

# Tunnel Echoes

Arch Cape/Falcon Cove Beach Community

A Newsletter

February 2020

Welcome to the Winter Season in Arch Cape

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Cover Photo by Gil Kinch

## Quarterly Clean - Up & Potluck

Saturday, February 15, 2020

**Everyone is welcome!**

10 a.m. Clean-Up: Meet at St. Peter the Fisherman Church. Pick up supplies to walk Highway 101 and pick up litter. Come to the 6 p.m. Potluck: Meet at the Arch Cape Fire Hall. Come visit with neighbors, and have a fun and upbeat time. Bring your favorite main dish or dessert along with your plates and silverware.

## New Year's Day Polar Plunge



# Marney Scott Beemer Turns 100!

By John Piatt

If you haven't met Marney, you are either new to Arch Cape or don't get out of the house much, because Marney has spent a lot of time here. She is a social butterfly, an avid reader, and has a bird sanctuary outside her kitchen window that visitors enjoy while having coffee or tea and goodies at her kitchen table with her.



Marney was born in Tacoma in 1920 and lived in Longview as a girl where her father "Scotty" Scott sold real estate. Marney and her parents spent two weeks at the Arch Cape Hotel in the 1920s. If you have a copy of the *Arch Cape Chronicles*, you can see a photo of 8-year-old Marney on page 287. They took the ferry across the Columbia to Astoria, down to Cannon Beach, and then drove on the beach around Hug Point to Arch Cape where there were parallel planks to cross the dry sand up to what is now Leech Lane and the nearby Arch Cape Hotel.

For several years Marney's family made the trip to Arch

Cape and the hotel, which was renamed Singing Sands when Elsie and Marie English purchased it in 1929.

Marney graduated from Longview High School in 1938, then graduated from Iowa State College in 1942 where she met her husband. Dr. M.R. Beemer (Blackie) was a veterinarian in Corning, Iowa, where he and Marney raised their five children. In 1944 Marney visited her parents in Longview and visited Arch Cape and the English girls while staying in Seaside. She told her parents that she wanted them to rent a cottage in Arch Cape for a family month long visit in 1948. Her parents fell in love with Arch Cape and bought a lot where they built their retirement home in 1951. Because Blackie's practice kept him busy during the summer, Marney would load up the kids and a baby sitter, and make the trek from Iowa to Arch Cape.

After her parents died, Marney and Blackie rented out the home for many years. After Blackie retired, he and Marney spent winters in Arch Cape.

When Blackie passed away in 2010, Marney's kids helped her make the permanent move from Iowa to Arch Cape.

So, for those of you who know Marney well, those of you who have met her along the way, and those of you who just want to know what it takes to live for a century, come and wish Marney well on her 100th birthday at the *Arch Cape Fire Station, Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.*

# Arch Cape Coastline Research

Greg Wilson (OSU) & Stephen Henderson (WSU)

Worldwide, scientists are working to improve our understanding of how waves and currents shape our coastlines. During August 2020, a team of researchers from Oregon State University, Washington State University, and Dalhousie University (Canada) are planning to visit Arch Cape beach to make detailed measurements of ocean waves, sediment transport, and the resulting coastal change.

The research, funded by the National Science Foundation, is focused on how waves (re)build beaches by transporting sand from deeper water to shore.

Lead researchers Dr. Greg Wilson and Dr. Stephen Henderson will discuss the science behind the research, and its connection to the bigger picture of natural coastal change on the Oregon coast.

They are excited to meet the Arch Cape community, discuss their planned research, and share perspectives on this topic!

Example of instrumentation planned for deployment at Arch Cape, for measuring fluid flow near the seabed. **Top:** Instrument out of water, prior to being submerged by the tide; **Bottom:** Data are being recorded under a breaking wave.



**Scientific Measurements in Progress, Aug. 5-7, 2019**

Q: What is that stuff near the water's edge, and to whom does it belong?  
A: Researchers from Oregon State University and Washington State University will be installing a current meter on the beach (see photo) to study the effects of waves on sand transport.

