

Seaside superintendent says schools must be replaced

Despite a crushing defeat in 2013, the Seaside School District is once again looking at ways to protect students, faculty and staff from crumbling schools in low-lying, at-risk areas of Seaside and Gearhart.

Seaside School District School Superintendent Doug Dougherty said prior to the July 4 holiday that the district was working with consultants to determine "possible timelines and scenarios" for replacement of Broadway Middle School, Gearhart Elementary School and Seaside High School. About 1,550 students are enrolled in the district.

"There are four schools along the Oregon coast in the inundation zone, and we have three of those," Dr. Dougherty said. "Our goal is to have students out of every one of these schools as soon as possible."

The "\$128.8 Million Question" in 2013 — a 30-year bond designed to pay for a single school on a hillside east of Seaside Heights Elementary School — was defeated in 10 of 11 school district precincts, 62 percent against and 38 percent in favor.

Not only is a tsunami likely to unfold in this region during our lifetime, according to Dougherty, each of the Seaside schools needs major capital improvements and may not be worth the cost of rehabilitation.

Cannon Beach Elementary School, facing crumbling infrastructure and flood risk, closed in 2013 a result of a study process begun in

the 1990s. Broadway Elementary School was built in 1946 and Gearhart Elementary School was built in 1948. Seaside High School was constructed in 1958, and Federal Emergency Management Agency lists the building as having a "greater than 10 percent collapse potential."

"They were each built well over 50 years ago, some 60 years ago," Dougherty said.

He said each school had an "anticipated useful life" of about 40 years. "We're patching them together the best we can," he said. "Something's got to give."

Seaside Heights Elementary, built in 1975, does not have the plumbing, electrical, ventilation issues common to the other schools have and is located at a much safer elevation, Dougherty said.

Cannon Beach closing

After tsunami threats became widely recognized in the 1990s, Dougherty asked state geologists at the time if the Cannon Beach school's 39-foot elevation was safe during a potential natural disaster.

According to Dougherty, geologists told him "they thought so," but their data was insufficient to provide scientific verification. The cost for a research study and scientific modeling came in at \$30,000, too much for the schools to bear alone.

Dougherty went to the Cannon Beach City Council and Fire Department, and the three entities financed the study.

It soon became apparent that the

SEEN FROM SEASIDE

By
R.J.
MARX



Seaside High School was constructed in 1958, and FEMA lists the building as having a "greater than 10 percent collapse potential."

original study was going to become what Dougherty described as "a much more extensive project."

The geologists called in the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration and other federal agencies, and at no extra cost to the local entities, received an internationally peer reviewed study that took 3 1/2 years to complete, studying oceanographic patterns going back more than 10,000 years. The study examined risk in the Cascadia subduction zone, 70 miles off the Oregon coast, an active geographic region running from just south of the Oregon border to about the south end of Vancouver Island.

The study revealed that after an earthquake, tsunami waves could be as high as 70 or 80 feet. The study recommended any school be sited at least 80 to 100 feet in elevation.

"And all of our schools, Cannon Beach, Seaside High School, Broadway Middle School, and Gearhart, are all 15 feet or lower in elevation," Dougherty said. "It's a problem for everyone, and no one had a clue prior to our research."

Scientists explained the tsunami events in "T-shirt sizes," he said.

A small Cascadia event would be measured as an 8.8 quake; medium, 8.9; large, 9.0. "Nine-point-one is extra large, and 9.2 is extra-extra large," Dougherty said.

He said that the average recurrence interval of earthquakes in this zone is 244 years. "We know it's been 315 years since the last one, and we know we are in the time period," he said.

Cannon Beach Elementary School was shut down in 2013 for two reasons, Dougherty said. "It was right on the beach, at the mouth of a river, and we were told by geologists and by structural engineers not only would the building collapse, but there was a 99 percent certainty the Fir Street bridge would collapse."

There was concern that students would be unable to travel the 1.3 miles to higher ground in the danger period after a quake. "Even under the best case scenario, we still wouldn't get everybody up there in 20 minutes," Dougherty said.

Today, about 85 Cannon Beach students are bussed to Seaside. A proposed charter school in Cannon Beach is also expected to provide education for city residents.

Future bond plan awaits

While high costs sunk the 2013 bond vote, Dougherty said he was optimistic that a new proposal could be less than the bond issue that went down in 2013. "We know the price was a significant issue with a lot of people," he said.

