

Grant funding helps ‘panicked pedestrian’

CANNON SHOTS

R.J. MARX



Visitors to Seaside will now have an added path to safety with the addition of “you are here” signs. The site-specific tsunami evacuation maps are oriented with arrows to indicate the way to high ground, rather than providing a north-south orientation.

“One of the things that keep me awake at night as the county emergency manager are the visitors,” Clatsop County’s Emergency Manager Tiffany Brown said in November.

In preparing the maps, she said, “I just kept my audience in mind: the panicked pedestrian. And it just made sense to me you wouldn’t have to spend time orienting yourself, so for that reason, all of the signs are oriented to the viewer.”

The path to high ground is different at each sign location.

Stakeholders meet

The idea for the new signs was formulated at a emergency management meeting last year at Camp Rilea which brought Clatsop County’s Emergency Management team, the Oregon Office of Emergency Management, homeowners’ associations and city officials together.

Seaside’s planning director Kevin Cupples was among the group, and agreed to bring the new signs to Seaside.

“What came up is people don’t really have an idea of where high ground is,” Cupples said at a recent meeting of the Seaside Downtown Development Association. “In Seaside, if they’re a visitor, it’s difficult to explain where you need to go other than to point up to the upper hills.”

A \$9,000 grant in 2014 paid for the first two “you are here” signs, along with tents, maps, card keys



R.J. MARX PHOTO/SEASIDE SIGNAL

Planning Director Kevin Cupples discusses plans to provide emergency evacuation information in Seaside.

and other materials. This year, the county received a \$10,360 grant solely for the signs.

Daniel Stoelb, Geographic Information Systems coordinator with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management, is the “unsung hero” of this project, Brown said.

“When I discovered that DOGAMI no longer produced the signs and that no template existed, he took it on,” she said. “It took us a couple months just to iron out the process, but once done, things went pretty smoothly.”

Stoelb created a new sign template to match the signs installed the previous year, and drafted signs for the cities of Seaside, Cannon Beach, Gearhart, Warrenton, Astoria, Camp Rilea, the U.S. Coast Guard station and Seaside School District.

Alejandro Bancke, GIS coordinator with Clatsop County, recently completed the remaining sign drafts for State Parks, Surf Pines, Camp Rilea, Arch Cape, Cullaby

Lake and Astoria School District. Brown said the signs, at about \$49 each, have been ordered but are yet to be installed.

Signs in Seaside

Fifteen signs are now in Seaside. “Out of the 86 signs in the county, we got a pretty good-size chunk of them,” Cupples said. “We tried to focus on high-traffic areas in town that would give people an idea of knowing where they’re at.”

Two signs are placed at the north end of town along 12th Avenue, one at Goodman Park and one at the beach access. Broadway corridor signs are at the north and south ends of the Prom, the downtown parking lot, Quat Park and the Convention Center.

Others are located at Broadway Park, City Hall, the Visitor’s Bureau, the pool and the library. Remaining signs are at the Community Center, the Avenue U access and at Cartwright Park.



Tsunami evacuation map, oriented to pedestrians for a City Hall approach.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/SEASIDE SIGNAL

Signs are designed to lead evacuees over the First Avenue bridge rather than the Avenue A or Broadway bridge, which are likely to collapse in a quake.

Making the signs accessible is essential to their success, Cupples said.

“If you’re waiting till the earth stops shaking to find out where your evacuation map is, you’ve kind of waited too long,” he said. “If people aren’t thinking catastrophically they’ll think, ‘I’ll just go on my phone.’ You probably won’t have cell service after a Cascadia subduction earthquake.”

Once visitors are safely to high ground, officials will look to getting them out of the region as quickly as possible. Supplies would be insufficient to provide for long-term sheltering, Cupples said.

Too much information?

Brown said evacuation road

signs are still lacking in Seaside, and will be part of upcoming discussions.

“We’re going to round out the evacuation sign system in the county in the next three years,” Brown said. “The next phase after we get the rest of these signs installed will be to convene the group and say, ‘We need a round evacuation sign here, we need an arrow here. I need this here.’ We’ll be starting that after the first of the year.”

Some Seaside business owners worry that too much emergency information could scare visitors off.

Education is “part of a process we need to work on,” City Manager Mark Winstanley said. “I hear the complaints from businesspeople. But I think the better information we get out there, the better people are prepared. People need to be comfortable with what they need to do.”

We must be vigilant to protect our state’s ‘birthright’

When you enjoy Oregon beaches you’re walking in shadows—yes, even on our precious sunny days. You’re walking in the shadows of those who fought to keep our shoreline open to all. Many Oregonians have helped protect what Governor Oswald West called our “great birthright”—chief among them West himself and one of his successors, Tom McCall.

McCall was governor from 1967 to 1975 and even if he had done nothing else during his eight years in office, he would have secured his legacy forever by his labors in the spring and summer of his first year on the job. That was when he seized his bully pulpit to give the Beach Bill new life after it had been buried in a legislative committee.

You may know the basics—how Governor West’s 1913 bill

GUEST COLUMN

BILL HALL

secured the wet sands portion of the beaches as a public highway, but by the 1960s, property owners had started to encroach into the dry sands area. A couple of who long enjoyed the beach in front of the Surfsand Motel and were distressed to find it blocked off by driftwood logs, a motel employee shooing them away.

McCall staged one of the most memorable photo-ops in Oregon history; some say the picture of him in his Pendleton jacket, jaw thrust forward, scowling at the Surfsand is the single most iconic photograph in Oregon history. The people won, the great birthright was preserved, and on July

7, 2017 (7-7-17), I hope you’ll join me, my friend and publisher Matt Love, and thousands of other Oregonians in what will be one of the great celebrations in Oregon history.