Q: What will be learned?  
A: The measurements will help scientists understand how our beaches are changing, specifically how they may respond to sea-level rise and erosion.

Q: Will this study be harmful to wildlife or my community?  
A: No! This study will not catch, change the lives of, or otherwise harm any wildlife. However, for your safety we ask that you please **avoid swimming, walking or wading near the instrument.** Waves could unexpectedly sweep you into it, injuring you or disrupting sensitive measurements.

To learn more, or to report missing or damaged equipment, contact:  
Greg Wilson (OSU; [wilsongr@oregonstate.edu](mailto:wilsongr@oregonstate.edu); 541-368-8357)  
Stephen Henderson (WSU; [steve\\_henderson@wsu.edu](mailto:steve_henderson@wsu.edu); 503-706-8819)


Greg Wilson: [greg.wilson@oregonstate.edu](mailto:greg.wilson@oregonstate.edu),  
541-737-4915

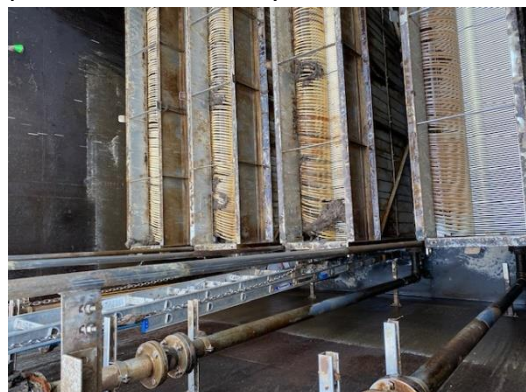
Stephen Henderson:  
[steve\\_henderson@vancouver.wsu.edu](mailto:steve_henderson@vancouver.wsu.edu), 360-546-9268

# Arch Cape Water and Sanitary News

By Phil Chick

Arch Cape Sanitary District recently replaced the membrane filters at the wastewater treatment plant, which have been in service since 2009. The flat plate membrane units purchased from KUBOTA Corporation for \$289,000 were installed by Arch Cape staff and Bob McEwan Construction this past December. The Board of Directors financed the project through user rates over the past few years in order to avoid the need to service future debt; ultimately providing a savings to customers.

The membrane filtration process is used to treat the wastewater that enters the plant before it is recycled and sent back into the environment for reuse. This



process occurs in a series of tanks that

contain pumps, filtration cassettes, aeration piping, and plenty of wastewater and mixed liquor suspended solids!

Collectively, the system is known as a Membrane Biological Reactor (MBR) system. Membrane BioReactor (**MBR**) treatment combines microfiltration with a more traditional biological wastewater treatment **process** known as the activated sludge **process**.

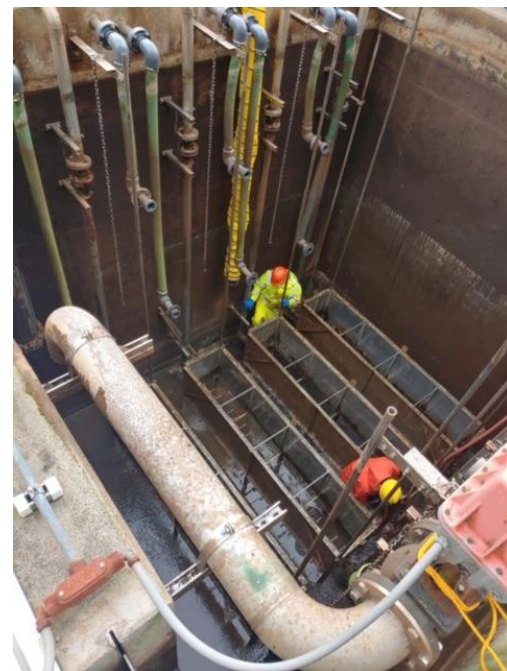
The appeal of MBR technology centers on the high-quality final

effluent that is produced, in addition to the relatively small footprint required.

