

Views from the Rock

Will Cannon Beach voters 'feel the Bern'?

Feel the Bern" is as much a part of Cannon Beach and Manzanita as clamming. Manzanita had a "cupcakes for Bernie" last weekend, bringing families out for frosted treats.

In Cannon Beach at Cheri's Restaurant there's even a "Trump-Free Zone," where Bernie's supporters gather for their photos under the sign, very much like tourists in New York City visit Katz's deli to sit at the table where Billy Crystal's Harry met Meg Ryan's Sally.

The appeal of Bernie is no surprise, as his roots in Brooklyn and Vermont are a parallel universe to the city of Portland and the state of Oregon.

CANNON SHOTS

R.J. MARX



Both states boast green-and-white colors and are distinguished by their evergreen forests.

In both places could you say "It's another beautiful day in paradise."

There are probably more potters per square mile in both states than anywhere else in the union.

Both states could get a Socialist candidate elected.

Vermont is the place, Donald Trump once said, where people who like squirrels should move.

Meanwhile, when Bernie was in Portland, a bird came and landed on his podium.

Council resolution

Cannon Beach's fiercely independent streak, began, by all accounts, by the string of hippies and beachcombers who emigrated here from California, the East Coast and all points beyond or between.

The city's folk heroes are iconoclasts who flew kites and ride bikes with rakes to make pictures in the sand.

"The reason for the progressive streak in Cannon Beach is quite straightforward," said former City Councilor Jay Raskin via email from Portland. "There is a long history of people believing they can make a difference and a tradition of the citizens of Cannon Beach paying attention."

Raskin added: "If it is a good idea about something they care about, they are willing to do it. They care about people and the environment, which is at the heart of progressive thought. Since city councilors are nonpartisan, you talk about issues on their own merits."

Impeachment resolution

Cannon Beach jumped to national attention in early 2008 when the City Council ratified a call to ask Congress to impeach President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney. It was a late-

in-life plea for Gainor Minott, picked up by Rex and Diane Amos and like-minded residents. Minott had encouraged Rex Amos to write letters on her behalf.

Two-hundred twenty-seven signatures from residents of Cannon Beach sought a congressional call for impeachment, citing the Iraq War, covert domestic surveillance and the keeping of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay.

The City Council passed the resolution 3-2. Councilors Jay Raskin, Jerome Arnold and Sam Steidel voted in favor while Mayor John Williams and Councilor Nancy Giasson opposed it.

Cannon Beach was the first city in Oregon to issue the impeachment resolution, and among 88 other cities nationwide to do so.

"It was a real study in democracy," Rex Amos said at the time.

"I was a supporter of the impeachment vote," Michael Capper of Cannon Beach said this week. "Think global, act local, right?"

'Moonbats' unleashed

The resolution wasn't without consequence.

After the news of the resolution hit Portland and national talk radio, the Gazette reported "at least 200 people said they wouldn't be spending money in Cannon Beach anymore."

The action was duly noted by Fox News's Michelle Malkin, who labeled Cannon Beach a "moonbat enclave."

How hard Cannon Beach tourism was impacted is hard to say, but in the weeks after the resolution, then Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kim Bosse said, the city was "pretty lucky" the response was relatively small.

"There was little or no actual fallout," Raskin said last week. "Right-wing radio in Portland tried to start a boycott of Cannon Beach, yet the number of visitors actually increased following the vote.

"Did people who supported this vote outweigh the loss of people who didn't?"

"Maybe, but I doubt it," Raskin said. "People like coming to the beach to enjoy themselves and don't really pay that much attention to local politics."

Hillary or Bernie?

Cannon Beach's passion for Bernie is consistent with blue state politics here in Oregon.

Jeff Merkley, in an op-ed published in The New York Times, offered "Why I endorse Bernie Sanders."

Merkley lauded Sanders for "boldly and fiercely addressing the biggest challenges facing our country."

"He has passionately advocated for pivoting from fossil fuels to renewable energy to save our planet from global warming — the greatest threat facing humanity. He recognizes that to accomplish this we must keep the vast bulk of the world's fossil fuels in the ground."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Rex Amos of Cannon Beach makes his political preferences known at Cheri's Cafe.

"Bernie is a determined leader in taking on the concentration of campaign cash from the mega-wealthy that is corrupting the vision of opportunity embedded in our Constitution," Merkley wrote.

Sen. Ron Wyden was in town last week to get a sense of our region's safety and warning needs in case of tsunami. "I like both candidates," Wyden said.

