

Views from the Rock

Former mayor Morgan says let bylaws be bylaws

CANNON SHOTS
R.J. MARX



A couple of months back we wrote about Initiative Petition 28, a state proposal headed to the November ballot. Corporations with more than \$25 million in revenues would be subject to a gross receipts tax, with a new levy of 2.5 percent of their gross Oregon sales. The \$5.3 billion it could raise over two years would go into the state's general fund.

Former Cannon Beach Mayor Mike Morgan likes the proposal. He thinks it's fair to raise state funds for education and public safety through a tax on the state's largest companies. And he doesn't want to see local business groups derail a fund that could provide money for Oregon's schools, which, he said, are desperately short-changed.

Safety, school needs

Oregon is 49th out of 50 states in business tax rankings, behind only Louisiana, Morgan said. Washington state is 24th, he added, citing statistics from the nonprofit group A Better Oregon, an advocate for the corporate earnings tax.

"That's the thing that struck me," Morgan said over coffee at Sleepy Monk. "Look at some of the states that have higher taxes but a much stronger economy. You can't possibly make the argument it's going to hurt the economy."

Morgan and proponents initiative say it would fund schools and services, to the tune of more than \$2 billion a year, bumping up the general fund by "10 percent or so."

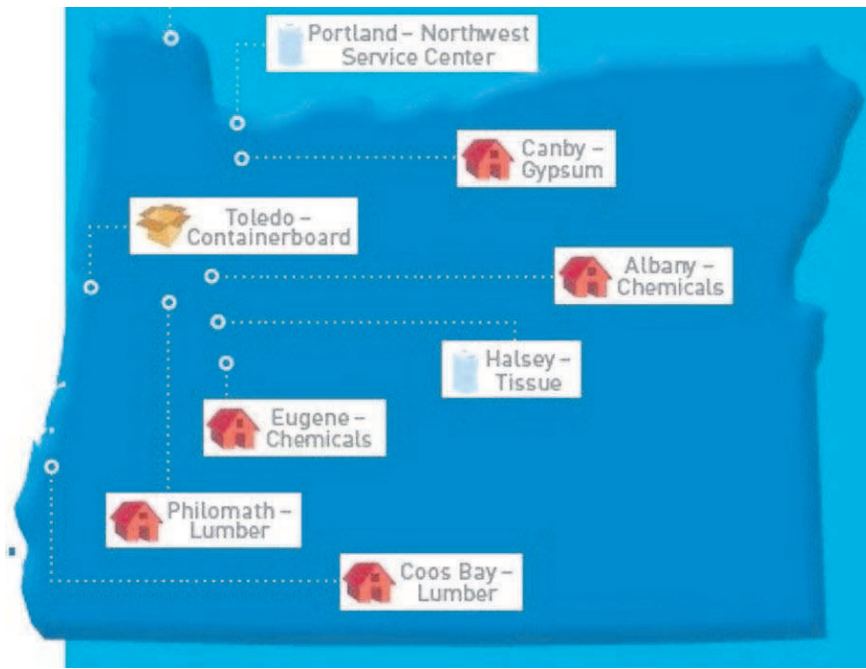
"Thirty-four hundred teachers laid off in last decade, third-largest class size in the nation, 200,000 people who don't have health insurance," Morgan said. "Oregon, supposedly such a progressive state, has such a terrible higher education system. The amount of money the state provides to the higher education system is pathetic compared to other states."

A portion of the \$2.5 billion per year potentially raised by the tax could be used for emergency preparedness: building and retrofitting the state's at-risk hospitals, schools, city halls, and police and fire stations.

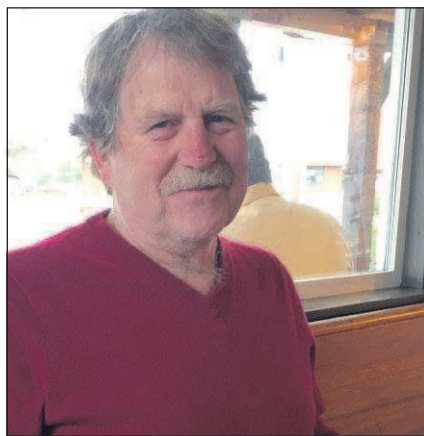
Morgan said he is outraged the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce is considering a change in bylaws to allow lobbying in opposition to the tax.

