battery powered radio
- Extra batteries
- Water
- Snack food
- Matches
- Extra hats, socks and mittens
- First aid kit with pocket knife
- Necessary medications
- Blanket(s)
- Tow chain or rope
- Road salt and sand
- Booster cables
- Emergency flares
- Fluorescent distress flag

### NOTICE OF VACANCIES CITY COMMISSIONS, BOARDS & COMMITTEES

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

#### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE: THREE (3) vacancies

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 may schedule work sessions as needed.

#### PLANNING COMMISSION: ONE (1) vacancy

The seven-member Planning Commission's primary responsibility is to review and consider land use matters and make determinations and recommendations regarding appropriate and orderly physical development of the City through the application of accepted standards and criteria. The term of office is four years. The Planning Commission holds its regular meeting on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. and work sessions are scheduled monthly as needed.

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](mailto:riggs@ci.cannon-beach.or.us), or online at [www.ci.cannon-beach.or.us](http://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 by 4:00PM, Monday January 25th. For more information, please contact Colleen Riggs by email or phone at (503) 436-8052.

#### City of Cannon Beach Tourism and Arts Commission To Accept Applications

The Tourism and Arts Commission (TAC) will soon be accepting applications for funding efforts to increase tourism to Cannon Beach in the shoulder seasons.

Do you have an idea for a promotion or event that would contribute to the arts, would bring in tourists traveling more than 50 miles for either day trips or overnight stays and would benefit the local economy? Tourism and Art Fund grants can be used for expenses like: personnel, special events, signage, attractions, promotional materials and advertising. Past events and activities funded by TAC include the Cannon Beach Yoga Festival, Get Lit at the Beach, Cannon Beach Arts Association Juried Shows and the Coaster Theater to name a few.

The TAC would love to hear from you! Applications are due by 2:00PM, May 4, 2016, and awards are made within 75 days.

For information on the guidelines, procedures and applications for funds, please contact Colleen Riggs at [riggs@ci.cannon-beach.or.us](mailto:riggs@ci.cannon-beach.or.us) or by phone: 503.436.8052.

**CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED  
Monday, February 15, 2016 in observance of President's Day**