CANNON BEACH CALL THE SECOND SEACH TO S



Friday, January 2, 2026 | Vol. 50, Issue 1

www.cannonbeachgazette.com



HRAP welcomed puffins in April.

Cannon Beach year in review

WILL CHAPPELL Gazette Editor

Cannon Beach saw an eventful year in 2025, perhaps most notably as construction began on a new city hall in midtown and police station at the south end of the city.

Voters also restricted the city's ability to borrow money in May elections, and a full slate of arts, cul tural and historical events

See **YEAR IN REVIEW,** Page A3



Annual Sandcastle Contest was held in June.



Ex-Mayor Sam Steidel passed away on January 12.

Weber raises alarm over family courts

WILL CHAPPELL Gazette Editor

Following voluminous constituent feedback about poor outcomes in Washington County family court, Oregon State Senator Suzanne Weber is working to raise awareness about the issues in the system.

Weber said that she believes family court judges are given too much authority and that the special courts may need to be abolished in favor of letting regular courtrooms handle the cases, though she acknowledged that somebody else will have to take up the cause after her time in the legislature concludes following 2026's short session.

"It has to be something that someone will take up in the long session and carry through, but at least we've done the groundwork to be able to express the concern we have for our children," Weber said. "Because It's not only our children right now and what is happening to them, it's how it's affecting their

futures.' Family courts are administered by individual states but regulated by numerous federal laws that

See WEBER, Page A4

HRAP director reflects on 2025

PIERCE BAUGH V for the Gazette

As 2025 comes to a close — and as the world moves deeper into the third decade of the 21st century — there is

much to reflect on. For the Haystack Rock Awareness Program (HRAP), 2025 was a year

defined by endurance. At the beginning of the season, HRAP had to contend with a poacher. A man staying at a local hotel was found collecting mussels during low tide. After being informed by HRAP staff that poaching is illegal and given the relevant regulations, he continued to do so. Police were contacted, but the man returned the following day and attempted to collect mussels again. The situation eventually escalated, and the man was cited and barred from

It was also another difficult year for Cannon Beach's black oystercatchers. The birds failed to raise chicks again this season. After a third nesting attempt, eggs hatched but were later preyed upon. Black oystercatchers nest close to public areas, making them highly visible to visitors. HRAP monitors the birds closely and uses their presence as an opportunity for public education.

Black oystercatchers are classified as a species of concern and are considered an indicator species — meaning their struggles can signal broader environmental health issues.

"So that was pretty traumatic," said Lisa Habecker, director of HRAP. "Visitors get to see them regularly, and we call them our soap opera birds like, 'What's happening in the trials and tribulations of the black oystercatchers

Despite the challenges facing local wildlife, Cannon Beach also saw a surprising visitor this year.

A kingfisher — a bird known for its bright blue and orange plumage — has taken up residence in the area, an unusual choice for a species that typically inhabits rivers, lakes and estuaries rather than ocean shorelines.

"It's quite unusual to have one at the ocean," Habecker said. "In fact, nobody's ever heard of a kingfisher here before."

In addition to wildlife monitoring, HRAP expanded its public safety role this year by partnering with local lifeguards during king tide events. King tides, the highest tides of the year, typically occur between November and

HRAP members assisted lifeguards by educating visitors about water safety and helping keep people out of hazardous

"That's been a really great partnership," said HRAP member Jenny Gooldy. "Helping keep people safe and aware of all the hazards during king tide."

"We had over 150 people collectively between November and this past king tide that we spoke to about water safety and assisting the lifeguards," Habecker

Looking ahead, HRAP is actively recruiting volunteers, particularly for the busy summer season. Opportunities include joining the Beach Interpreter team, participating in community science projects, and supporting partner organizations. The volunteer program is open to all ages, with a junior volunteer option available for those under 18. No minimum time commitment is required, and training is provided. Volunteers are required to complete a simple background check.

"We're all looking forward to getting the season started again," Habecker said. "Our team members are chomping at the



The newly constructed Legacy Place will exclusively serve residents of the new Spruce Point Apartment Complex.

Spruce Point construction underway in Manzanita

WILL CHAPPELL Gazette Editor

Work is well underway at the new Spruce Point apartment complex in Manzanita and on pace to bring 60 new affordable apartments online by next fall.

The project is being led by Home First Development Partners and supported by a \$21.4 million grant from Ore-

gon Housing and Community

Services, as well as grants from

the Tillamook County Affordable Housing Grant program.