"It's not going to affect mom-and-pop operations," Morgan said. "It will affect the Intels, Walmarts and the Georgia-Pacific. I think it's amazing that the chambers of commerce brought this issue up. Probably the only corporation in Clatsop County that has more than \$25 million in sales is the Koch Brothers' Wauna Mill on the Columbia River."

Wauna Mill's parent Georgia-Pacific has revenue in the billions, Morgan said,



Georgia-Pacific holdings in Oregon.



R.J. MARX/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Mike Morgan

a substantial slice of that from Oregon operations.

Koch brothers in mix

Our attention really perked when Morgan mentioned the Koch brothers. Bringing them into a political debate is like throwing red meat to the lions. The brothers — Charles and David — are summoned as demons by the progressive left and heralded as not-so-quiet doers for the right.

Koch Industries Inc. purchased Georgia-Pacific for \$21 billion in 2005. Georgia-Pacific, according to their own business overview, employs 2,000 people in nine Oregon locations from Clatskanie to Coos Bay. The company provides a total of \$517 million in total combined wages and benefits to Oregon workers and \$662 million in capital investment for growth.

In Clatsop County, one doesn't need to do much research to find a direct connection.

"Georgia-Pacific's Wauna paper mill, which turns 50 this year, remains the largest single employer in Clatsop County, with more than 800 employees," wrote Edward Stratton in The Daily Astorian last October.

Are the Koch brothers fighting this corporate tax?

We contacted Georgia-Pacific at their Atlanta, Georgia, office and Koch Industries in Wichita, Kansas.

"Thanks for reaching out to us on this and apologies for the delayed reply," David Dziok, Director, Communications Koch Companies Public Sector said in an email Tuesday. "This measure is not yet on the ballot and we're continuing to assess it. It's fair to say, however, that like hundreds of other employers in our state, we have some initial concerns. A \$5 billion tax increase on the sale of products and services that Oregon consumers buy every day will increase costs for Oregon families, small businesses and large employers alike."

Chamber role

A meeting of the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce — an independent chamber not affiliated with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce — on the topic locally was delayed, according to Executive Director Court Carrier.

"We were shy a few board of directors due to vacations, medical issues, and holiday conflicts from the weekend," Carrier said after the chamber's February meeting. "I have emailed our president requesting that he call a meeting of the bylaws committee to discuss it."

Morgan said the chamber should stay out of political lobbying.

"I'm glad Cannon Beach uses the bulk of its hotel and lodging revenues to run the city," Morgan said. "You've got expenses caused by tourism, like police, parking lots, public restrooms, all of those things are directly caused by the influx of tourists."

"As far as political lobbying — the chamber would be wise to stay away from that," he added.

Civic Club did everything but bake our city's pies

Cannon Beach is very unique in many ways, while in other ways it is like many small towns. We look back on a bygone time, our memories dulled by nostalgia. Remember when so-and-so did this, or this was like that? It is easy to forget that changes are often be good, even if they do inevitably alter the feel or look of a town.

One big change for the small town of Cannon Beach occurred in 1927

when eight local women took it upon themselves to organize the "Cannon Beach Civic Club." The first step was to provide the town with a library. Books were brought in from the Oregon State Library in Salem for the town. That isn't the only thing that these women organized. They also promoted street lighting (back when street lights had to be lit), garbage disposals, better roads, and general beautification of the town.

The group managed these "projects," some might say the town, until 1947 when the Commercial Club got its start. The Cannon Beach Civic Club became the Cannon Beach Library and the Women's Club. The Commercial Club took over many of these projects, with the exception of baking pies every Thanksgiving and Christmas for the bachelors in town.

Many towns were deeply affected by World War II. This was a war that was just too close to home for many. It inspired many towns to take stock of their programs and organizations. Shortly after the end of the war, a home in Cannon Beach burned to the ground. It wasn't the first time by any means, but it was the first time that a death was related to the fire. It was this fire that inspired the formation of the Commercial Club. The club's first order of business was the formation of the Cannon Beach Fire Department in 1947 and the organization of the town's lifeguard program. Cannon Beach had a lifeguard program; the first lifeguard was hired in 1938. According to history books, the program wasn't sustained and the Commercial Club felt that the town needed it to be. This is one of the reasons that the Cannon Beach Fire Department and Lifeguard Department work so closely together.

At this time in our history Cannon Beach wasn't incorporated, so it was up to the Commercial Club to gather funds to support these incredibly important programs. The Club also collected funds to keep the street lights functioning, sidewalks repaired and more. Many of these tasks were taken over when Cannon Beach became incorporated in 1957.