Dougherty said he expects a bond to be presented within a year and a half or later, because the economy here has not fully bounced back. In addition, the district still has to pass a local option levy in November to maintain current staffing levels. "If that does not pass, we would have to reduce our staff, because it goes directly into the classroom," he said.

While there are no plans or cost estimates at the moment, Dougherty said, he did not expect the cost of a schools bond to exceed that of the one presented to voters in 2013. Grants and partnerships, along with lower energy or construction costs in an improving economy could lead to greater affordability, he said.

Dougherty said he hopes to get future construction done all at once rather than piecemeal, because he said "once you pass a bond, the odds of passing another bond are not high."

"The school district will definitely be addressing this in the future," he added Monday.

Between the Covers

ESTHER MOBERG

Best bets for summer reading at the Seaside Library

Summer is in full swing here on the coast. In Seaside, that means life speeds up or slows down depending on your perspective and whether you attend every summer event (a nearly impossible feat!) or get really, really tired of more traffic as summer visitors enjoy our amazing beach and coastal life! Thinking about some of the amazing things that happen in our area, here are some fun books that tie in to the themes of our summer. Some may be a stretch but still entertaining to read.

If you are interested in sandcastles, we actually have a book that can help you with those building skills. Thinking of the annual sandcastle competition each June in Cannon Beach, the book, "Sandcastles Made Simple," by Lucinda "sandy feet" Wierenga,

takes you through the best tips and tricks of working with sand to make some very impressive castles on the beach! For example, did you know you should always work from the top down with sandcastles, in order to not get sand all over your finished product? Or that "finger fluff" is a term for one type of sandcastle building?

Another great book about the beach that is light-hearted and doesn't take itself too seriously is the "Driftwood Forts of the Oregon Coast," by James Herman. For those who have always wondered about all the different types of beach forts out there, or what is the correct way to build a 'true' driftwood fort, this is the how-to guide.

We are all about the sand volleyball here in Seaside



ESTHER MOBERG

in July and August, with our Seaside Chamber of Commerce proudly hosting the largest amateur beach volleyball tournament each year, as we try to make sure everyone gets their bump, set, and spike on that wants to! One book by a former professional sand volleyball player that I enjoyed

is, "My Foot is Too Big for the Glass Slipper: A Guide to the Less Than Perfect Life," by Gabrielle Reece. This semi-biographical book is less about volleyball and more about Gabrielle's personal relationships and her take on marriage. This extremely frank book is an entertaining read into Gabrielle Reece's life and her perspective on it. You definitely get a sense of Gabrielle's take no prisoners, matter of fact outlook on life.

For someone who wants to brush up on their basic beach volleyball rules, tricks, and tips, the book "Beach Volleyball," by former Olympian Karch Kiraly, will help you with all that. Of course, it can't help you to grow a foot or two for spiking a volleyball over the net, but there

are tips for all abilities and heights, including the underhanded serve, or drills to improve your volleyball skills.

Another big beach event here in Seaside is soccer. There are at least three different soccer tournaments held annually in Seaside on the beach. While my best efforts at soccer involved running around on baseball fields in Minnesota over ten years ago, with a minimum amount of contact with the actual soccer ball, I hear beach soccer can be a blast as well. "Socceronomics" by Simon Kuper and Stefan Szymanski is an interesting look at the statistics of the professional soccer teams. By looking at raw data through the lens of an economist, they try to explain why certain teams win and others lose. Some

of the surprising things they came up with include data to explain why England has the most spectators per population for the sport, yet consistently loses against other countries teams. Or why some players are easier to sell by agents, simply because of the country they come from. Some of the history may also be surprising. For example, when a captain of the Secret Service during Nazi Germany was also the club president for a German football team, after friendly conversations with the referees, his soccer team often won due to penalty kicks!

All of these books are available at the Seaside Public Library and we are open all summer long with special summer reading for adults, teens, and kids going on now through August.

Scene and Heard

CLAIRE LOVELL

Beware the summer flood of phone scams and swindlers

What do you require of your candidates for high office? Must he or she be good looking? Advocate amnesty? Promote gun control? Throw scruples out the window? For my own part, I think the person should be able to pronounce the word, "nuke-le-ar!"

I wonder if anyone else is driven out of his or her home as I am, by unwanted mail. I should take a picture and send it to my correspondents. A lot of it I have brought on myself by going after too many causes. Maybe I'll mend my ways when I land in

the poorhouse, ha. If only these people would share their donations as readily as they do your addresses.