Construction crews broke ground on August 12, after the property was cleared of trees and a new street, Legacy

Place, which intersects with Necarney City Road between Clipper Court and Pine Ridge Lane, constructed to serve the development. The 60 apartments will be

spread across three three-story

buildings and two two-story

will also feature a community center with a leasing office and community area, common courtyard with a nautically themed playground and 96 parking spots. There will be 14 one-bed-

buildings, and the complex

room, one-bathroom apartments, 23 two-bedroom, one-bathroom, and 23 three

See SPRUCE POINT, Page A2



SPRUCE

From Page A1

rubs. Willow is strong-willed

and will do best with a confident and pittie savvy person. Hardy chew toys, rope toys treat puzzles make her day. She's also

fond of car rides. This forty pound four-year-old Staffordshire Bull

Terrier packs a lot of sweetness into her foot-high frame. Although

she wants to be with her people and would do well with a family,

or someone working from home or maybe looking for a traveling

companion, she needs to be the only dog in the house. She does

have a strong prey drive, so no kitties either. She can pull when

walking and would benefit from some loose leash training.

https://clatsopcounty.animalshelternet.com/adoption_animal_

details.cfm?AnimalUID=319864

Pet meet and greets are by appointment, so if you'd like

to meet Willow call the shelter at 503-861-7387 or stop by

the lobby to set up a time. The shelter is open 9:30 to 4:00

Tu<mark>esday through</mark> Saturday, closed 12:30 to 1:30 for lunch. You

can also fill out an application here:

https://www.clatsopcounty.gov/media/16441. Be sure to

date it next to the signature line (applications are reviewed in

the order they are received) and put the name of the animal you

are interested in at the top. You can then save the application to

your computer and email it to adopt@ClatsopCounty.gov or

print it and deliver it directly to the shelter

bed, one-and-a-half-bedroom apartments, with all featuring washers and dryers. 48 of the apartments will be affordable to residents earning 60% of the area's median income

or less, with 12 dedicated to those earning 30% of that figure or less.

Colleen Osborn, Development Manager with Home First, said that the team working on the project was excited to be able to fully address the need for 60 housing units identified in the recent

be poured. the people that work here,"

ing Needs Assessment. "The rents are going to be able to serve people in the community that work at the local places here, so we're directly trying to respond to both Tillamook County and the City of Manzanita's need for housing for

Osborn said.

Workers prepare for the concrete slab bases of the five apartment buildings and community center to

As of mid-November, workers were preparing for the concrete pads at the base of the buildings to be poured by building interior footings and

Brad Dineen, the project foreman, said that the slabs would be poured at some point in early December when weather allowed and that framing would begin shortly after.

WILLOW Willow spent some quality Tillamook County Houscompacting base rock. time in a foster home last month and is now back at the shelter waiting for that perfect After nearly two-year lapse, Congress person to fall in love with her. Her foster mom tells us that she responds well to calm renews Secure Rural Schools funding communication and loves belly

ALEX BAUMHARDT Oregon Capital Chronicle

After letting funding lapse for nearly two years, Congress voted to renew crucial federal funding that rural counties and schools have counted on for a quarter century.

The U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday evening voted 399-5 to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act through September 2026, and to provide lapsed payments for the 2024 and 2025 fiscal years. The vote came after a year-long campaign led by bipartisan federal

Duane Johnson

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roots in Cannon Beach, I pair

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coastal properties of all kinds,

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and retirement escapes.

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trusted expertise of the

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team.

Outside of real estate,

hiking, visiting tidepools,

exploring galleries, and catching

every sunset with my two pugs,

Ed and Dan.

Welcome to the team

Beth

I embrace the coastal lifestyle-

lawmakers from the West. The U.S. Senate in June

unanimously voted to reauthorize the act. It now goes to the president to be signed into law.

"The Secure Rural Schools program has been a lifeline for rural communities across Oregon since I originally authored the program back in 2000," Oregon's U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, a Democrat, said in a statement. "I'm relieved the House has finally done its job with the long-overdue passage of my bill to return the safety net for critical services to communities that need it the most."

