

# Tsunami: ‘This event further stresses the need for upgrades to the system’

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(personnel) and law enforcement actually went on to the beach to inform people to leave the beach. People were mostly very cooperative.”

It was hard to distinguish a potential tsunami of small size from a typical surge of a sneaker wave, Seaside City Councilor Tom Horning, a geologist, said.

“I stationed myself at the south tip of Gearhart above the mouth of the Necanicum River,” Horning said.

Two minutes of surge, followed by four minutes of ebb, were typical from 8:30 to 9 a.m.

“At 9:01 a.m., a surge of 10 minutes followed by a two-minute ebb followed by another surge of six minutes took place,” Horning said. “Later surges were from three to five minutes with five minutes of ebb until around 9:40 a.m., when we left. Possibly the 9:01 a.m. surge could have been a sneaker wave with some tsunami momentum. One part tsunami, 10 parts sneaker wave.”

High tide was around 8 feet at 10:30 a.m., and from the old high school parking lot, it looked like it should have under normal conditions.

“The tsunami, if it arrived, was swamped by sneaker waves, and the sneaker waves were insignificant,” Horning said.

At 11:45 a.m., the Seaside emergency operations center stood down.

The tsunami advisory was canceled around 5 p.m. There were no injuries or damage reported.

“The event provided an excellent rehearsal in preparation for the potential of a much more serious event,” Barber said.

## Gearhart

Gearhart Fire Chief Josh Como said he was notified of the advisory by both Seaside’s fire chief and the dispatch center.



Seaside emergency personnel patrolling beach and advising people of a tsunami alert.

Lou Solitske

The Gearhart Fire Department responded to the emergency operations center at Seaside dispatch. “At our station, our firefighters set up local emergency operations to organize and deploy resources throughout our city and fire district, focusing on low-lying areas that would have the best chances for impact from surges of water,” he said.

Como called on-duty Officer Josh Lair, Lt. James Hutchinson and City Administrator Chad Sweet. After the necessary personnel had been notified, Como contacted Mayor Paulina Cockrum so she could communicate with the Gearhart Community Emergency Response Team.

The Clatsop County Sheriff’s Office blocked the Sunset and Del Ray beach accesses.

Police Chief Jeff Bowman monitored the 10th Street access, Como said, and helped Gearhart fire personnel patrol the beach and low-lying areas.

“From what I saw, the waves did not breach the first base of the dune line,” Como said. “The waves did push up similar to a sneaker wave on a high tide. I was not made aware of any damage to our community.”

Cockrum said she stayed at the overlook near the Little Beach parking lot and took pictures of waves, three of which she said were abnormal.

“One of the unusual things I noticed was a large amount of trees that came out of the base of Neacoxie Creek and

were starting to float into the estuary,” Cockrum said.

Como said he was proud of the response from all of the agencies involved. “All parties acted together to protect our citizens and visitors from harm,” he said.

## Cannon Beach

Cannon Beach police received an advisory just after 6:20 a.m. via Seaside dispatch. City Manager Bruce St. Denis and department heads were notified, including police, fire and public works.

“We organized at City Hall, opened up the emergency operation center and had a quick briefing and started to deploy resources,” Rick Hudson, the city’s emergency manager, said.

Responders patrolled all of the beach accesses, posted warning signs and had a continuous patrol presence, Hudson said.

Wave heights were highest close to 9 a.m., Hudson said. “We did not measure the waves, but they represented close to a low king tide level. The tidal flow from this tsunami was not far enough out of the king/high tide level to cause any new damage to the city.”

The city’s emergency sirens were put to the test and led to an apology late Saturday from the Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District.

“There were a few challenges with the system since it has not been used as a city-wide PA system in over 10

years,” Hudson said.

The siren system inadvertently activated an automatic alarm while Hudson and his crew were trying to use the public address system to give an audio address, Cannon Beach City Councilor Nancy McCarthy said.

“It wasn’t the COWS (Community Warning System) message, it was an alarm that, frankly, I hadn’t heard before,” she said. “The last time, someone delivered a message asking people to stay away from the beach until noon. But the public did respond to the alarm.”