What would Cannon Beach be without its volunteer firefighters or its warm and welcoming library? One of the few libraries that still operates as a private nonprofit, in essence ensuring that both organizations remain owned by the town and in so doing, adding to the town's unique charm.

The perfect wardrobe for birdwatching in the rain

After growing up and living in Minnesota and then at 2,400 feet on Mount Adams in Washington for a total of 38 years, I love living where it doesn't snow massive amounts all winter long. I have never had to shovel rain!

That said, I don't totally love the rain when I want to bird. Keeping binoculars and eyeglasses free of water can be a real issue, as was the case last month when I was hunting for the pine grosbeak at Fort Clatsop.

My husband bought me a terrific hat with a wide brim to keep rain off my glasses and the back of my neck (I don't like drips down my back and I can't wear a hood because then I can't hear the birds!) So this hat really serves a great purpose and makes me look quite dapper as well!

The third or fourth trip out to Netul Landing at Fort Clatsop, was one of the rainiest days we have had at 3.38 inches. As I often do, I was wearing my fabulous hat and binoculars (with a harness — another comfort gift from my loving husband) and holding a handkerchief over the lens of my binocs. It was raining so hard! Visibility was low and I thought my chances of seeing the bird were minimal. But wait, I heard it and there is was only 25 feet from me. I glanced down at my binocs to remove the cover and SPLOOSH, all the water that had been collecting, unbeknownst to me, on my hat flushed over my visual aids. UGH! Luckily the bird was cooperative and hung out until I slipped my camera out, got a few shots and a video! (very cooperative).

I did my happy "saw a new bird" dance, learned a lesson about my hat and for once didn't mind about being wet!

Five people walked around the north Cannon Beach neighborhood in February. Join the group for more birding adventures in the Cannon Beach area. We meet the first Sunday of the month at the Lagoon Trail parking lot on Second Street at 9:00am. As a group, we decide where the best birding is and bird until about 11. Bring binoculars and wear appropriate clothing. Everyone is welcome! Upcoming dates are March 6 and April 3. Join us!

Also, please mark your calendars for April 9 — the fourth annual North Oregon Coast Birdathon, an event inspired by Cannon Beach's 12 Days of Earth Day (April 11-22). Together we will raise much needed funds for the rehabbing birds and wildlife at the Wildlife Center of the North Coast. Information on the birdathon can be found on the 12 Days of Earth Day website at TwelveDaysofEarthDay.com.

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.

REFLECTIONS
ELAINE TRUCKE



BIRD NOTES
SUSAN BOAC



Dueling statistics

Oregon has the lowest corporate taxes in the nation, says the advocacy group A Better Oregon. The average Oregonian is getting paid \$1,000 to \$2,000 less today than they were in 2002.

At the same time, corporate profits have risen by 170 percent and just reached a new record high. According to a Council on State Taxation study, in 2013, only \$500 million of the \$6.2 billion the state collected in business taxes was from corporate income, they state.

But the conservative Cascade Policy Institute reaches far different conclusions. The state's economic outlook, based on 15 public policies

under state control such as personal and business tax levels, minimum wage rates, and Right to Work status, has slipped from 35th in 2008 to 45th today.

"Oregon offers the eighth-worst policy climate for entrepreneurship and small business growth among the 50 states," the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council finds.

"Oregon imposes the second-highest personal income and capital gains taxes, high unemployment taxes, a state death tax, and a high state minimum wage. Oregon also has a weighty energy regulatory burden."

OBITUARY POLICY

The Cannon Beach Gazette publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at www.dailyastorian.com/obituaryform, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria. For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

Memorial Sunday, Feb. 28

MOORE, Boice R. — Celebration of life at 2 p.m., Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 320 First Ave. in Seaside. Reception follows at the Seaside Fire Hall, 150 S. Lincoln St. Moore, 79, of Manzanita, died Monday, Feb. 1, 2016, in Portland. Crown Memorial Center in Tualatin is in charge of the arrangements.

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CANNON BEACH GAZETTE
The Cannon Beach Gazette is published every other week by EO Media Group.
1555 N. Roosevelt, Seaside, Oregon 97138
503-738-5561 • Fax 503-738-9285
Web: www.cannonbeachgazette.com
Email: editor@cannonbeachgazette.com

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Annually: \$40.50 in county, \$58.00 in and out of county.
Postage Paid at: Cannon Beach, OR 97110
POSTMASTER
Send address changes to Cannon Beach Gazette, P.O. Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103
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