

# You can run 3,000 miles but you can't hide from Donald Trump

Whenever I'm in CB people want to talk to me about Donald Trump. It's not because the Donald and I have the same hairdresser, but we did live in the same town, Bedford, New York.

"You must write another article on your old pal Donald Trump," Rex Amos wrote. "You might be interested to know that I keep telling Diane that if he'd just shave off that horse's mane, he'd look just like Mussolini. You know, the way he purses his lips and juts his jaw. Well, today he quoted Mussolini. The NASCAR circuit loved him for it! We have become dumbed down in our everloving search for entertainment. Our culture is becoming caramel corn (which I really like)."

For the record, I am no "pal" of Trump. I talked to him as a journalist a few times on the phone, the first time after he won a lawsuit against the town I lived in and another when he gave comment on a lawsuit he won against the Nature Conservancy, a nonprofit the Trump Organization doing business as Seven Springs had just K.O.-ed in court.

Both times, I might add, he was quite cheerful. In general, though, I fear I may be in the same category as the protester Trump singled out at Central Florida University. "Get that guy out of here," Trump snapped to his security force. "But don't hurt him."

As entertaining as Trump is today when he's not discussing actual policy, he was making us laugh — and weep — in Bedford long before his first bankruptcy.

Trump is the owner of Seven Springs, 213 acres straddling three suburban towns. (The address of Seven Springs, incidentally, 52 Oregon Road, may give Trump something of a "native son" feel to us in the Beaver State.)

Trump planned to turn the fancy estate into a Masters-quality 750-member golf course. When neighbors objected to limos arriving on dirt roads and choppers landing on wetlands, the plan stalled.

A decade ago Trump said he would build a ghetto of 109 luxury

## CANNON SHOTS

R.J. MARX



homes if the three towns — Bedford, North Castle and New Castle — didn't approve his golf course.

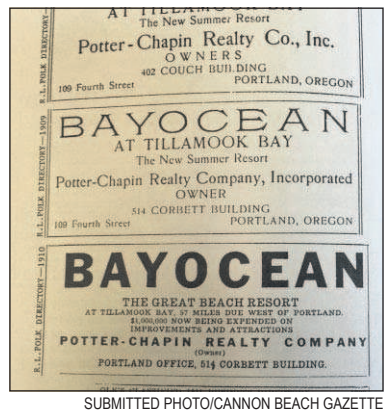
While Trump's plans slogged through the courts, he decided to rent the place out. He made the most daring short-term rental deal ever, leasing his property to Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi and entourage.

The Libyans were occupied pitching tents when town officials told them they were violating local zoning code.

A couple years later Trump declared "he got the better of Gadhafi in the deal" by refusing to return the dictator's deposit.

Foregoing Seven Springs as transient lodging, Trump's son Eric moved in.

Meanwhile, there is no golf course there and the McMansions have yet to be built.



Advertisements for Bayocean, a development since sunk into the sea.

## Public, private interest

My dad, who retired to western Michigan a few years back, has long been railing about a guy named Aubrey McClendon, the CEO of Chesapeake Energy, a midwestern Trump, bullying everyone in his way.

McClendon bought what's known as the Denison property, overlooking the mouth of the Kalamazoo River,

in 2006 for \$39.5 million. He sold a portion which is now the Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area, but was involved in a lengthy legal battle over his plans for a development that would include high-end homes, a resort and golf course.

The McLendon developer of Singapore Dunes has built a two-mile, paved road in what are described as "critical dunes" along Lake Michigan to provide access to proposed homes.

As I'm writing this my dad informed me McClendon was killed in a crash in Oklahoma City after his car hit a bridge at high speeds early this month. It happened the day after McClendon was indicted on federal bid-rigging charges accusing him of conspiring to suppress prices for oil and natural gas leases.

## Castles in the sand

The North Coast has faced big egos before — it took Gov. Tom McCall to stand up in 1967 in Cannon Beach to the string of developers, successful and not, who have chosen to take their God-given rights as corporate citizens all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

A little more than a century ago, real estate developer Thomas Benton Potter and surveyor H.L. Chapin were so eager to make a quick buck that despite geologic evidence to the contrary, he built a town along the Oregon coast, south of Nehalem, called Bayocean. It was billed as "the next Atlantic City."

"Never once," wrote author Bert Webber in his book "Bayocean," "did Potter seem concerned about putting buildings on sand foundations." The town of Bayocean fell into the sea one house at a time, until 1952 when giant breakers collapsed the spit leaving an island separated from the land by a mile of ocean. Within a month the population dwindled to six people.