"I'm not going to knock anyone," he said, but pointed to health care proposals from Clinton he thinks can make a difference.

Wyden voted with Sanders to oppose U.S. funding of the Iraq War and as member of the Senate. "I was one of 22 or 23 who voted against the Iraq war," Wyden said. "I sure wish my vote had been the majority position, because we would have had hundred of billions of dollars for this kind of life-and-death priority."

Sanders tsunami?

We haven't heard Bernie Sanders speak on the subject of tsunamis, but we imagine he too would like to have those Iraq War billions back to fund a national safety programs.

So — is Cannon Beach firmly in the Bernie camp?

We did spot a car pulling onto Highway 101 last week with an "Old People for Bernie" bumper sticker. But on Sunday, trying to get a photo for this column, we couldn't find a single Bernie bumper sticker. Not too many Bernie lawn signs either.

Rex Amos's theory is: "The Milkenites who thought their decision to keep money away from Cannon Beach did nothing but make other people come here in droves."

Cannon Beach could be subject to the same gentrification dividing Portland and other Oregon cities. Trulia lists the city's median home price at \$659,000 — a very discouraging number for beachcombers and vagabonds.

As for Gainor Minott, the woman who inspired the impeachment resolution, Amos said she "possibly would have voted for Bernie, but since Bernie now says he'll vote for Hillary, she probably would too."



Bernie Sanders

Authors star at Cannon Beach Library events

Library friends, if you haven't been to visit us recently, you will be pleasantly surprised by some physical changes we've been making! First of all, when you come in the front door, you just can't miss our spacious new desk.

The old desk had seen better days and just was no longer quite big enough for the

daily activities involved with checking in and out the larger volumes of books we've been handling lately. You also can't miss our new LED lighting, gone are the days of our flickering fluorescents.

We're in the process of reconfiguring our shelves and seating area. As you enter the library, DVDs, fiction, and non-fiction books are all to the right, while mysteries are all to the left. We've also cleared a larger area for our patrons to come in and read local newspapers — or just to relax a bit in the comfortable setting.

AT THE LIBRARY

CARLA O'REILLY



Scheduled events

Our last author for the Northwest Author Series for this season will be speaking on Saturday, May 14, when we'll be pleased to welcome author Lois Leveen, whose latest novel is entitled "Juliet's Nurse." The novel reimagines the story of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet from the point of view of the nurse. Leveen, who lives in Portland, also writes creative nonfiction, critical essays, and poetry. Her talk will begin at 2 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Then Wednesday, May 18, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Cannon Beach Reads group will meet to discuss "Go Set a Watchman," which they've been reading this month. Written by famous author Harper Lee, who also wrote "To Kill a Mockingbird," the book actually was written in the mid-50s. It was issued as a "sequel" to "To Kill a Mockingbird," however, it eventually was confirmed as a first draft of the earlier novel. Both books are set in the American South. Harper Lee died on February 19 at age 89. The discussion on May 18 will be led by group member Kathy Bell. All are welcome!

As part of the Spring Unveiling Art Festival, hosted by the Cannon Beach Gallery Group, the Cannon Beach Library will be having a special sale of art and music books through May 13. The books, most of which are previously owned, are in good shape and will be priced fairly.

The library quilt committee is busy at work on the beautiful 2016 quilt for our annual quilt drawing held during our Holiday Tea. Quilt drawing tickets will be available soon. We will be selling them at the Cannon Beach Farmers' Market, which begins June 14. They also will be available for purchase at the library during business hours.

We also have reached that time of year when donations of books to the library are strongly encouraged! Most of us have books stored under beds or in closets. Your pre-loved books will be an important part of our Fourth of July book sale on July 2, 3 and 4. All donations are tax-deductible, and all the money raised by selling the books goes to support our library.

Keep those book donations coming — the sooner the better!

On the wine cruise: Nice work if you can get it

Maryann and I recently returned from a "work trip" — a week-long Wine Cruise with Un-Cruise Adventures. We soaked in the beauty of a sail on the Columbia and Snake Rivers, ate like kings and queens and the wine was pretty darned good too.

This is the second year we've worked with Un-Cruise Adventures, a small ship cruise line based in Seattle. We sailed out of Portland on the S.S. Legacy, a replica of an early 1900s steamer that has a maximum capacity of 80 passengers. As we pulled out of town, we toasted the upcoming journey with sparkling wine and waves to those watching from shore. An indulgent journey of wine and food was about to begin.