With the arrival of summer, extortionists and swindlers are coming out of the woodwork. Over the phone: "You have just won \$2,000,000 in a sweepstakes. Your prize will be on the way after you send its transport fee to — fill in the blanks." These offers are more and more prevalent. With our new means of communication, scammers can learn everything about everybody and become more and more sophisticated



CLAIRE LOVELL

about reeling us in, but the old word of warning still holds. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Hang up.

I've had my children visiting off and on for at least two weeks. On Robin's last day, we went for a great breakfast to the Pig 'N' Pancake. There we ran into Sharon and Scott Likowitz. Scott is home on his respite time from the job in Australia. We always look forward to those days because Scott is such a friendly, likeable person to have around. He's also an exceptional hombre who is kind to old ladies.

Of course you know I'm often irked by small things. One that really gets me is the media habit of adding "gate" to every scandal

of the day. In Watergate, the origin of the exercise, "gate" is an integral part of the word. To add "gate" onto deflate or Benghazi is like saying "Watergate-gate." I think it's stupid — and unimaginative, but they do like to play follow the leader.

Sometimes the squeaky wheel does get the grease. You should see the nice job they did on 9th Ave., except for the lake by Lincoln, which someone translated as "hole," everything is smoothed out with some new gravel. They even left the excess in my driveway. Thank you, thank you. A

Sysco food truck — very large — drove by on the 22nd, tearing off many of my tree leaves because it was just too big for the road. Where was he going? That's the kind of traffic, which keeps the road broken down and full of potholes.

Bruce Jenner may think he's a girl now, but his thyroid cartilage (Adam's Apple to you) gives him away.

Laugh Line

Now that I'm older, here's what I've discovered: I started out with nothing and I still have most of it.

Obituaries

Stephen 'Clegg' Rasmusson

Aug. 25, 1948 — June 23, 2015



Stephen "Clegg" Rasmusson

Service with three bronze stars, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Mr. Rasmusson was employed for 29 years with the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department. He also served his

community as a reserve deputy with the Astoria Police Department, and was a member of the Astoria Gun Club.

An avid patriot, he was a commander of the VFW Fort Stevens Post No. 10580 of Warrenton. He enjoyed traveling, cruising, barbecuing with friends, and appreciating the great outdoors.

Clegg is survived by his wife, Katherine Rasmusson of Warrenton, Ore.; daughter Jennifer Fremstad of Astoria, Ore.; daughter Amy Rasmusson Radich of Lake Oswego, Ore.; and grandchildren Annik Fremstad of Corvallis, Ore., Fridtjof Fremstad of Astoria, Ore., and William Radich of Lake Oswego, Ore. He was preceded in death

by his parents and a brother, John Craig Rasmusson.

A graveside service with military honors will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 27, at Ocean View Cemetery in Warrenton. A memorial service will follow at 1 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church in Astoria. Viewing and visitation hours will be today from 4 to 7 p.m. at Ocean View Funeral and Cremation Service, 1213 Franklin Ave. in Astoria.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Fort Stevens Post No. 1580, Veterans of Foreign Wars, 1376 S.E. Anchor Ave., Warrenton, OR 97146.

An online guest book may be signed at www.OceanViewAstoria.com

Richard Lee 'Dick' Sanseri

Jan. 30, 1936 — June 25, 2015

The Seaside Police Department of Seaside, Ore., acknowledges retired Lieutenant Richard "Dick" Lee Sanseri, age 79, with over 16 years of law enforcement service, who passed away in Bend, Ore., Thursday night, June 25, 2015, from natural causes.

Lt. Sanseri became employed with Seaside Police in January 1981, where he worked as a police officer and detective until his promotion to sergeant. He received a promotion to lieutenant in August 1995, a position he held until his retirement in June 1996.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia; sons, Brent

and Paul; daughters, Nancy Doyon and Gina Marie Steffey; and six grandchildren.

A graveside service was held at Mount Calvary Catholic Cemetery, 333 S.W. Skyline Blvd., Portland, Ore., on July 9, 2015.

Condolence cards can be sent to Springer and Son Aloha Funeral Home, P.O. Box 5308, Aloha, OR 97006.

Any questions or comments can be directed to Seaside Police Department, to the attention of Lt. Steve Barnett at sbarnett@cityofseaside.us or by phone at 503-738-6311.