Wyden co-authored the original law that provided tens of millions each year for rural schools and communities that previously benefited from revenue generated by natural resource industries on public lands. Since then, it has provided \$7 billion in payments to

more than 700 counties and 4,400 school districts across 40 states and Puerto Rico that have large swaths of federal land within their

Oregon, where more than half of the state consists of federal land, has experienced the biggest loss of any state since the funding lapsed in 2023: nearly \$48.7 million in money for rural roads, public services and schools, according to a September report from the D.C.-based Center for American Progress, a liberal public policy and think tank. Idaho has missed out on \$21.3 million, Alaska more than \$12.6 million and Washington more than \$14.7 million.

Overall, states have lost out on more than \$207 million in the two years since the act expired, the Center for American Progress

Twice since December 2024, the Senate has voted to renew the act in an effort led by Wyden and Idaho's senior U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo, a Republican.

But each time the Senate approved it, the House failed to take a vote. The bill lapsed in 2023, and counties haven't gotten payments since early 2024. House Republicans most recently failed to reauthorize the act in the tax and spending cut megalaw they passed in July.

With just weeks before the House is due to wrap its work for the year, Wyden, Crapo and 83 bipartisan lawmakers from the Senate and the House sent a letter to U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, a Democrat from New York, urging them to take a vote on the act before they

recessed. Just 12 hours after receiving the letter, the House announced it would fast-track consideration and a vote on

Washington's U.S. Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez a Democrat representing southwest Washington's 3rd Congressional District, led the passage of the bill in the House.

"The Secure Rural Schools program is absolutely critical, and the passage of this legislation is beyond overdue," she said in a statement. "Candidly, the only reason it took this long is because way too many folks in D.C. have been blissfully ignorant about how disastrous the lapse of SRS has been for timber communities in Southwest Washington and across the West. Schools have closed up, teachers have been laid off, and our kids have been left footing the bill for Con-

gress's neglect." Since the funding lapsed, schools in Skamania County in her district have laid off staff and a middle school was forced to close.

In Alaska, the failure to reauthorize the program caused rural school districts to cut their budgets, particularly in southeast Alaska, home to the vast Tongass National Forest.

Rep. Nick Begich, R-Alaska, voted for the bill on Friday, and both of the state's senators — Republicans Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan — supported it as well.

Reporter James Brooks of the Alaska Beacon contributed to this report.

https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2025/12/09/ after-nearly-two-year-lapsecongress-renews-secure-rural-schools-funding/

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Construction began on a new city hall in midtown and police station.

YEAR IN REVIEW

From Page A1

kept locals and visitors alike busy.

The year started off on a sad note, when ex-Mayor Sam Steidel passed away on January 12, at the age of 66. Steidel moved to Cannon Beach in 1958 with his parents and went on to run Steidel Art for decades, also serving as the city's mayor from 2015 to 2023.

In February, a split council awarded \$125,000 to the Haystack Rock Awareness Program (HRAP) to cover a budget shortfall caused by decreasing volunteer hours and a concurrent rise in staff costs. Council also approved a \$212,000 up-

grade to the city's Coastal Outside Warning System, which alerts residents and visitor to distant tsunamis using a series of speakers around the city. The work was completed in May.

Discussions also began about how to proceed with the Cannon Beach Elementary School rejuvenation project, after a 2024 vote failed to gain voter support for a major renovation of the site. Discussions continued throughout the year, with councilors eventually agreeing in November to hire a park designer to help with planning for the site as a community park, without the existing school or gymnasium buildings.

That decision was informed in large part by voters' passage in May of a ballot measure requiring the city government to seek voter approval to incur debt above 50% of gov-

ernment activity revenues, or around \$5.9 million. The measure was put forward by Cannon Beach Together in response to concerns over the financing approach used for the city hall and police station projects and passed by a

narrow margin.

Ground was also broken for the new \$15.3-million city hall and \$10.4-million police station in April, with grand openings scheduled for July 2026 at city hall and June 2026 at the police station.

HRAP kicked a busy season of conservation activities on the beach into high gear with their annual Puffin Welcome Celebration in mid-April, and Cannon Beach hosted the Spring Unveiling Arts Festival in May, signaling the arrival of the busy summer season.

That energy contin-



Ground was also broken for the new \$15.3-million city hall and \$10.4-million police station.

ued with the 61st annual Sandcastle Contest in June, where throngs of spectators turned out, despite an unseasonal rainstorm dampening proceedings.

A late July quake off the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia triggered a tsunami watch in the city, and HRAP sounded the alarm about human activity interfering with wildlife on the rock after a video surfaced of a person aiming a powerful laser pointer at the rock.