It’s great to celebrate the birthright, but we also have to be vigilant to protect it. We can imagine how awful it might have been if developers had been allowed to drive piles into the sands and place million dollar mansions, ticky-tack commercial development bringing candy shops and candle stores to the edge of the sea. We can also imagine how it could have been better—and still can be.

Earlier this year, Nestucca Spit Press published my utopian novel McCallandia. McCallandia imagines Tom McCall becoming Richard Nixon’s successor as president of the United States. It’s

a new way to examine McCall the man, McCall the leader, the times he lived in, and what the unfulfilled possibilities were. When I was researching the book, I almost ached when I discovered we could have had a national Beach Bill.

Future Congressman Bob Eckhardt was a Texas state legislator in 1959 when the Lone Star state passed a beach bill that was one of the models for the Oregon law a few years later. Yes, Texas once had progressive leaders. When Eckhardt went to Washington at the end of the sixties, he introduced a national Beach Bill. The measure always died in committee, often not even getting a hearing. But suppose the president in the White House hadn’t been Nixon or Reagan? Suppose the president had been a man who cared deeply about preserving the

environment, including the public’s right to access the beaches? Suppose the man in the Oval Office had been Tom McCall?

I had fun imagining McCall and Eckhardt working together on a Beach Bill. I hope you might have fun reading about that might-have-been. And I hope you’ll resolve to do what you can to make it happen someday. The leaders you choose at the local, state and national levels do make a difference. They work for all of us. We don’t have a Tom McCall anymore to warn us about “the grasping wastrels of the land.”

We don’t have another Tom McCall among us, so it’s up to us to follow in his footsteps to protect the birthright.

Bill Hall is a full-time Lincoln County Commissioner and part-time novelist. “McCallandia” is his first book.

Let’s all gather round the table, Christmas time is near

There were some beautiful things at our Methodist bazaar on the 21st. People aren’t spending as readily as they did last year, although I’m sure we did well, especially in the food department. I went for lunch and had my favorite chicken salad sandwich. This one was built at church. Somehow I never seem to make them at home. It’s hard to realize that holidays are so imminent—a common state of affairs. Since they always arrive hot on the heels of Halloween. I’ll never be ready. A really special gal bought me a new apron for a perfect Christmas gift. I do a lot of dishes.

I read in The Daily Astorian about the proposed redo of Holladay Drive. Any local dreads the idea of street work at any time. It

SCENE & HEARD

CLAIRE LOVELL



always irritates people and usually takes much longer than they tell us. My complaint is with the positioning of another traffic signal. Sixth Ave. is a narrow street, more so when resident’s cars are parked along its side. I always walk in the street there because of the aggregate sidewalks. Fifth Ave. on the other hand, has always been a dangerous street from which to enter the traffic. Due to visibility, one must often get out onto Holladay before he can see how things are going so he can proceed. It’s especially treacherous when the

Episcopal Church is in session and cars are parked. I think the light—if we must have another one—should be at Fifth Ave. Had there been one when I was hit by a truck there, I might have avoided a few cracked ribs.

Isn’t it pitiful that several news stories during Thanksgiving week were about marijuana? The passage of time has surely changed what interests us most. The fact is, we’re all going to pot and may live to regret it. (I already have.)

Thanksgiving was a beautiful day. It dawned clear and crisp with ice on the puddles. I understand there was a beautiful moon that set in the ocean in the early morning. Son Jeff, his wife Nancy and his son David with Y.L. Noelle, came from Eugene to take me

out for holiday dinner. We went to McMenamins for the second year in a row. We enjoyed turkey and the works at about 3:30 p.m. for their extensive buffet. At the risk of having too much to eat, I took my pie home to have it later. All of it was delicious. Though there are perils all around us, we have a lot for which to be thankful. Expressing it often makes the world a better place.

After dinner we drove to The Cove to watch the sunset that at first seemed to be over because the sun disappeared behind the head. Jeff noted the brilliant reflection of the sun on the glass of the Gearhart condos. Looked like they were on fire. So we knew it hadn’t set yet. In a few moments however, that brightness faded away, assuring

us that the magic ball had indeed disappeared over the horizon. Then, since it turned cold, we hurried home to watch some old Tracy-Hepburn movies.

I can’t believe what a good job my kid did next day on an old recliner I have—65 years old, which had had a broken arm for a long time. I had patched it off and on for several years, except that the glue never held. Jeff bought new dowels, drilled new holes, glued and pounded until I have a new chair. He even repaired the part that lets me tip it back and lock it in place. Great for sleeping! It’s a wonderful Christmas present.

Laugh line

Two bed bugs met in a mattress. They married in the spring.

Letters to the Editor

Response to the early morning fire

I would like to take a moment to say thank you! Last night there was a fire three houses down from where I live. It was a 4-alarm fire, and it was a terrible sight.

While I was obviously scared during the scene of

the fire, I was in awe and respect of the men and women who battled that fire. There were fire trucks from every district around and I have never seen a group run so incredibly efficiently before. Not only did they have the fire to deal with, but also the

wind provided them with an extra challenge that they rose

to with precise expertise.

They were amazing at keeping my neighbors and myself calm as well as informed.

I have to say thank you to all those firemen and firewomen for their ability to keep such a horrible event to a minimum, as it could have been oh so much worse. I am

humbled by your dedication and service to our community. Thank you.

**Carol Ann Carnese
Portland**

Add signage to floats in local parades

I attended the Sea-

side Downtown Parade of Lights recently. It was very well done, and there were quite a few entries.

However, many of the floats and entries had no signage to tell people who they were, or what organization they were representing. After doing all the work to decorate the float,

and then not be able to have recognition, is sad. I do hope this is something to keep in mind for the next parade.

This was also a problem at the Fourth of July parade.

**Lin Anderson
Seaside**