

Views from the Rock

# Looking at life from both sides now

Sorry, this message can't be conveyed in 140 characters or less.

Only a few weeks into the new year, the nation is plunged into a tug-of-war on issues as profound as our health, our planet and war. The deep splits on these issues not only exhibit our individual preferences — or prejudices — but regional ones.

An editorial in a sister newspaper described the gap between rural and urban Oregonians as “stark and deep. ... In the wake of a bitter presidential campaign and tight election, the gap has never seemed so wide.” Only eight counties out of 36 counties tilted to Hillary Clinton in Oregon, but Donald Trump received 220,000 fewer votes.

The editorial nevertheless recalled Abraham Lincoln's first inaugural address and concluded on an optimistic note: “We are more alike than different.”

I would posit that in this state, we are more different than alike — and that will require some radically different thinking.

## A matter of perspective

The League of Oregon Cities listed its 2017 legislative session priorities for the new year in Salem, beginning Feb. 1. Among them, housing, land use, lodging tax, marijuana and water/wastewater, all critical issues close to home.

The South County is a little schizophrenic, developed by hunters, fishermen and loggers, but today relying on an economy driven by tourism, largely funded by a cosmopolitan audience that couldn't tell the difference between halibut and had-dock. That which we valued — Paul Bunyan ranging overland with a chainsaw strapped to his back — does not appear to have the same role in a world where mountain bicyclists would prefer to pedal among the trees sporting Day-Glo insignia and GoPro cameras strapped to their helmets.

Visitors come to Cannon Beach to bask among the natural resources — vast swaths of timberland, rolling mountains and fertile streams — not to exploit them, but to appreciate their beauty in their natural state.

Do we want more visitors or less? They supply the city's tax coffers, but they also choke downtown streets and roads.

Is land preservation a good thing? Conservationist Anne French, who led a cadre of dowdy old socialites in front of bulldozers seeking to pave a rural dirt road, once told me she hated the word “development,” because it implied there was something lacking in our natural environment. Yet I also interviewed a New York developer who said he couldn't look at a piece of land without imagining a supermarket on it. Members of the North Coast Land Conservancy recently celebrated the \$10 million purchase of 3,300 acres of land at Onion Peak, this in addition to the \$1.3 million Boneyard Ridge acquisition adjacent to Ecola State Park. Will business and industry share their enthusiasm?

The city will be establishing an emergency management site for mass care shelter. The process will require rezoning and expanded urban growth boundaries.

The city's strategic plan states by July 2018, an additional 25 units of affordable housing will be in place. By the end of that year, the city will experience a 10 percent increase in long-term rentals. By July 2020, Cannon Beach will make an additional 25 units of affordable housing available.

More people, more traffic and so it goes. At the end of this year, the city will create 50 new parking spaces in the downtown district. Is Cannon Beach going to become more like Bend or Beaverton?

The city's Ecola Creek Watershed provides municipal water to Cannon Beach. The Department of Fish and Wildlife consider Ecola Creek West Fork a vital area for coho salmon.

The city plans workforce housing on city-owned land — starting with placing park model homes at the RV Park. Since the homes have no storage tanks or propane tanks, a permanent sewer will be needed, as well as changes to the city's zone codes. As new park model homes come to the RV Resort in Cannon Beach and elsewhere, who will determine limits on septic and wastewater runoff?

In November, opponents in Cannon Beach of retail cannabis sales sought prohibition. The vote was close, 51 percent to 49 percent. Whose rules will we play by? Future decisions could tilt either way.

## Fresh ideas

Environmental consequences of overfishing, water contamination, clear-cutting or other man-made activity are all too apparent. Social consequences — lack of affordable housing,

# A master of fantasy at the Cannon Beach Library

We at the Cannon Beach library are very pleased to announce that fantasy writer Terry Brooks will be speaking at the Saturday, Jan. 14, at 2 p.m. as part of the Northwest Author Series. Brooks is well-known for his epic Shannara series and will be talking about the “Shannara Chronicles,” his newly-released television mini-series.

Brooks was born in the rural mid-western town of Sterling, Illinois, and he and his wife Judine now divide their time between Seattle and Cannon Beach. His bachelor of arts degree is in English literature, and he later obtained a law degree from Washington Lee University and practiced law before becoming a full-time author. He has written 23 New

**AT THE LIBRARY**  
CARLA O'REILLY



York Times bestsellers during his writing career; more than 21 million copies of his books are in print.

Don't miss it! Also in January, Cannon Beach Reads will be beginning their eleventh year. On Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m., they will discuss “Fahrenheit 451,” by Ray Bradbury. The novel presents a future American society where books are outlawed and “firemen” are directed to burn any they can find. The book is named

after the assumed temperature at which paper combusts.

For additional information about Cannon Beach Reads, contact Joe Bernt at 503-436-4186 or send him an email at berntj@ohio.edu.

All in all, January at the library will be a quieter time — but also a cozier time! We took down our holiday decorations and put them away until next year, but we still can enjoy these cold winter days by the gas fireplace surrounded by good company, great books, current newspapers and free Wi-Fi.

Lastly, don't miss our first library membership meeting and brunch of 2017 at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 1. Guest speaker Pam DeVisser will be discussing palliative care.

# Charcuterie and wine to celebrate the new year

When we opened Provisions 124 in 2015, our primary goal was to offer the finest gourmet products from the Pacific Northwest. We wanted to offer our customers an assortment of locally produced artisan products they couldn't find in their hometown. With that in mind, we searched out local sources of delicious marionberry jams, hazelnuts, bread, cheeses, kombucha, coffee and oil and vinegar. But, it was the local charcuterie we really were excited about.