In September, following growing frustration with his party's lack of support, Cannon Beach's state representative, Cyrus Javadi, switched party affiliations from Republican to Democrat, shortly after breaking with his old party and voting in favor of a gas-tax increase in a special legislative session.

The Cannon Beach His-

tory Center and Museum hosted its 22nd annual Cottage Tour September 13, spotlighting homes in the Tolovana Park

neighborhood, before the Stormy Weather Arts Festival rounded out the city's cultural calendar in November.







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Correction re: Haystack Hill property

An article in last month's Gazette inaccurately described the role of the Oregon Coast Alliance in the donation of a Havstack Hill property to the city.

The Oregon Coast Alliance (ORCA) is not working with the Holland Family Trust to coordinate

the donation but serving as the financial administrator for the city in the proposed transaction.

Also, the statements attributed to an ORCA representative in the article were in fact made by Beth Holland, a member of the Holland Trust, which owns the property.

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To feature your spiritual organization on this panel:

Follows Merkley placing his hold on Lunday's nomination to lead Coast Guard. joint efforts to advocate for this

> On December 12, Oregon's U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley, along with

> > **Publish Date**

Feb. 6

Mar. 6

April 3

May 1

ACROSS

1 Outermost

9 Most current

one's hat

obvious"

21 Artemis' twin

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The Cannon

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Media, Inc.

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25 Gaze

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15 Tips, as

20 "Yes, it's

essential rescue

helicopter

Senator Ron Wyden and Congresswoman Val Hoyle (OR-04), announced that they secured written commitments from Admiral Kevin Lunday, Acting Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, to ensure the rescue helicopter located at the Newport Air Facility remains in the community, as well as a pledge from Lunday to visit the Newport area within one year.

that Newport helicopter will remain

"After hearing from countless Oregonians about the importance of the search and rescue

Deadline

Feb. 2, 10 a.m.

Mar. 2, 10 a.m.

Mar. 30, 10 a.m.

April 27, 10 a.m.

March leader

declarations

singing

Braxtons

125 Bother badly

126 Affected sort

127 Small naval

128 Shell out

129 Suddenly

130 Kind of

bicycle

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regain focus

1 [not my error]

2 GI tour gp.

3 She played

Frigga in

led the charge to secure written confirmation from the Coast Guard that the helicopter would remain in the community, consistent with the law I wrote in 2014. For fishermen and coastal communities, this is a huge win, especially during winter crab season and in the face of cold-water conditions," said Merkley. "I am lifting my hold on Admiral Lunday's nomination and look forward to his forthcoming visit to Newport and to a productive working relationship going forward."

helicopter in Newport, I

Merkley, Wyden, Hoyle secure written commitment

from Coast Guard Acting Commandant Lunday

"I'm gratified that Acting Commandant Lunday today wrote in plain English the verbal commitment he made last week to Senator Merkley and me over the phone – namely that the Coast Guard helicopter will remain right where it belongs in Newport," said Wyden. "This is great news for fishermen and

REGRESSION

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screen

94 Comic punch

response

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med. image

Wyatt and

96 Indoor

design

ANALYSIS

both residents of -- and visitors to -- the central Oregon Coast. Thanks to the Newport Fishermen's Wives and all the local officials who worked with Senator Merkley, Congresswoman Hoyle and me to achieve this victory for public safety, the law and common sense.'

"I want to thank Acting Commandant Lunday for his letter today committing to us to keep the Coast Guard helicopter in Newport," said Hoyle. "It is a huge win for our coastal community, and it wouldn't have happened without the collective effort of Senators Wyden and Merkley and every Oregonian who raised their voice. When our community stands together, we get results.'

Merkley, Wyden, and Hoyle worked together to keep the rescue helicopter in Newport, leading a coordinated series of efforts that ultimately succeeded.

From Page A1

have created requirements

for the courts' dockets and

Clatsop and Linn Coun-

ties all use family courts

located in Washington

County, and Weber said

stories about the court's

that over the past year she

has heard numerous horror

decisions. While avoiding

specifics, Weber discussed

and another in which child

staying with a grandparent

was removed and given to

a parent without a stable

place to stay. Weber also

criticized the practice of

of dollars for visitation

Weber said that she

believes the issues with the

courts stem from a lack of

iury trials and oversight or

with their children.

charging parents hundreds

a case in which a custody

decision from another

state had been reversed

Residents of Tillamook,

WEBER

processes.

