

Gathering protests Russian interference

Oregon House
candidate
Tiffany Mitchell
addresses
Seaside crowd

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Spurred by events this week in Helsinki, Finland, more than 60 people turned out in front of the Seaside Visitors Bureau in a rally against government corruption.

The event, organized by North Coast Indivisible, aimed to safeguard Oregon's election process and eliminate foreign influence in the federal government.

Seaside resident Russ Mead, a law professor at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, said Americans must safeguard the election process. "We know that Oregon was targeted and we

need to be on top of this," Mead said.

"We have a dishonest president, and he's meeting in secret with Vladimir Putin," rally organizer Eric Halperin said. "We're hoping to rally people to vote in the next election who elect Democrats to oversee a president who seems to be working on his own agenda, not the people of America. People in this nation have to stand up and understand what's going on at the highest level of government."

Tiffany Mitchell, Democratic candidate for House District 32 and a member of North Coast Indivisible, called the Seaside rally a "strong turnout."

"I think a lot of people are really tired of what's going on, especially at a national level, even horrified by the comments the president made in Helsinki, and really want to come out and make their voices heard," Mitchell said.

Libraries in Clatsop County receive grants totaling over \$40,000 in July

Seaside Signal

Pacific Power Foundation has awarded a grant for \$1,000 to the Libraries Reading Outreach in Clatsop County program. This program serves all rural youth ages 0-19 outside the city limits of Astoria, Seaside, and Warrenton and provides free library cards for those children at their closest public library. The program was established in 2009 and continues to grow, with support from Pacific Power, Clatsop County, the city of Seaside, and other private and public donors. The goal of the program is to provide access for library services to all children in Clatsop County regardless of their geographical location.

The Pacific Power Foundation is part of the PacificCorp Foundation, one of the largest utility-endowed foundations in the United States. The foundation's mission, through

charitable investments, is to support the growth and vitality of the communities served by Pacific Power and Rocky Mountain Power. For more information, visit www.pacificpower.net/foundation.

The Seaside Public Library and Warrenton Community Library were awarded a joint \$36,800 grant from the State Library this July. Funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Technology Act grant, the grant will allow the Warrenton Community Library to become fully automated, update their library web page, provide digital e-books and audiobooks, and have a shared library catalog with Seaside. The grant also includes finishing the remaining portion of the Seaside Library's Radio Frequency Identification book circulation project.

The Seaside Public Library was also awarded a Library Services and Technology Act mini-grant of \$3,000 to pro-



Jessica Augustus, Community Partnerships Advisor with Pacific Power and Esther Moberg, director of the Seaside Library.

vide a book collection refresh, Knappa Elementary School and Jewell schools. The Astoria Public Library also re-

ceived a separate \$3,000 grant from the state grant to refresh their children's library collection.

How tsunamis past have carved our local environment

Tsunamis from Page 1A

The confluence of the Neacanicum River, the Neawanna and Neacoxie creeks are an important area of ecological and cultural significance since the first settlers thousands of years ago. Clear cutting of the forest happened here at least twice in 100 years, with the most recent occurring in the 1950s.

A Native American village once existed in the distance. Under the 1851 Treaty of Tansy Point, this property was intended for tribal ownership; however, Congress never ratified the treaty. The area is still considered sacred land to the Clatsop-Neahalem Tribe, and only by permission can visitors walk onto this land. Discovered artifacts date back to the early 1800s and as early as 2,500 years ago for the ancient village.

Development

Neawanna Point was once in jeopardy of a proposed condominium development in the



COLIN MURPHEY/THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Smooth rocks left over from a tsunami that hit hundreds of years ago lay in a creek bed in a marshy area near Seaside.

1990s. Architects of the development envisioned the area to include tennis courts and parking lots with upwards of 95 condominium units. After several years of exploring options and discovering evidence of ancient village sites, the property owners transferred ownership of the land to be stewarded

by North Coast Land Conservancy in 1998.

Horning commented that shoreline vegetation is being killed with heavy use of the riverbank by fishermen and crabbers, yet some grasses and plants have survived on the less treaded areas of the terrace. The property is now closed to

fishing and crabbing, but protecting the marshland around Neawanna Point continues to be a challenge, and much of the damaged area is slowly recovering.

Along the middle terrace large depressions have been left by heavy logs washed on shore by storm surges, forming moats that drained water as the terrace grew. This in turn formed channel ways to serve as habitat for juvenile coho salmon, he explained. Because some depressions become entrapped in vegetation and cannot collect a sediment build up, they remain as open ponds.

Tsunami

On the east side of the upper terrace is a subsided forest. Horning refers to this as "Seaside's ghost forest" for what remains are the roots, stumps and logs of large Sitka spruce trees that grew to 8-feet in diameter; it is a product of a forest that drowned 318 years ago in January 1700. "That's when

we had our most recent great subduction zone earthquake," Horning said.

Along the creek channel, west of the ghost forest is a gravel sheet of rounded cobble stones. Made of basalt, the stones are from Tillamook Head, deposited into the ocean by landslides, washed to the Cove by storm waves and then washed north up the beach over time. Horning explained that it may have been possible the earthquakes caused the landslide and possibly tsunamis helped move the rocks.

"No other places are built up with a large amount of round cobble like Seaside has. In the literature, you don't hear about the high energy coarse sediment these rocks represent, being transported by waves. The cobble berm on the other side of the forest was formed over 2,500 years ago and now marks the east shore of the Neacoxie."

