

New flood maps needed to avoid sanctions

Communities benefit overall from latest mapping data

By Erick Bengel
EO Media Group

Residents in Gearhart, Seaside, Cannon Beach, Clatsop County and those in Warrenton’s Diking District No. 1 will be unable to buy flood insurance, renew existing flood insurance policies and will face additional consequences unless their jurisdiction

adopts new federal flood insurance rate maps.

The urgent message resonated at an open house Monday at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center, where locals looked over draft revisions to the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s maps that identify flood risk along the coast.

Adoption of the maps — which will be used to set flood insurance rates and shape community development decisions — will involve new flood hazard ordinances.

“It’s pretty dire if the cities and county are unable to move forward with the adoption of these ordinances,” said Patrick Wingard, regional representative for the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development.

A community that fails to adopt the maps will be suspended from the National Flood Insurance Program and face a host of sanctions.

Not only will residents be ineligible for flood insurance, the community will not qualify for federal grants or

loans for development in flood hazard areas, or for federal disaster assistance to repair insurable flood-damaged buildings in those areas.

“If you are suspended from the National Flood Insurance Program, that affects folks’ ability to get mortgages; it affects the business climate, the local economy and the regional economy,” Wingard said.

Happy results

The communities will mostly benefit from the mapping updates,

which are the result of a countywide study that began in 2009 and incorporate the latest topographic technology.

The bottom line: Far more land was removed from the 100-year flood plain, which has a 1 percent chance of flooding in any given year and a 26 percent chance of flooding during the life of a 30-year mortgage, according to Heather Hansen, the county’s flood plain manager.

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Kevin Hart, left, as Ben Barber and Ice Cube as James Payton in a scene from the film, “Ride Along 2.” Hart plans to run in the Hood to Coast Relay.

IT’S NO JOKE...

Comedian Kevin Hart will run Hood to Coast

By Katherine Lacaze
For Seaside Signal

Comedian Kevin Hart may be one of the most well-known individuals running in the 2016 Hood to Coast Relay, but just as in years past, the event — along with the concurrent Portland to Coast Walk and High School Challenge — promises to bring 18,000 competitors to Seaside next weekend.

For the past 18 years, the nearly 200-mile overnight race reached capacity, or 1,050 12-person teams, on the opening day of registration. This year was no different, according to Dan Floyd, chief operating officer for the Hood to Coast Race Series.

Competitors from each state and more than 35 countries are registered to participate in the events, which begin Aug. 26 at Timberline Lodge on Mount Hood for Hood to Coast runners and downtown Portland for walkers and high school teams. All three events conclude with a grandiose Finish Line Party in Seaside on Aug. 27.

Nike’s team this year includes running advocate, producer and performer Hart, along with 11 other celebrities. Hart announced his participation in a video uploaded on his YouTube channel and posted to his Facebook page in early August.

During the video, the comedian jokes about taking on “the toughest, most craziest 10K,” only to be told it is actually a nearly 200-mile race that starts on Mount Hood, officially characterized by the U.S. Geological Survey as a “potentially active” volcano. He responds, “198 miles? By myself?” It’s a relay race, the reporters reassure him.

“You got to get fit,” Hart concludes. “You never know when a surprise 198-mile-potentially-life-threatening-active-volcano relay race is going to sneak up on you. This is one of those moments.”

Floyd confirmed Hart’s participation “is definitely happening.”

“We don’t know which leg he’s running, and we do know he’s planning to make it to Seaside,” he said.

Hart will have his own security personnel, but organizers also will provide Hart and his team “luxuries that other teams don’t get that will make it a lot easier for them to make sure he is safe,” Floyd said.



Joey Burda, Katie Dyk, Katie Nicholls and Josh Sweigert came from far and wide for Seaside volleyball.

HAVING A BALL

Seaside is the star of volleyball tournament

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Seaside’s biggest party was in full swing over the weekend, with spectacular weather and a beach full of volleyball players and fans.

With the Summer Olympics in Brazil airing the world’s best athletes every night, the competitors in this year’s amateur tournament received added inspiration.

“Gosh, to me it actually boosts up the morale and that excitement of playing,” said co-organizer PT Thilavanh. “The players are watching the Olympics after they’re done and then they’re anxious to play even more.”

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JEFF TER HAR/FOR SEASIDE SIGNAL

Ice bucket challenge, or just cooling off? This volleyball competitor enjoys a splashdown.



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A promise made, a promise kept

Angels for Sara offers sanctuary for senior dogs

By Eve Marx
For Seaside Signal

Jacque Pressly got the idea to start Angels For Sara, a sanctuary for senior dogs, while working for the Clatsop County Public Works Department.

“I cleaned the Clatsop County Animal Shelter a couple of times a week in the evening,” she said. “There was an old Rottweiler there named ‘Sara.’ She came to the shelter because her owner had passed away and the family didn’t want her. She spent most of her time in the lobby or one of the offices.”

When Pressly arrived for work, Sara followed her around. “One evening I arrived and she wasn’t there,” Pressly said. “I was so excited because I thought she finally got her forever home.” She soon learned Sara had been euthanized because her health

was in such decline.

“My heart broke,” Pressly said. “If I had only known, I would have taken her home with me to keep her comfortable and loved instead of her having to live out her days in a cold shelter with no one to love her.”

Pressly said she cried all that night as she worked. “When I went outside to take out the garbage, I saw it was a beautiful night and the stars were so bright. I looked up at them and made Sara a promise that some way, some how, I was not going to let this happen again.”

Pressly is a big believer that things happen for a reason. A few days after learning of Sara’s death, her friend Jackie Beerger, a Cannon Beach resident who worked as a volunteer at the Clatsop County shelter, came to her with an offer to rent an 89-acre property with a mobile home. Pressly immedi-

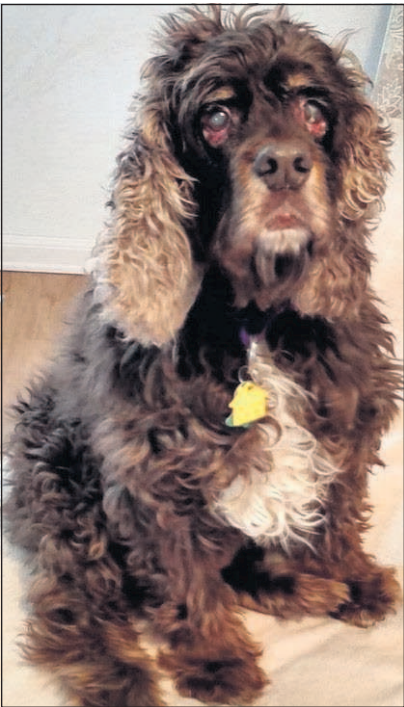
ately thought it would be a good place to have a senior dog sanctuary and began doing the necessary paperwork.

‘Bonnie and Clyde’

In 2013 Angels for Sara became a nonprofit corporation. “In January 2014 I moved on to the property,” Pressly said. “And in June 2014 our first senior dogs, Bonnie and Clyde, came to live there.”

Angels For Sara is a small group providing quality care to senior dogs that have been abandoned to shelters. Made up of a dedicated team of volunteers, sponsors, and veterinarians, Angels for Sara is funded by grants, sponsorship and donations. The sanctuary offers hospice care to dogs and promotes awareness regarding long-term

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Bailey the cocker spaniel, 13, is looking for a good home.