Author Matt Love may be touching an important nerve when he writes in "The Great Birthright": "Ever since the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980, much of the country had suffered from an ongoing political conspiracy to implant a virus to privatize, profitize and corporatize



AP PHOTO/SCOTT HEPPELL

Presidential contender Donald Trump looks on at the 16th green on the 1st first day of the Women's British Open golf championship on the Turnberry golf course in Turnberry, Scotland, 2015.

everything. The virus was of such a malignant strain that it had weakened the resolve for community leaders and politicians to come out in favor of anything that proposed or even lauded elevating the larger public good over the smaller private interest."

Matt Love is not the only Oregonian to share this thought. His passion for the land and sea — and the shared goals of most Oregonians — is what keeps our beaches public and forests protected. It is important for Oregonians to cherish this rare privilege.

## Straight to the top

Back to my pal, the Donald.

Long before Trump's presidential visions were an apple in Melania's eyes, his political charisma was apparent. In 2014, New York's 19th congressional district lacked a Republican candidate to face off against incumbent Sean Patrick Maloney. Maloney had easily knocked off a health care industry lobbyist in 2012 and the GOP needed some muscle to compete.

Perhaps prophetically, we wrote: "Finally, we are confident that Donald Trump, despite a Bedford residence, will not run for Congress. Unless someone asks him to."

He skipped Congress.

## Save these dates at the library

AT THE LIBRARY  
CARLA O'REILLY



Because spring break time is nearly upon us, we have a very exciting program planned this month, a special event for children of all ages — our own Brett Willyard, a local magician, will be putting on a show at the library Saturday, March 26, at 1 p.m. Well-known for his appearances at the Cannon Beach Farmers' Market in the summertime, he will be remembered from the last time he visited the library and gave a standing-room-only magic show. A not-to-be missed event!

Also in March, as part of the Northwest Author Series, Rebecca Harrison will be on hand to talk about her soon-to-be released book Aboard the "Portland: The History of the Northwest Steamers." The book takes us back over 150 years ago when the grand Columbia and Willamette river sternwheelers were used for trade and transport. Harrison also wrote the book "Deep, Dark, and Dangerous: On the Bottom with the Northwest Salvage Divers." The event takes place Saturday, March 12, at 2 p.m.

The members of Cannon Beach Reads group will convene at the library at Wednesday, March 16, at 7 p.m. This month the group will be reading and discussing the book "Being mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End," by Atul Gawande.

Looking ahead to April, because we at the library are beyond appreciative of the efforts of so many library members and volunteers, we wanted to do something special. To express our gratitude and celebrate your service, we will be hosting a special member and volunteer appreciation luncheon Wednesday, April 6, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce Community Hall.

## LETTERS

### Time for a new board

The Cannon Beach Fire Board claims they were "elected." I'm sorry... how many ran unopposed? Who was "elected" with less than 200 votes? Exactly.

Folks, this is an appointment by default. No "majority" has spoken. Social media posts state, "people have no idea what it takes to serve on a public board." I concur, but not for reasons the poster intended. What's happened is that the community now realizes the dangers of complacency. You, the people, are granted the opportunity to replace a public board who has served too long because no one else would. People are ready and waiting in the wings. You must vote to see a change.

Social media posts state, "Voters needs all of the facts." The fact is that this board had issues well before Mike Balzer was hired. What happened to him was just icing on a corrupt clique of cupcakes; the same old B.S. continues, only with more paper and less staffing. I wish I could say more regarding Mike and how the board has alluded to inadequacies in the media. Due to the lawsuit, we all have to wait. But regardless to what happens, the board and their track record is the reason for this recall. The fire was already been lit. Terming him just set it ablaze.

There are 18 letters (out of 23 firefighters) in support of this recall! A true majority of the Cannon Beach Fire Department disagrees with how their board micromanages and conducts business. Being "elected" by the hair of their chinny-chin-chins, these three should've resigned. Yet here we are at the district's time and expense.

It's up to the community to speak up and vote without fear of public scrutiny or retaliation. Please don't

cave to these tactics blanketing social media; I implore you. Vote what's right for your firefighters!

Krysti Ficker  
Gearhart

### Decision was not surprising

The Cannon Beach City Council's decision at its Tuesday night meeting on March 1 was not surprising, but so disappointing.