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GAZETTE A

The deadline for advertising, letters to the editor,

press releases, obituaries and legal notices is 10 a.m.

on Monday the week of publication.

Publication dates subject to change.

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32 Retort to "Am not!" music 34 Says "OK" to 66 "Consider nonverbally This" network 36 Long 67 "- recall ... 68 Curl up cozily

stretches 37 U-Haul unit 38 Long stretch 69 Guy into 40 "Five-card" or "seven-card" game 70 Tattered garb 105 Use as 71 Slush Puppie

41 Erstwhile 2011's "Thor" flight inits. 43 Prefix with

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Osaka McCoy

a dip in, say 85 Tennis player 86 Jazz pianist

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120 Airport

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accountability for judges, who have little to fear outside of costly, time-con suming recall elections.

Syndicate

All rights

"I think that they have a little kingdom and no one can really challenge them or their decisions," Weber said of family court judges.

To solve the issues, Weber believes that the best answer might be abolishing family courts and challenging the constitutionality of federal laws governing them. Weber traveled to a national conference in Washington D.C. on the subject family court reform in November and said that she learned several states on the east coast as well as Idaho and Arizona are moving to either abolish the courts or make serious reforms to them

Weber, who is ineligible to run for reelection after participating in a walkout in 2023, said that she wants to address the issue but recognizes that it is too complicated to solve in next year's short session. Weber said that she has talked with Senate President Rob Wagner about the possibility of forming a study group on the issue and that he promised to circle back to the discussion before the session.

ABOUT US CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

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The Cannon Beach Gazette welcomes letters that express readers' opinions on current topics. Letters may be submitted by email only, no longer than 300 words, and must be signed and include the writer's full name, address (including city) and telephone number for verification of the writer's identity. We will print the writer's name and town of residence only. Letters without the

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All obituary announcements are placed on the Cannon Beach Gazette website at no cost.

AT THE LIBRARY



Time for New Year's Resolutions

By PHYLLIS BERNT **Library Volunteer**

It's the new year-when many well-intentioned folks resolve to try new things and develop new habits. The library (131 N. Hemlock) can help with those resolutions.

People resolving to try something new may want to participate in the annual Writers Read Celebration. Sponsored by the library's NW Author Speaker Series, the Celebration, now in its eighth year, invites authors and aspiring authors to submit their writing on a specified theme.

This year's theme is "From a Distance." Authors of all ages and geographical locations are encouraged to submit up to three entries, no more than 600 words per entry. All genres will be accepted—poetry, essay, short story, etc. A panel of judges will select 10 to 12 entries to be read, either in person

at the library or via Zoom, on Friday evening, March 6,

Entries must be in word format and emailed to info@ cannonbeachlibrary.org. Authors should include a separate cover letter with their name, email address and phone number but should not include their name or identifying information on their submitted work. The deadline for submissions is Monday, February 2.

People resolving to develop new habits might consider joining the Cannon Beach Reads book club. Cannon Beach Reads started in 2007, which means 2026 will be its twentieth year.

Each year, in late fall, club members nominate and then vote for book selections for the following year. The resulting list of books tends to be an eclectic mix of titles: an equal number of fiction and nonfiction books, classics and current works, and a book or two involving the Pacific Northwest.

Through all types of weather, and even a pandemic, Cannon Beach Reads participants have gathered at the library on the third Wednesday of each month. The group met via Zoom during the pandemic, and participating through videoconferencing remains an option for those who cannot get to the library.

The only obstacle that

the club hasn't been able to overcome so far is a lack of electricity. The December meeting was canceled because of an extended power outage. As a result, two books will be discussed at the Cannon Beach Reads meeting at 5 p.m. on Wednesday January 21: "Turning to Stone: Discovering the Subtle Wisdom of Rocks," by Marcia Biornerud, and "The Plague," by Albert Camus.

This will be a hybrid meeting with participants able to take part in the discussion in person at the library or virtually (contact book club coordinator Joe Bernt, berntj@ohio.edu, for the Zoom link).

"Turning to Stone" is both a memoir and a geology primer. Each of the book's ten chapters focuses on the formation and significance of a specific type of rock, while also describing an important period in Bjornerud's life as a geologist. More about the book and information about Marcia Biornerud can be found in last month's column.