Nearer to Neacoxie Creek, the cobbles mark the continuation of the berm beneath the

main river channel. "The pioneers thought perhaps the Indians had piled rocks here to provide a shallow crossing of the river. As it turns out, the berm is entirely natural and probably survived even the 1700 tsunami," Horning explained.

Along the upper terrace, tsunami researchers have cored the sediment layers of that part of Neawanna Point and found sand layers from both the 1964 and 1700 tsunamis. Horning pointed toward the upland field, an ocean beach about 2,800 years ago.

The tour ended where it began, at the Reuben Snake memorial where stories of sacrifice and rebirth become synonymous to the geological landscape of the area. For Snake's persistence in fighting for the rights of the Native American Church in allowing the use of peyote, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act amendment of 1994 became a lasting monument to Snake's memory.

What's ahead at the historical society

History from Page 1A

trips to the museum so the kids could have a onsite, hands-on experience," said Wright.

The historical society also sponsors the History and Hops lecture series at Seaside Brewing on the last Thursday of the month from September through May.

"I had attended one History Pub program at McMenamin's Edgefield before moving to Seaside and loved the idea," said Wright. "I found that Jimmy Griffin at Seaside Brewing had an interest in history, and as his business was located in one of Seaside's historic buildings (the old City Hall), we quickly agreed to try our own history event."

And while attendance was small the first year, it has grown in popularity over the last three.

"You need to get there very early to get a seat," said Wright.

The society is also responsible for a holiday tradition in Seaside, the Gingerbread Tea, held in the 1893 Butterfield Cottage every Saturday from Thanksgiving through Christmas.

"(These kinds of events) bring much needed funding for our operations," said Wright, but added, "but mainly they are part of the traditional activities that Seaside residents and visitors look forward to each year."

2017 highlights

The society had a number of things to highlight from

2017, including the fact that more than 50 volunteers contributed more than 2,000 hours of time to the historical society. The museum saw a 28 percent increase in visitors from the year before — more than 2,200 total — and, after switching to admission by donation, they saw a 41 percent increase in admission revenue.

Last September, U.S. Bank awarded the historical society a \$1,500 grant toward operating costs, as part of the bank's initiative to support local nonprofits.

The roof of the Gaston Building was replaced to the tune of \$15,000. In October, the Oregon Community Foundation gave the society a \$2,000 grant, which went toward the cost of repairing the back porch of the Butterfield Cottage. The museum's Butterfield Committee raised more than \$6,000 for continued work on that building's siding and windows, with the work currently ongoing.

"Having an old cottage and museum building means that we are continually applying for various grants and holding fundraisers to enable us to keep our facilities safe and in decent shape," Wright said.

In the past four years the museum building has been painted, had the west siding replaced and had the hot water heater replaced. The Cottage was painted, the furnace and electrical panel was replaced, as was the west siding replaced and several windows were repaired.

A need for funding, but from where?

Bridges from Page 1A

Horning, a geologist, argues investing in bridges that will act as evacuation routes out of the tsunami inundation zone is the best way to save the most lives. The predicted 25-foot to 50-foot wave would destroy about 92 percent of Seaside's buildings, leaving about 20 to 30 feet of standing water throughout the town. The disaster could cause anywhere from 500 to 23,500 fatalities, depending on the time of year and how prepared the town is to respond, Horning said.

Projected to cost about \$35 million, Horning sees lodging taxes as a quick way to raise about \$1 million a year to help finance bridge repairs.

While the sense of urgency resonated, some city councilors questioned the legality and feasibility of using lodging taxes.

State law requires 70 percent of lodging tax revenue be used for tourism promotion or property. Raising the lodging tax to pay for infrastructure improvements has been contested by hoteliers and the Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association.

There was also concern about how it would pair with the lodging tax increase passed by Clatsop County that would fund operations at a new jail, and how steadily increasing hotel bills would affect the tourism industry.

Terry Bichsel, owner of Best Western Plus Ocean View Resort and Rivertides Suites Hotel, said as a lodging operator, he recognized the need for disaster preparation, but felt the cost should be shared by the community. "The lodging tax is an easy



COLIN MURPHEY/THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Seaside City Councilor Tom Horning stands under a bridge in Seaside that he says is in need of modification in order to survive a major earthquake.

target, but I would encourage spreading the responsibility," Bichsel said.

Some councilors felt Seaside's lodging tax, which is 10 percent, is already reaching a breaking point. Seaside's rate is the third highest in the county, following Warrenton and Astoria, which sit at 12 percent and 11 percent.

"We have to stop looking at lodging taxes as a panacea," City Councilor Tita Montero said. "If we keep raising lodging taxes out of the norm, we will lose those tourists that we think will keep coming to fund this."

Some councilors, like Seth Morrissey, supported using revenue the county will share with cities from the new lodging tax for bridge projects in conjunction with other reve-

nue sources.

Horning said he supports getting creative to find funding, but feels the impact of raising the lodging tax was being overstated.

"I don't like to raises taxes for nothing, but it's quite small in comparison to the need," he said.

The City Council discussed possibly floating a bond or road levy and lobbying the state for higher priority for funding given the town's unique status as the most vulnerable to a tsunami on the Oregon Coast. Other ideas included instituting a fee, to be inserted in water bills, to help fund an emergency preparedness consultant.

Some, like City Councilor Dana Phillips and Mayor Jay Barber, questioned whether

more attention should be directed on resilience after the wave subsides.

But one consensus was reached: Something needs to be done — fast.

"We need to address this soon," Barber said. "We don't have an answer to funding, but once you're aware, you're responsible."

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