On the one side, they heard from Nicholson and his cohorts talking about the threats of destruction of historic homes, an imaginary 15,000 sq. ft. "McMansion" and the value of "small, affordable cottages." In fact, there will be no restored home, McMansion or cottages. His four houses will be full-sized and full-priced. He was accompanied by his usual handful of lawyers, geo-techs and architects. But we were also treated to an entourage of his "supporters," a crew of young people from Portland who knew nothing about Cannon Beach or this issue. I wonder if the council and staff weren't insulted to think he would try to pull off this charade? It was another attempt to fool us into thinking he has viable local support. The rest of the citizens of Cannon Beach could see right through his latest sham. Why couldn't the council?

On the other side, there was a standing room-only crowd of concerned homeowners, both local and seasonal. Most of the opponents have had deep connections to Cannon Beach for up to 50 years or more. They are taxpayers and over half are Clatsop County voters. They presented incredibly clear, well-researched arguments for why the council should have denied Nicholson's proposal. They couldn't have been more respectful, knowledgeable and rational. And yet, except

for Mr. Benefield, the council all refused to acknowledge or address the opponent's positions. It really does feel like they are deferring to the city lawyers and staff. I just can't understand why they are so pro-Nicholson in this matter. Is there something they have to gain by this alliance?

The city councilors were elected to support and represent their friends, neighbors and the citizens of this town. When a sizable group of our community opposes this PUD, largely because the proposal ran counter to the requirements set out in the city codes, why would three councilors and the mayor support it? They approved it with a long list of conditions, which made it obvious that the application was incomplete. Many opponents begged them to explain why they supported this issue and so far, in the last year, none of them have even tried to explain their rationale.

We are frustrated and sad about the council's handling of this matter. It seems like our new staff is in charge of Cannon Beach and the elected representatives have turned their power over to their "expert" advice. By the way, do any of the hired lawyers and staff live in Cannon Beach? Just asking.

Fred & Elizabeth Lorish  
Eugene

### Vote no recall

There is much to-do over the firing of Cannon Beach Fire Chief Mike Balzer. Very little has been said in support of the three board members who voted for his termination. These three individuals are members of the community, and have also given many years of volunteer service to make the Cannon Beach Fire Department a fine organization. Those in the fire district enjoy reduced in-

surance rates, thanks to the direction that they have given.

A lot has been said about the manner in which the termination was handled in the public meeting. But the manner was Mr. Balzer's choice. The state of Oregon requires that an individual be informed of the meeting and given the option of an executive session (closed meeting), or having the discussion in public. Mike Balzer chose to have it in a public session. He also knew that he was going to be terminated, and he should have arranged for transportation home after the meeting, leaving the department-owned car.

There are many facts which cannot be made public until the trial. Until all of the facts are known, I would hope the people in the district would remember the years of fine service given by these officials, continue to support them and give them the courtesy of voting no on the recall.

For four generations my family and I have lived and worked in Cannon Beach. I have only the best interests of the community at heart when I urge you to vote no on this important decision.

David Kent Price  
Gearhart

### City Council failed to take action when needed

Any hope for confidence in the Cannon Beach City Council's ability to deal with a complicated and contentious issue with integrity was dashed at its meeting of March 1. Almost 50 of the citizens whom they were elected to represent came out on a stormy night to urge them to follow the city zoning code regarding planned unit developments. Many of those citizens have studied the code closely and followed the process for more than a year,

including contributing money to fight a losing battle at the Land Use Board of Appeals.

Instead of providing councilor Mike Benefield the courtesy of a second so they could discuss his motion to rule that the council did not have jurisdiction to hear the matter, since the Planning Commission had not yet approved the application, they sat mute. None of the other four councilors were capable of contending with the land use lawyer hired at \$375 per hour to sit at planner Barnes's elbow and parse the code in favor of the applicant.

Proceeding with the public hearing, a carload of the applicant's proponents, most of them from the Portland area, followed one another with testimony that amounted to "cottages good, McMansions bad." Not one local opponent has ever suggested that a large house built on the property in question would violate the zoning code or be of concern to neighbors. This was a chimera thrown into the fray by the 17 form letters signed by Realtors hungry for more houses to be available on the market.

Ignoring the testimony of 22 opponents, councilors — though the application was incomplete — proceeded to vote 4-1 to approve the application. This was followed by dithering over what conditions to require of the applicant, first checking with him to see if he would be willing to accept each one.

We can only hope that future candidates for City Council will be strong enough to stand up to threats of lawsuits, do their homework and respect the advice of the planning commission rather than depending completely on the staff report and a superfluous and expensive land use attorney for their decisions.

Diane Amos  
Cannon Beach

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