Albert Camus's "The Plague" is set in the 1940's in the French Algerian city of Oran. The citizens don't realize at first that rats are spreading the plague in the city. Bernard Rieux, a local physician, tries to warn the authorities, but they are slow to acknowledge there is a

problem until the death toll rises: eventually the authorities are forced to declare there is an epidemic and they quarantine the city,

Violence and looting break out, martial law is declared and the dead are buried in perfunctory funerals. Camus explores the various responses to the plague, from Dr. Rieux's efforts to treat the sick, to a journalist's plans to escape the city, to a priest's use of the plague to persuade residents to turn to religion, to a criminal's amassing of great wealth through his smuggling activities.

"The Plague," which was originally published in 1947, is often read as an allegory about the spread of Nazism in France. It was a critical success when first published and experienced a resurgence of interest during the COVID pandemic.

Albert Camus was a French philosopher, novelist, journalist, dramatist and political activist who joined the French Resistance during WWII. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1957. His other works include "The Stranger," "The Myth of Sisyphus," "The Fall" and "The Rebel."

Mary Lloyd will lead the discussion on "Turning to Stone" while Joe Bernt will be the discussion leader for "The Plague" on January 21. Coffee and cookies will

be provided at the library. New participants are always welcome.

"The Plague" is the first Cannon Beach Reads selection for 2026; the other eleven works cover a range of topics, geographical locations, and time periods. The other five fiction titles include "Jane Eyre," by Charlotte Brontë, the British classic about a poor governess who makes her way in the world; "Elmer Gantry," by Sinclair Lewis, a satirical novel about religious hypocrisy; and "To Build a Ship," by Don Berry, a historical novel about early settlers in Tillamook Bay,

The remaining two fiction books are "The Magician's Assistant," by Ann Patchett, the story of a widow who learns of her late husband's lies and secrets; and "The Pelican's Child," by Joy Williams, a short story collection about misfits and dreamers.

The six nonfiction books include works about two fascinating women: "All That Remains: A Renowned Forensic Scientist on Death, Mortality, and Solving Crimes," by Dame Sue Black, and "The Confidante: The Untold Story of the Woman Who Helped Win WWII and Shape Modern America," by Christopher Gotham.

Also included are two books of regional interest: "Eruption: The Untold Story of Mount St. Helens," by Steve Olson, and "Beaverland: How One Weird Rodent Made America," by Leila Philip. And books about two very different men: "Marco Polo: From Venice to Xanadu," by Laurence Bergreen, and "Tuesdays with Morrie: An Old Man, A Young Man, and Life's Greatest Lesson," by

Mitch Albom. Patrons may also resolve to make a habit of attending the NW Author Speakers Series, beginning with a presentation at 2 p.m. on Saturday, January 24 by nonfiction writer, teacher and editor Zoe Bossiere (they/she).

Bossiere is graciously stepping in for Portland writer Charlie J. Stephens who had to cancel for medical reasons. This will be a hybrid presentation; patrons can enjoy the talk in person at the library, or from home via the library's website.

Bossiere's debut book, "Cactus Country: A Boyhood Memoir," chronicles the author's experiences growing up as a trans boy in a Tucson, Arizona, trailer park. The book was on the 2025 Southwest Books of the Year list.

Bossiere is the managing editor of "Brevity: A Journal of Concise Literary Nonfiction" and co-editor of the anthologies "The Best of Brevity" and "The Lyric Essay as Resistance: Truth from the Margins."

Wind damage closes Hangar B

WILL CHAPPELL Gazette Editor

An intense windstorm with gusts above 50 miles an hour ripped a 200-foot-long section from the roof of Hangar B at the Port of Tillamook Bay on December 16, forcing the closure of the Tillamook Air Museum and other businesses located in the hangar.

Officials from the port are now working to determine the best way to address the issue, though with no insurance on the structure and a six-figure price tag solely to rent scaffolding to address the situation, finding a solution may be challenging.

Roofer Rick Lofton appeared at the port's board of commissioners meeting on December 17, to discuss the damage to the hangar and possible steps forward. Lofton said that he believed the hole on the southeast end of the hangar had been caused by water intrusion creating weakness in the structure, leading to a rip when the high winds caught a saturated piece of material.

The hole is just below the transition point between the convex portion of the hangar and the more-vertical portion of the wall, and Lofton said that led him to believe intrusion occurred at the transition point where different water barriers were ioined.

Lofton said that there was still debris hanging from



Tillamook Bay.

the hole and that the port needed to secure the hole to prevent future storms from bringing the entire structure down, adding that any temporary fix would require a rigid cover for the hole.

