

Views from the Rock

# When good governance makes good romance, too

In this day and age of the politics of extremes and the unfathomable divides of left and right, a world tense with worry over the latest terror strike, and a Wall Street market that shows signs of throwing a tsunami, it's hard to get a good grip on Valentine's Day. I mean, really, Cupid and his bow? Blushing lovers holding hands? C'mon, now!

Lianne Thompson, a Clatsop County Commissioner and Arch Cape resident, celebrates her 71st birthday Sunday, Valentine's Day.

She accepted her marriage proposal from Ralph Wyatt before their first date. Lianne and Ralph were married in Cannon Beach just a few days after it.

## Policy wonks in love

Thompson and Wyatt met at an Association of Oregon Counties luncheon. She was attending as a delegate to the Council for Forest Trust Lands.

She'd "heard" of Wyatt before. He was the savvy Linn County Administrative Officer, almost a "legend" among state officialdom.

Both had been married before. Wyatt, 76, was widowed with three adult children after 54 years of marriage.

Thompson has three children from two previous marriages. Despite political differences — he's a registered Republican, she's not — they shared common values: "to do good and have fun."

"I was happy to see him because I like smart, capable and humble people," Thompson said. "He sat next to me at the luncheon but he didn't look at me. I wasn't sure if he didn't like me or was shy."

After the conference, "we kept talking, so I decided he was shy," she said. "He's low-key — what the Chinese would describe as 'wu-wei,' generating energy without resistance."

The association's December legislative committee coincided with the Annual Oregon Leadership Summit in Portland in mid-December. Wyatt and Thompson were both there.

"Listen, we're policy wonks," Thompson said. "We talked about everything. Politics, economic development, good governance. Good governance is essential to who I am as a person, because I believe in democracy and so does he."

## CANNON SHOTS

R.J. MARX



A couple of days after the summit ended, Wyatt called Thompson. "I'd like to get to know you better," he said. "Would you like to go to lunch?"

"Here's the deal," Thompson replied. "I said, 'If you want to be friends, I'm fine with that. If you're interested in romance, I'm ready for my third and final husband and I'm not interested in a dalliance.' We just kept talking from there."

On Dec. 28, Wyatt drove out to Thompson's home in Arch Cape armed with flowers and jewelry. "He dropped down to one knee and proposed," she said. "And I said, 'Ralph, I will.'"

"You get a good bureaucrat in action and we know how to get things done," she added.

Did they kiss?  
"Of course, silly!"

## Tying the knot

"I knew nothing about him except that I admired him and had the intuition that we could have a long-term, satisfying, complete marriage," Thompson said. "I could see that. But that's how I am."

"I said, 'I'll meet you in Portland on the 30th, get the ring, get the license and go to the symphony.'"

The ring, symbolizing Buddhism's "eight points of light," was "deep, subtle and beautiful," and resonated with Thompson's own personal outlook.

Then there were family and friends to notify.

Did Thompson care what other people thought?

"That's not how I live my life," Thompson said. "My son said, 'Mom, congratulations, best wishes I wish you every happiness.' My middle daughter understands and supports my decision. My youngest is not sure mom gets to behave so impulsively."

Wyatt's children said "We support you, Dad," he said. "There was a small element of 'What the hell were you thinking?'"

While the Episcopal Church advised a 60-day wait, Thompson and Wyatt were ready to tie the knot. Clatsop County's Community Development Director Heather Hansen



SUBMITTED PHOTO/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Ralph Wyatt and Lianne Thompson share a romantic moment.

offered to conduct the civil ceremony and Ann Fontaine provided the venue in Cannon Beach.

Wyatt continues to live in Corvallis and Thompson in Arch Cape. He plans on retiring in 2016; in the meantime, they get together every chance they get.

"From my perspective, we are truly blessed," Wyatt said. "My daughter described me as giddy, and I'm probably still in that state."

"It's fricking amazing!" Thompson said. "Who'da think it?"

## Happy Valentine's Day

Thompson has guidance for those seeking a little more Valen-

tine's Day romance in their lives.

"Do your work," she advises. "Be a contributor to the community. Do what clarifies, cleanses and uplifts you. Be courageous about asking what you want and being open to what it looks like."

"Live in such a way with no regrets, to see as far as you can, be kind to other people, be courageous about taking risks. Be generous. It's great to spread joy instead of pain and heartbreak."

"Well, my advice would be, if the door opens with opportunity, go through the door," Wyatt added. "You've got to be careful, but if you have the opportunity, go for it."



SUBMITTED PHOTO/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Lianne Thompson displays her ring.

# If Tom McCall had been elected to the presidency

Library friends, if you're anything like me, Feb. is just about the time I feel ready for spring to finally arrive. I adore rain, wind, heavy surf, and storms in general — but I'm getting ready for buds on trees, the blooming of bulbs, and being able to leave the library door wide open!