Each Submerged Membrane Unit incorporates a series of flat-plate membranes made from polyolefin which creates a liquids-solids separation process. In total, there are 1,600 membrane plates in each of the 2 MBR Basins. Each membrane filter has a pore size of 0.2 microns. (For perspective... a human hair is about 50 microns in diameter!)



The small pore size of the membrane allows water molecules to pass through, but creates a barrier for larger particles such as pathogens to move through. This process, known as permeation, results in an effluent of superior quality.



District Staff works diligently to track performance of the equipment and adhere to maintenance schedules. However, one of the best ways to maintain Arch Cape's investment in the membrane equipment lies with our customers. The impact that Non-flushable items have on treatment

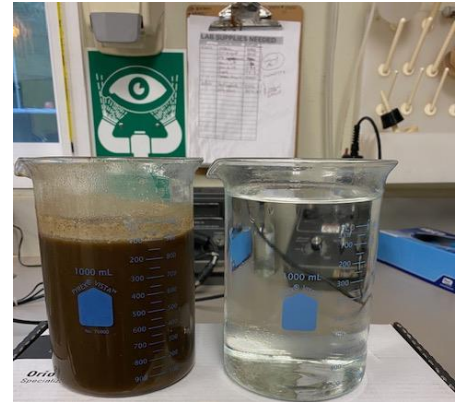
plant equipment relates to hundreds of thousands of dollars in future costs to the District. Non-flushable items shorten the lifespan of essential equipment such as the membrane filters, air diffusers, and pumps.



The following items can cause severe damage to your plumbing or the District’s wastewater collection and treatment systems, and should never be flushed.

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. Baby Wipes        | 6. Toilet Cleaning Pads                |
| 2. Moist Towelettes  | 7. “Disposable or Biodegradable” Wipes |
| 3. Paper Towels      | 8. Bandages                            |
| 4. Feminine Products | 9. Q-Tips                              |
| 5. Dental Floss      | 10. Cigarette Butts                    |

If you are interested in a tour of the Arch Cape Wastewater or Drinking Water Treatment Plants please contact the office at 503-436-2790.



## Falcon Cove Losses

By Nadia Gardner

Many of you have heard that two children were lost to the ocean in Falcon Cove on January 11<sup>th</sup>. It was a terrible accident that leaves us thinking again about how such events can be prevented. That day was a King Tide, one of the largest of the year, with an 8.52 feet high tide at about 12:30 p.m. It was also a very large swell of 23.3 feet at 11.5 to 15 seconds,



Photo by Nadia Gardner

meaning the waves were much larger than 23 feet. Waves were breaking over Castle Rock. In many places, waves were periodically coming into trail entrances and even streets. It was a beautiful day and people were understandably drawn to the beach. I was at an Arch Cape beach entrance at the time of the accident taking photos for the King Tide Photo Project. I saw the power of the ocean that day and chose not to go down the stairs, but I could have. While coast residents and regular visitors tend to be more aware of conditions, I have to admit I don’t always check both the tides and swell before I go on the beach. I don’t always stand at an overlook for a time to understand whether “sneaker waves” are a regular occurrence. I sometimes forget to tell my visitors all they need to know – never turn your back on the ocean, stay off the logs, be close to your kids when they are jumping waves, here’s how you get out of a rip tide. Let’s take this opportunity as a community to talk about how we and our visitors can be safer going forward.

Let’s foster a culture of loving the ocean, but also understanding

and respecting its danger. I know the conversations have already begun. Join us. What will you do to help prevent this from happening again? Much love and thanks to our Falcon Cove neighbors, the Manzanita police and Coast Guard, who helped that day. Much love to the Stiles Family.

# Happy 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday Cape Falcon Marine Reserve!

By Nadia Gardner

On January 1, 2016, the Cape Falcon Marine Reserve went into effect between Falcon Cove and Neahkahnie Beach, north of Manzanita. It is dedicated to conservation and scientific research. It consists of a marine reserve and two marine protected areas (MPAs). All are closed to ocean development. The marine reserve is closed to all fishing and other harvest. The West MPA allows only salmon and crab fishing (about 2 miles offshore). The Falcon Cove Shoreside MPA allows only recreational fishing from the sandy shore (not rocks).