According to a statement from the fire district, the emergency operations center as a group decided to use the siren system as a loudspeaker to help clear people from the beaches.

“During that attempt to use the loudspeaker function, the sirens were set off. This was not the intention, and unfortunately created confusion,” the fire district stated.

“Cannon Beach fire district would like to apologize for this, and everyone know that we are looking into why this happened.

“There has been a discussion lately with the city of Cannon Beach, regarding upgrading the siren technology and changing who manages the sirens, as they are currently managed by Cannon Beach fire district,” they wrote. “This event further stresses the need for upgrades to the system.”

# Symphonic band concert set for February

Seaside Signal

The North Coast Symphonic Band continues its 42nd season with a concert titled “Dance Your Cares Away” at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 6, at the Liberty Theatre in Astoria.

Michael McClure from Warrenton High School will guest conduct.

The music on Feb. 6 will be light, fun and recognizable. It may even inspire dancing in the aisles. Several pieces are band arrangements of operatic works, including “Orpheus” and “Danse Bacchanale.” “Russian Sailor’s Dance” is from the ballet genre. Continuing the dance theme, there are medleys, including “Folk Songs from the Southern Appalachians,” “Abba on Broadway,” and more. There is even some jazz, with “Jitterbug,” and a surprise title of a more risqué nature. Master of ceremonies for the afternoon will be Brian Bergman.

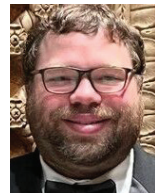
McClure has been leading the Warrenton school bands for 12 years. His approach to music education is a focus on excellence, building strong bands through high standards and humor in the classroom. His bands have placed first or second at the state level for each year he has taught.

The Liberty doors will open at 1 p.m. The Astoria Jazz Combo will perform concert pre-

lude music from 1:30 to 1:55 p.m. while the audience gathers. Regular admission is \$15 and student admission is \$8. Advanced tickets can be purchased at the Liberty Theatre Box Office Wednesday through Saturday from 2 to 5:30 p.m. or online at [www.libertyastoria.showare.com](http://www.libertyastoria.showare.com). Tickets will also be available at the door starting at noon the day of the concert. The Liberty is located on the corner of 12th and Commercial Street in Astoria. Check the Liberty website for current COVID requirements.

The North Coast Symphonic Band offers local musicians of all ages the chance to network, learn from each other and maintain their skill level in a positive and supportive environment. The band rehearses on Monday evenings in Astoria and musicians interested in joining should e-mail Personnel Director Lee Stromquist at [encore1@charter.net](mailto:encore1@charter.net) or call 503-861-1328. Potential new members should read music, own their own instruments and have advanced high school level performance skills or higher. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Charlene Larsen Center for the Performing Arts in Astoria.

For more information, visit [www.northcoastsymphonicband.org](http://www.northcoastsymphonicband.org), email [cablebri@charter.net](mailto:cablebri@charter.net) or call 503-298-1087.



Michael McClure

## BIRTH

Jan. 14, 2022

BROWN, Kai Lynn (Davidson) and Matthew James, a boy, Peyton Arthur Brown, born at Providence Seaside Hospital. Older sister is Leia Brown. Grandparents are Michelle Brown and Steve Estes, James and Hana Brown and the late Arthur and Vicki Davidson. Great-grandmother is Jeannette Main.

## NEWS NOTES

### Community survey underway

The public can take part in an online community survey seeking input about the county as a place to live, work and play. The survey can be found at the Clatsop County website, <https://www.co.clatsop.or.us/county/page/take-survey>.

The survey, administered by the Polco community engagement firm’s National Research Center, is designed to help the Board of Commissioners and staff in crafting long-range goals to drive Clatsop County’s policy and spending priorities.

Participants are asked to rate, from excellent to poor, their feelings on Clatsop County as a place to live, raise children, work, visit and retire. Subjects range from the general — overall quality of life — to employment opportunities, housing options, traffic, and availability of health care.

Respondents are also asked to rate various services as well as overall confidence in Clatsop County government.

All responses are anonymous, although participants are invited to enter their email addresses in order to receive future communications and surveys from the county.