**UNCORKED RAMBLINGS**  
STEVEN SINKLER



Charcuterie is a fancy name for salami and other meat products such as sausage and paté. Years ago, Hickory Farms owned this product space and you couldn't go into a mall at Christmas time without seeing a large summer sausage “pop-up store.” Today, small gourmet charcuteries are making meats which are European in style and are nothing like your grandma's Hickory Farms. Here in Oregon, we are fortunate to enjoy meats from two of America's finest charcuteries, Olympia Provisions and Chop Butchery & Charcuterie, both from Portland.

Olympia Provisions has a bigger brand name, as both Martha Stewart and Oprah Winfrey have sung the praises of their meats. Olympia Provision's bestselling “Saucisson Sec” is a dry salami made in a traditional French style, combining ground pork with garlic and black pepper. Chop's “Garlic and Black Pepper” is similar in style, with slightly less fat and more seasoning. Both salamis are savory, delicious and popular year-round. During the year, we also carry Olympia Provisions paté and other dry salamis from both Olympia Provisions and Chop, but we always carry these two classics. When customers ask which wine pairs best with these salamis, I tell them they can go in a couple of different directions, depending on their preference.

If looking for a red wine, I recommend a wine that has a nice fruit presence with lower tannins. Syrah is a food friendly red wine packed with blackberry flavors and hints of pepper, making it a perfect companion to salami. I recommend Lujon Cellars Syrah if more fruit is desired or Alexandria Nicole's Jet Black Syrah if looking for darker fruit and pepper flavors. If a softer red wine is desired, J Scott Grenache would pair nicely as it delivers red fruit flavors, think cherries and strawberries, with slight hints of pepper.

When a white wine is preferred, I'd stay away from high acid wines like Riesling or pinot grigio. Instead, I'd go with a softer white wine, like Puffin Pinot Gris which offers flavors of apple, honeysuckle and lemon zest. Pudding River Barrel Aged Chardonnay would also be an excellent choice as it delivers a soft mouthfeel of apple and pear. Both of these Oregon wines are made with a nod to the old world, which makes them perfect for charcuterie. I'd also be quick to recommend a delicious bottle of rosé, as I truly believe a chilled bottle of dry rosé pairs nicely in almost any situation. Stoller Pinot Noir Rosé is delicious, but of course my favorite is our very own Puffin Rosé, which is made from grenache and syrah. These dry blushes deliver strawberry flavors that are food friendly and counter the garlic and pepper flavors, rather than match them.

If willing to venture is a slightly different direction, I'd also recommend a bottle of bubbles to go with charcuterie.

Sokol Blosser Sparkling Evolution is a delicious brut (dry) sparkling wine with slight flavors of citrus and nectarine that combine nicely with the bubbles. A bottle of bubbly transforms a simple plate of sliced meats into an elegant entrée.

The next time you're looking for something to eat, but don't want a full meal, try some local charcuterie with a bottle of local wine. You'll see what our European friends have known about for years, it's a divine combination. Throw in some cheese and crackers while you're at it.

Happy New Year from all of us at The Wine Shack and Provisions 124. Please drink responsibly!



R.J. MARX/CANNON BEACH

**Will Cannon Beach always be a town where you can ride your horse for a cup of Insomnia coffee?**



FILE PHOTO

**This affordable home plan design was rejected in 2016.**



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Maybe we can all agree on something: the scenic beauty of Cannon Beach. The Cannon Beach Gallery Group, hosts of the Plein Air Festival, received a portion of the Tourism and Arts Commission's grant funding.**

medical care and need for educational opportunities — will only become more pressing. Risks of tsunami and natural disaster will be competing for dollars in a session that starts already \$1.7 billion in the hole.

Our differences are real and hard and at times we share little common ground.

My message: that's OK. Dig in and stand firm.

Our points of view are our strongest asset, combined with a will to sustain our values.

The 2017 Oregon legislative session lasts only 160 days, ending on or before July 10. In Cannon Beach, these issues are discussed year round at council, planning and design review meetings.

So ladies and gentlemen, to your corners. Get involved in city politics. Hold representatives accountable. Show up at City Hall. Tell us what's important to you. Annoy your friends on Facebook with political barbs. We've never needed fresh ideas more than now, or to do more with less.

Let's keep the discussion alive and have confidence that our tolerance — and our tenacity — will yield results we can all live with.

## LETTERS

### Save school money, improve bridges

At the Dec. 15 Seaside School District board meeting, I requested and received from the board the budget for the recently approved \$99.7 million school bond.

Before the bond election, I wrote an article that was published in the Seaside Signal and the Cannon Beach Gazette. It noted that high school building costs are presently running at a cost of \$35,000 to \$42,000 per student assuming no land cost. The Seaside district correctly revised its earlier plans and now will not replace Seaside Heights Elementary School, which houses 500 of the districts 1,500 student enrollment. That leaves a need to build new schools for 1,000 students which, based on current school projects, should cost about \$40 million.

The Seaside School District is building schools for 1,280 students (not 1,000) even though school enrollment has been declining and the Cannon Beach charter school will draw away students. Seaside's facility cost per student, per their estimate, is \$82,000 and not the \$37,000 to \$45,000 that is the current, typical cost per Oregon student. The Seaside cost estimate assumes an average of 150 square feet per student and a cost per square foot of \$255 (plus extra for coastal and foundation additions) for building construction costs. The real difference in Seaside's numbers is in the site costs, which are over \$10 million.

Two decisions by the school board made the school bond cost high: 1) the decision to build for a growth of 280 new students and 2) to incur significant site

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