There has been significant scientific research occurring the last six years as a result of the marine reserve. Oregon Department of Wildlife has been using hook and line surveys, scuba divers, underwater cameras to better understand our ocean. Volunteers have been monitoring cormorant nests at Devil's Cauldron. A pH monitor at Short Sands Beach is tracking ocean acidification. Crabs and rockfish have been tagged and their movements monitored. A study is looking at microplastics in rockfish. Plus, community scientists continue to monitor changes to the beaches and black oystercatchers along the marine reserve.



In 2019, ODFW caught 1,250 fish, representing 18 different species at Redfish Rocks (the southernmost marine reserve) and Cape Falcon. The most abundant fish continue to be black rockfish, lingcod, buffalo sculpin and kelp greenling. The largest fish caught was a 45-inch lingcod and second was a 26 inch cabezon.

Friends of Cape Falcon Marine Reserve continue to be very active raising awareness, engaging and encouraging action on behalf of our

ocean. In 2019, we held 40 events with 1,260 participants. Activities included hikes, lectures, youth education, city council presentations, and volunteer events. We supported community science projects: an iNaturalist bioblitz, Pelican, Black Oystercatcher and cormorant monitoring projects. We helped

launch a Trailhead & Beach Ambassador volunteer program with Oregon State Parks and Oregon Coast Visitors Association, which includes an ambassador station near the Cape Falcon trailhead at Oswald West State Park. We are working closely with area hotels and vacation rental companies, including Inn at Arch Cape and Starfish Vacation Rentals to enhance their visitor's experiences by sharing



Photos by Nadia Gardner

information about our ocean and the marine reserve. Join us at our next lecture: **Oregon's Black Oystercatchers** **Wednesday, February 19 at 6 pm at the Seaside Library.** Keep in the loop by signing up for our newsletter:

[www.nehalemtrust.org/capefalconmr/](http://www.nehalemtrust.org/capefalconmr/) And liking us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CapeFalconMR](http://www.facebook.com/CapeFalconMR)

## Update on SouthWest Coastal Citizen’s Advisory Committee (SWCCAC)

By Charles Dice

The SouthWest Coastal Citizen’s Advisory Committee (SWCCAC) has been meeting since July 2019 to update Clatsop County’s Comprehensive Plan as well as the SWC Comprehensive Plan. The Committee is working its way through each of the 18 Statewide Planning Goals to provide comments/suggestions for revisions to Clatsop County Planning for the updated Plan. So far we have completed our review of Goal 1 (Citizen Involvement), Goal 2 (Land Use Planning), Goal 3 (Agricultural Lands) and Goal 4 (Forest Lands). The Agenda, Minutes, links to supporting documents and an online recording of the actual meetings are available at:

<https://www.co.clatsop.or.us/landuse/page/southwest-coastal-advisory-committee>

Our last meeting was on 11 December for Goal 4 and we will not resume meetings until April when we will tackle Goal 5 (Open spaces, scenic and Historic Areas, and Natural Resources). All of our meetings are open to the public and we encourage anyone who has an interest in Land Use Planning and Zoning to attend the meetings. The next SWCCAC meeting will be on Wednesday 8 April at 10:00am at the Arch Cape Fire Station. At our Nov and December meetings we spent quite a bit of time on Goal 4 – Forest Lands and there was lot of interest in this topic and a lot of “supplemental” meetings around this topic as well as meetings by ODF for public comment about changes to the Oregon Forest Practices Act. Information from many of these meetings, as well as some recent meetings regarding “Climate Change” can be found at: <https://www.co.clatsop.or.us/landuse/page/public-open-house-events> (scroll down to bottom of page to section called “supporting documents”).

The members of our SWCCAC meeting are: Charles Dice (chair), Tod Lundy (Vice-chair and Liaison to Countywide Committee), Margaret Minnick (Alternate Liaison to Countywide Committee), Linda Eyeran and Chris Anderson. If you have any comments or questions about the work of the SWCCAC or if you have specific items that you would like to see us address or include in our update then please contact one of the committee members.