Port of Tillamook Bay General Manager Michele Bradley said that the incident had caused a tent owned by the port to fill

with water and collapse, but that none of the planes underneath had been damaged. Bradley also said vehicles, including RVs, boats and cars, that are usually stored in the area where the damage occurred have been relocated.

Lofton said that he recommended the port find a crane to allow him to better



PHOTOS COURTESY PORT OF TILLAMOOK BAY

Hangar B is closed indefinitely as a fix is determined.

evaluate the damage, remove the hanging debris and devise a temporary measure to repair the hole and minimize further damage.

In the long run, Lofton said that he believed the correct approach was to erect scaffolding around the hole to work on a permanent repair. The scaffolding would need to reach 180 feet into the air, span the entirety of

the 200-foot hole and stand 80-feet wide, which Lofton said would cost at least \$178,000 based on an initial quote. Lofton said that the hole was too high for most cranes in the region to access and that there were no anchor points on the roof, making scaffolding the best option for accessing the damage.

Port commissioners instructed Lofton and port staff to continue fleshing out the possible solutions and set an emergency meeting for December 22, to discuss next steps for both the short- and long-term repairs.

With the risk of additional debris falling posing a risk, commissioners also decided to close the hangar until further notice for the Tillamook Air Museum and its other tenants.

Rockaway walking tour under development

WILL CHAPPELL Gazette Editor

A group of full- and parttime residents of Rockaway Beach have been working to bring a walking tour to the city to highlight its colorful history, a project which recently received a \$4,700

That award will finance 12 interpretive signs across the city that will feature historical photos of the city accompanied by stories and serve as the backbone of the walking

The idea for a walking tour arose during a 2023 series of workshops hosted by the Tillamook Coast Visitors Association in Rockaway Beach to gather community input on destination management, according to Annette Dhein, one of those spearheading the walking tour effort. Dhein, whose family has been vacationing in Rockaway Beach for five generations, said that she had only recently become aware of the community's rich history and that she came into the workshops looking for ways to increase others'

awareness of it.

While the workshops ended up focusing on larger projects like renovations to Lake Lytle and the city's wayside, Dhein said that she met other people who were also interested in promoting the area's history. The group learned that neighboring communities had volunteer nonprofit groups that helped to manage cultural attractions like the Garibaldi Coast Guard Boathouse and historic Wheeler Hotel and decided to pursue that model for Rockaway Beach.

The group found a home with the Rockaway Beach Chamber of Commerce, which has a nonprofit arm under which they formed a committee to work on projects, with a goal of honoring the city's heritage. Dhein said that the group has been leveraging the chamber's membership in the Oregon

optimize their communica-In late November, grant writing efforts paid off when the Roundhouse Foundation

Main Street Alliance to help

identify available grants and

awarded the group \$4,700 to help fund interpretive signs that will serve as the basis for the planned walking tour.

Dhein said that numerous residents and visitors have already contributed photographs of the city throughout the years, memorabilia from past restaurants and businesses and stories, and that the committee has been working to decide the best way to organize and present them.

"It's been really just like a big puzzle and each piece that somebody contributes adds to understanding the picture," Dhein said. "So, my takeaway to date has really been that it's enriching to share a place in history and it also builds pride in this collective future that we all have here together." The grant will fund 12

two-by-three-foot panels like one already at the caboose by the wayside, featuring blackand-white photos and text, and designed to withstand the coastal elements. Dhein said that the signs will mainly focus on Rockaway Beach's resort heyday, starting with the

arrival of train service from

the Willamette Valley in 1912 and continuing through the roaring 20s when the town featured a natatorium, dance pavilions and card rooms.

To guide those on the tour, the group is also developing a flyer that will be available at the caboose and online and feature a map of the different panels and additional stories to enhance the experience.

"The walking tour itself really brings this history to life," Dhein said. "We have firsthand accounts from some of these founding families, band members who played at the dance pavilions and this day in the life of the prohibition style. So, that will be shared in stories that are really compelling and through the people we'll draw people door to door listening, learning and seeing.

Dhein said that the committee hopes to secure funding for additional panels in the future and that they also hope to secure funding for a cultural center that would offer further opportunities to showcase the city's history.

Dhein said that the committee is also still looking

for more photos or stories from the city's history from residents or visitors and that the project would be more impactful as more people participated.

"Its success and its joy will come from it being a cooperative and collaborative thing with anybody and everybody that wants to do it," Dhein

– Super Crossword ——

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