The open survey represents the second phase of the project. The first phase was launched in November with the mailing of

survey forms or postcards with online links to a random sample of 3,200 county households.

The survey will be available to residents through Jan. 26.

### Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Fascination Tournament

The Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District will host a Fascination Tournament on Wednesday, Feb. 23, 6 to 8 p.m., at Funland Arcade in Seaside.

The annual Fascination Tournament is a fundraiser for project phases at the Bob Chisholm Community Center. The Community Center Commission, a five-member advisory group appointed by the Seaside City Council, organizes this event each year.

This year’s tournament starts at 6 p.m. and the team fee includes a salad bar, pizza and a beverage. Beer and wine are available for purchase that evening. This is a 21 and older event; \$100 for a team of four.

Register by visiting <https://www.sunsetempire.com/fascination-tournament>, calling 503-738-3311, ext. 100, or at the front desk of the Sunset Pool or the Bob Chisholm Community Center.

### New cardiologist at Columbia Memorial Hospital

ASTORIA — Columbia Memorial Hospital has announced that Dr. Bassel Beitinjaneh will join the CMH-OHSU Health Cardiology Clinic.

Beitinjaneh began working as a part-time cardiologist last week.

He earned his medical and undergraduate degrees from the University of Damascus in Syria.

Beitinjaneh completed three fellowships through Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, focusing on heart failure, heart transplants, cardiovascular disease and clinical electrophysiology medicine. He also completed a residency focused on internal medicine at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri.

He most recently worked at OHSU and Mid-Columbia Medical Center. At OHSU, he worked as an assistant professor and clinical electrophysiologist. He worked in clinical electrophysiology medicine and as a medical director at Mid-Columbia Medical Center.

He has also worked as a hospitalist at a Portland veterans hospital and Washington

University/Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri.

Beitinjaneh is a member of the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Rhythm Society. He is board-certified by the National Board of Echocardiography. He is also certified in internal medicine, cardiovascular medicine and clinical electrophysiology.

His work has been recognized by many publications and organizations, including the American Society of Echocardiography.

### Fundraiser yields more than \$6,200

On Jan. 8, local restaurant Thai Me Up partnered with Seaside High School and the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District for a fundraiser. Thai Me Up donated 100% of their sales at both the Astoria and Seaside restaurant locations amounting to over \$6,200 to the Seaside High School Swim Team for the purchase of a timing system for swim meets and new diving blocks for the Sunset Pool.

# Plunge: ‘Our goal is to get to 100 plungers’

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of Commerce last Wednesday for a presentation on the event.

“We are a worldwide global movement that focuses on advancing inclusion and awareness of children and adults with intellectual disability through the joy of sport,” Friesen said.

Although accredited through Special Olympics North America, Special Olympics Oregon is independent of the national organization. “We’re all local here in the state office and oversee everything from programs, coaches, athletes, everything across the states, as well as all of our signature events.”

Each county has a local program coordinator, coaches, trainers, coaches, recruits athletes, hosts local trainings and competitions, Friesen said. “We offer 14 Olympic-style sports throughout the year. Typically, we would do summer, fall and winter games that have different sports from bowling, bocce ball, Alpine skiing, swimming and aquatics.”

The polar plunge is the largest signature event for Special Olympics Oregon, he said.

The event takes place at Coffenbury Lake in Warrenton. In conjunction with Hood to Coast, participants may opt to participate in a 5K or 10K run with check-in at 9 a.m. The plunge takes place at 11 a.m., with supervision by the U.S. Coast Guard in a roped-off area. More than 50 people have signed up so far.

“Our goal is to get to 100 plungers this year,” Friesen said. “We are optimistic that we can surpass that goal.”

It is “horrible at times,” he acknowledged. “We do it because it raises money and awareness for athletes. That’s the ‘challenge’ piece of it.”

If you don’t want to plunge yourself, there are other options, Kuther said. “You can latch on to someone who is actually going to plunge and advocate through them. You can still feel like you’re a part of the event and not have to jump in.”

With the “hibernate” option, you can donate \$50 and sleep in if you don’t want to plunge, Friesen added.

For more information or to sign up, visit <https://soor.org/fundraising-events/polar-plunge-2022/>.



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