A few of the “hot” topics that we have considered so far include:

1. Improvements to notification of the public about Land Use Planning Applications/Permits (on the Clatsop County Web site or the Statewide Planning Web site) including a searchable “data base”
2. The possibility of making ALL Land Use Permits “Type II” permits requiring the County to provide public notification and a review period.
3. Recommendation to make the Area Citizen Advisory Committees permanent
4. Development must take into account limitations of local infrastructure
5. Better protection for our significant Wetlands – especially for “connected” wetlands
6. More clarity for where Short Term Rentals are allowed (commercial activity)
7. Better protection for the elements of our Natural Environment (Trees, Wetlands, Wildlife corridors, Views) in our Community
8. Identify all Community Drinking Water Watersheds and provide better protection of watersheds from chemical spraying and clear-cutting than is currently specific in the Oregon Forest Practices Act

## Update on Clatsop County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP)

By Charles Dice

As reported earlier, Clatsop County is updating its Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan and I participate on the Steering Committee representing Falcon Cove Beach Water District. Information about the NHMP and the work of the Steering Committee can be found at : <https://www.co.clatsop.or.us/em/page/multi-jurisdictional-natural-hazards-mitigation-plan-mjnhmp-update-2020>

We just held our fourth meeting of the Steering Committee on 28 January 2020 where we considered:

- Coastal Hospital Resilience
- Liquid Fuel Mitigation Plans
- Climate Change influence on the NHMP

Most of our energy is going into planning for a response to such obvious Natural Hazards as Earthquake, Tsunami, Flood, Windstorm and Wildfires and includes looking at what resources we might need after such an event, where to stage the resources out of the danger zone, where to get manpower to use the resources, and how to optimize communications and transportation after the event.

At some point I am also hoping that we will consider long range planning that might include restrictions on development in areas identified as “high risk” areas such as low-lying coastal areas that are in the Tsunami Inundation zone, areas in identified Flood Zones, areas identified as subject to landslides, etc. It would be useful to hear from other community members about this approach since, while it seems like a pretty obvious step, it seems to have met with some opposition from Salem – there was a restriction on building certain “critical” infrastructure facilities (hospitals, schools, fire and police stations, etc.) in the Tsunami inundation zone but this restriction was removed last year by the legislature (<https://apnews.com/c5e6c1f5b1ad4e42ad835eb2eb296ed0>)

If you have suggestions or comments about this topic please feel free to call me at (503-436-0146) or send me an email at ([cadice@hotmail.com](mailto:cadice@hotmail.com)).



Polar Plunge Photos by Gil Kinch



# Update on Emergency Communications in Our Area

By Dale Mosby

A significant activity in 2020 has been the deployment of radios to volunteers taking part in the Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) program. People involved in the MRC program have medical expertise and will assist the community in an emergency. This is a state program to put emergency communications in place to make sure that hospitals and medical personnel will be able to communicate effectively in an emergency.

The radios allow volunteers to communicate with each other over fairly short distances of a mile or so as well as longer distances using a repeater to link the radios and give coverage to all of Cannon Beach. So far two practice sessions have been held. The first of these made use of the repeater and had people testing from the north end of Cannon Beach south to Falcon Cove. The second test session did not use the repeater. Communication was made directly radio to radio. These tests were intended to provide practice using the radios and also to help understand whether areas will be able to communicate with each other both directly or with the aid of the repeater. Our testing shows some communication is possible between Cannon Beach, Arch Cape, and Falcon Cove depending on the locations used.

Over time we hope to get some additional equipment for the MRC program to enhance communications in Arch Cape and Falcon Cove.

Cannon Beach is working toward obtaining a site for communications equipment that will give the MRC repeater a permanent location and allow it to operate 24 hours a day. Presently it must be set up when use is desired. This project will also include amateur radio and GMRS coverage for the area.

There is an amateur radio repeater located in the hills behind Arch Cape at 2400 feet elevation. This ties in with a larger system giving coverage to Clatsop County and tied in with another system extending into Washington for a net each Monday. Several area amateur radio operators check into this net each week. The site relies on solar power for operation. The short winter days and heavy cloud cover make this a challenging endeavor. There are plans to upgrade the solar panels when the weather improves allowing better access to the site. A grant application to the county has been made to replace the batteries in use at the site.



