



Boat washed ashore at Les Shirley Park on Friday, June 9.

REX AMOS/SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Boat washes ashore in Cannon Beach

The U.S. Coast Guard removed two mariners from a 40-foot sailboat before it took on water while in tow off the Oregon Coast near Tillamook Head Thursday, June 8. Watchstanders with Sector Columbia River in Warrenton received word at 10:26 p.m.

Wednesday from the crew of the El Corazon that the vessel had lost propulsion about 15 miles off the coast near Cannon Beach. Cannon Beach Police Chief Jason Schermerhorn reported on June 9 that the sailboat washed up just north of Cannon Beach.

## In the heat of war

### Author brings WW II to life

By Rebecca Herren  
Cannon Beach Gazette



SUBMITTED PHOTO

When history meets fiction, you get Brian Ratty. He is an award-winning author who writes adventure stories surrounded with historical backdrops. His books include "Destination Astoria," "Tillamook Passage" and the Dutch Clarke Trilogy: "The Early Years," a story of surviving the British Columbia wilderness in 1941; "The War Years," a story of combat photography in the Pacific during World War II; and "Voyage of Atonement," three stories of high sea adventure and the final installation in the trilogy.

"Voyage of Atonement" is Ratty's latest book and one of the subjects during his presentation at the Seaside Public Library on June 1. He began with background of his early life, explained why he writes and discussed the process of historical fiction.

Ratty refers to his books as "powerful stories of our past that gave birth to our future." He writes 90 percent historical and 10 percent fiction, and considers himself a

Local author Brian Ratty signs books for fans and history enthusiasts.

storyteller, following the example of his favorite writer Jack London.

"I write what I like to read — historical fiction rich with bold characters and powerful story lines," he said, adding that he believes "good historical fiction entertains and enlightens." He says the characters within the story — real or imagined — are the glue that holds the storyline together, moving the plot forward; whereas it is the role of the events to tie the story together and provide an exciting, memorable read of history.

"This method of writing is not a genre, but a technique of storytelling that dates back to the earliest forms of verbal and written communications," says Ratty, noting that native petroglyphs were a way of documenting some of the earliest historical fiction.

## Police department tries out new emergency message system

### Emergency advisories now available via text

By Brenna Visser  
Cannon Beach Gazette

Residents of Cannon Beach will now have the option to receive text messages in an emergency thanks to a new message system facilitated by Cannon Beach Police Department.

The system, named Nixle, is a free information service

that allows law enforcement, fire departments, municipal governments and other community agencies to send out text or email advisories.

While the service can be used to disseminate all kinds of advisories, Cannon Beach Police Chief Jason Schermerhorn said for now the plan is to use it for emergencies, such as extreme weather, traffic issues, missing persons cases, major crime or fraudulent business transactions. Those who want the alerts just need to create an account with Nix-

**'If there is a bad traffic accident, and we get a Nixle message out to the public explaining the situation, it saves them a lot of stress...'**

Police Chief Jason Schermerhorn

le and offer a phone number or email.

The Seaside Police Department and Clatsop County already use similar systems. More than 4,600 local municipalities have signed on to the program since its founding

in 2007, according to Nixle's website.

"Knowledge is key," Schermerhorn said. "If there is a bad traffic accident, and we get a Nixle message out to the public explaining the situation, it saves them a lot of stress, and saves our front office from answering

phone calls to answer the same question over and over."

In the past, first responders ran into issues with mass communication during major storms, Schermerhorn said. Using this program will help spread hyperlocal alerts that maybe wouldn't make the radar of a general county emergency notification system.

Another useful application Schermerhorn anticipates is the ability to inform businesses more quickly about any fraudulent checks or cash that enter the region.

"If we get reports of counterfeit in the county, we can alert business leaders here all at once instead of calling each business separately," Schermerhorn said.

For now, Lt. Chris Wilbur and administrative assistant Valerie Mannix will be in charge of distributing and managing these messages.

If residents want to sign up, Schermerhorn said they can find the link to do so on the Cannon Beach Police Department Facebook page or on the city's website.

# ZAK CONSTRUCTION

# Custom Homes & Remodels



**Joe Zak**

General Contractor

503-440-1500

503-368-3920

zakconst@gmail.com

Licensed • Bonded • Insured  
CCB#76743

zakconstruction.net