One of my official duties as the on board "Wine Host" is to deliver a daily wine-related presentation for the passengers. I led off talking about tasting room etiquette, including "dos and don'ts" in the tasting room. After operating The Wine Shack's tasting room for the past four years, I am truly in an expert on this topic. It's an important topic and I try to use some humor to keep the subject light. "Ladies, I know you like to smell all pretty for your man, but take it easy on the perfume! I want to smell chardonnay, not Chanel."

UNCORKED RAMBLINGS

STEVE SINKLER



The next day we visited Springhouse Cellars and Mt. Hood Winery, in Hood River. Both wineries are charming in their own way, Springhouse, in the ruins of an old fruit cannery has a rustic feeling yet a very young, though third generation winemaker, while Mt. Hood Winery has a more modern feel and epic views of its namesake.

On Day Three we stormed Walla Walla! The ship docks at the beautiful port of Burbank (that's an inside joke for anyone who's ever been there) and from there we journeyed into wine country. We visited Basel Cellars and Castillo de Feliciano before spending the afternoon at the "wine incubators" located near the airport. The Walla Walla incubator project was set up by the Port Authority and the local business community to give deserving and aspiring winemakers a low cost place to begin making wine. There, we tasted at Walla Faces, J & J Cellars and Palencia, my favorite of the bunch. Palencia has hit the market with amazing wines, earning a "Best of Show" at last year's Columbia Gorge Wine Competition for their

rosé and a "Best of Class" this year at the same competition for their Albarino. They are also thinking outside the bottle and are putting their Vino la Monarcha Cabernet Sauvignon, merlot and chardonnay in Astropaqs, a plastic pouch with a tap. Initially, I was unsure about this as I usually find the quality of wine in alternative packaging to be below average. Surprise! These are really nice wines. The lightweight and unbreakable packaging makes them perfect to take along when camping, hiking or biking.

We didn't visit a winery on Day 4, but instead, we visited Palouse Falls and then took a jet boat ride on the Snake River after lunch. That afternoon, I was settling into a comfy chair, when I was suddenly paged to Captain Scott's poker tournament over the ship's intercom. I'm not a sailor, but I know that when the captain pages you by name, you need to show up. As I entered the saloon and walked up to the poker game, it was clear Captain Scott wanted revenge.

You see, last August, things didn't go so well for the captain and he was the first player out of his own poker tournament. Scott was determined to put me away. Not being much of a poker player, I helped seal my own fate. During one of my last hands, I proudly laid down my cards and

announced I had won with a straight. The only problem was that it was a straight of four, not five. Loser. Shortly after that debacle, I was bounced out of the poker tourney and Scott had his revenge. Clearly, I need to go to poker camp before our October cruise.

We also visited Terra Blanca winery in Prosser, Maryhill Winery and Sunshine Mill Winery in The Dalles. The guests enjoyed the wines and never seemed to slow down. If there were wines to taste, this group was up to the challenge!

On Day Six, we docked in Astoria at the Maritime Museum and got on a bus heading for Cannon Beach. It's strange to drive into the town you live in on a bus filled with tourists. The group was headed for wine tasting at The Wine Shack! After a week of hanging out together with the guests, it is so rewarding to pour the Puffin wine lineup for each of them. They seemed to have a great time in our tasting room and it's hard not to, considering the delicious wine we pour combined with the chill beach vibe. The group left and took about 15 cases of Puffin wine with them. They also spent about two hours walking through town and I saw a number of the guests with bags from local shops.

Maryann and I were joined by Marlene Reynolds (Maryann's mom),

Julie Sackett, who owns a Breaker's Point condo and Joan Stubblefield, who lives in Tolovana. These three kept the group laughing with their antics and demonstrations of massive fermented beverage consumption. I can't say anything more about their activities as I was sworn to secrecy.

I need to mention the food. Each evening, Chef Aletha served three delicious entrées, consisting of a fish entrée, an entrée for meat lovers and a third for vegetarians. Because I was working, I regularly asked for a sample of each, so I could speak on the food-wine pairing. Remember, I'm a professional and this was hard work.

Last winter, Un-Cruise Adventures won a major international award for "Best Small Cruise Ship Food."

It's easy to see why as every meal was over-the-top delicious. Even the box lunches the kitchen staff made for us when we were off the ship at lunch time were delicious. The box lunches included gourmet sandwiches, with Cobb salads or quinoa salads. Not your typical box lunch fare.

Maryann and I will be back on the S.S. Legacy on Oct. 22 for another amazing week-long wine cruise and we can't wait. If you're interested in joining us, you can check out the itinerary and the prices at www.uncruise.com. Just be ready, I'm practicing my poker.

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