## Clatsop County Commissioner - District 5 - Lianne Thompson



### Looking for Grace

A little over two weeks ago, a heartbreaking and senseless tragedy occurred in our neighborhood: two children drowned. Last weekend another heartbreaking and senseless tragedy might have happened: two other children might have drowned.

Let me tell you the story as it was told to me. Several experienced local neighbors warned a part-time local resident that he and his children shouldn't go down to the ocean; we'd received high wave warnings and knew sneaker waves were distinctly possible.

"I have analyzed the situation," he told them confidently, "and I've concluded that it's safe to go down to the beach." He added, "I'm not sure the ladder to the beach is safe, so I'm sending my children down to test it because they're lighter."

I wasn't there, but someone I trust was there, and I believe the source. Get this: he would send his children down a ladder to the beach to test its safety because they weighed less.

Wow. My goal isn't to humiliate the parent, nor to demonize him. A teacher once told me, "Explain your truth in such a way that the other person doesn't feel humiliated when they understand what you're saying." Good advice, and I'm doing my best to follow it.

Given that attempt at looking for grace, let's continue the conversation. Let's seek public safety and maintaining positive relationships with each other as we live together and enjoy this wild and beautiful place.

I've told this story to many people, and every person shook their head at the father's speech and thought process. Here's the most compassionate way we can find to address them:

1. **Bad things can happen to you.** They can happen anywhere, but they can especially happen in wild places. You are not invulnerable.
2. **This is not a theme park or a video game.** Your actions have consequences, and no one has cleared the space of every single thing that could hurt or kill you.
3. If you continue to disregard information and advice from people who have information for you that you don't want to hear because you think you know better, or you don't want them spoiling your fun, **I will pray for you.**

At a certain point, we cannot save people who do not know or do not want to know the power of the natural world. There's no sense arguing with Mother Nature or human nature.

We can't save the people who stand on top of the wall on Neahkahnie Mountain that separates the viewing area from a cliff that can kill you if you fall off the wall.

We can't save people who don't want to hear about sneaker waves, which happen frequently along this Coast, or King Tides, a rarer phenomenon. Water has power. I learned in Red Cross training that moving water six inches deep can knock a person off of their feet. Six inches doesn't seem like much, but it is.

Let us ask for grace, compassion, patience as we deal with the world and each other. Please.

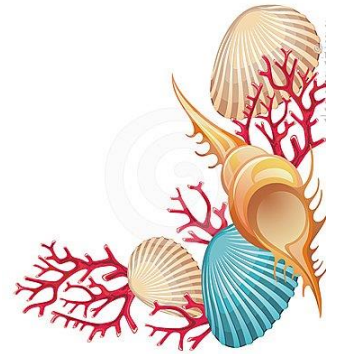


## Support your local Cannon Beach/ Arch Cape/Falcon Cove CERT Team



### ARCH CAPE FALCON COVE BEACH COMMUNITY CLUB

79729 Highway 101, Arch Cape, OR 97102



## Arch Cape - Falcon Cove Beach Community Club

The Community Club meets four times yearly on the third Saturday of May, September, November and February. Membership in the club is \$16 for a household and includes membership as well as a subscription to this newsletter.

Not a member? Please join or renew today.

You can mail to ACFCB Community Club, Attn: Treasurer, 79729 Hwy 101, Arch Cape, OR 97102

The Tunnel Echoes is published 4 times per year: February, May, September, November.

### Board Members

**Charles Dice** — President  
**Open** — Vice President  
**Charles Dice** — Treasurer  
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**Rand Dufka** — Member

**Chris Anderson** — Member  
**Janeigh Bettis** — Member  
**Ralph Wyatt** — Member  
**Linda Eyerman** — Member

### Questions/Concerns/Comments?

Contact: [acfbcc@gmail.com](mailto:acfbcc@gmail.com)