But not too surprisingly, we at the library are filling our days with lots of reading and special events.

## Happy birthday to us!

Feb. is the month we celebrate the birthday of our library — we are 89 years old this year!! In 1927 eight Cannon Beach women put together a small library in a store in town, checking out books on loan to us each week from the state librarian. Today, decades later, we have

## AT THE LIBRARY

CARLA O'REILLY



nearly 15,000 books in our in-house collection and thousands more in our digital collection — a far cry from our tiny beginnings. We can be very proud of what we have achieved, made possible by community supporters, donors, and volunteers!

February is also Library Lovers' Month. For the entire month we will be celebrating all public and private libraries alike. But that's not all for Feb.

On Feb. 10 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Dr. Debbie Duffield of Oregon State

University will be at the library as part of our November to April HRAP lecture series. The title of Duffield's lecture will be "Marine Mammals, the Marine Mammal Stranding Network and Marine Reserves".

Three days later on Saturday, Feb. 13, author Bill Hall will be speaking about his new book "McCallandia."

In this year of politics, Mr. Hall focuses on "what might have been," if Oregon Governor Tom McCall had become Richard Nixon's successor as President of the United States. The Author Series will be at 2 p.m. at the library.



By the fireplace from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 17, the Cannon Beach Reads group will be discussing this month's selection, The Heart is a Lonely Hunter, by Carson McCullers, which they've been reading. Marjorie MacQueen is February's discussion leader. As always, new members are welcome.

## Other opportunities

Volunteers are needed in several areas. Members of the Adopt-a-Section group need help organizing and cleaning bookshelves throughout our library. Volunteers are also needed to repair spine labels on books, audiobooks, and DVDs. Book pricers are needed during

preparation of books for our ongoing book sale. And finally, desk volunteers are always needed at the circulation desk. If you have a little time and can help us, please contact Buddie, our office manager at 503-436-1391 or info@cannonbeachlibrary.org.

And finally, make 2016 the year you learn to access books by means of our eBooks program. Buddie is also the person to contact if you need help doing this, and we have introductory materials available at the circulation desk.

So as we work our way to the sweeter weather of springtime, this is a reminder that our Cannon Beach Library stands ready to help us get through what remains of winter — stop in and warm up!

# Finding the 'quiet season' isn't so quiet in our city

I've been waiting for Cannon Beach's "quiet season" to hit The Wine Shack and Provisions 124, but I haven't seen it yet. Yes, we've had rainy days with only a couple of customers, but we've been busy getting the stores ready for summer.

We've finished remodeling The Wine Shack store and tasting room. Contractor Todd Rowley, from TNT Construction, did a beautiful job installing new lights which do a really nice job of highlighting the wine bottles. The bottles seem to sparkle with the new lighting focused on them. Todd also re-faced the front counter with wine barrel staves laid out in a weave pattern. I had seen this design

## UNCORKED RAMBLINGS

STEVE SINKLER



before and I always thought it was an interesting way to use old wine barrel staves. We also had a new Wine Shack sign made for inside the store. Made by a metal shop in Austin, Texas, the new Wine Shack signs helps create a fresh, slightly industrial, feel for the store and tasting room.

The next vintage of Puffin wines are almost here! Our new 2015 Puffin rosé is bottled, labeled and ready for me to pick up. This wine has big

shoes to fill as our previous Puffin Rose' was "Best of Class" at Savor Northwest and was named a "Top Pick" by Oregon Wine Press. Puffin Pinot Gris 2015 is still in tanks, but the labels have been approved and the wine should be bottled by the end of February. We're almost ready to release our 2013 Puffin pinot noir. I've submitted it to the upcoming Savor Northwest Wine Competition, held here in Cannon Beach and I can't wait for the judges to try the wine. It's elegant and delicious. We've been keeping a secret that we can finally share. The Puffin flock is expanding this spring. Puffin chardonnay 2015 will be released in ear-

ly spring. We've been collaborating with John Derthick, the winemaker at Lujon Cellars on several Puffin wines and I'm really excited to have John make our new chardonnay. John knows what he's doing with it come to the world's most popular white wine as evidenced by his 2013 Lujon chardonnay, which earned 91 points and was named a "Best Buy" by Wine Enthusiast. The chardonnay is still in oak barrels and should be released by April. If you're a chardonnay fan, you're going to be happy.

We've also been working on a new Puffin wine club that we expect to debut in April. We've wanted to

start a Puffin wine club since we bought the store and with the addition of the new chardonnay, the time is right. We'll release more details about the Puffin wine club as we get close to its launch.

We're also doing some work in Provisions 124 during the quiet season. We've added lighting to brighten up the store, added more local food products and more artisanal cheese. We're also adding more in-store signage to help cheese lovers find the perfect wine.

With everything we've been working on, it clearly isn't the quiet season.

Please drink responsibly.

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