



HRAP welcomes puffins

WILL CHAPPELL
Gazette Editor

Two bald eagles played spoiler to the Haystack Rock Awareness Program's Puffin Welcome Celebration on April 13, keeping the Tufted Puffins secreted away in their burrows throughout the event.

However, staff and volunteers from the program still welcomed hundreds of visitors, educating them about the birds and helping try to spot them.

During the event, Haystack Rock Awareness Program (HRAP) Director Kelli Ennis and a volunteer, Michelle, did a Facebook live presentation to answer some commonly asked questions about the birds.

The puffins that come to Haystack Rock each year are tufted puffins, which have a range from the Channel Islands in California to Alaska and a total population just under three million birds, with most residing in Alaska. Around 500 tufted puffins nest in Oregon annually, with around 100 at Cannon Beach's Haystack Rock.

Puffins are pelagic birds, meaning that they spend most of the year at sea, floating in rafts between 50 and several hundred miles from shore fishing, before returning to islands and rocks near the coast to nest between April and August.

Subsisting solely on fish, tufted puffins have a large beak able to catch up to 20 fish at a time and can dive up to 200 feet below the ocean's surface in pursuit of prey.

Tufted Puffins have nest



Visitors explored the intertidal area around the rock during the puffin welcome celebration.

fidelity and return to the same location where they were born each year, using their beaks and clawed feet to clean out a previously used burrow or dig a new one. Burrows are six to eight feet deep and some at Haystack Rock have been used by successive generations for decades.

Each pair of puffins will only lay one egg annually, leading to around 50 pufflings each year at Haystack Rock.

Cannon Beach is one of the few locations in the continental United States where tufted puffins can be seen from the shore and the first returner was



Volunteers from HRAP helped members of the public try to spot tufted puffins on Haystack Rock, using scopes and binoculars provided by the group.

See **HRAP**, Page A6

Ground broken on new city hall

WILL CHAPPELL
Gazette Editor

City leaders gathered on April 21, in the parking lot of the Cannon Beach city hall to officially break ground on the replacement facility.

Construction of the new \$15.3-million facility is expected to take 15 months and marks the culmination of a yearslong process to replace the outdated current facility.

"I can do a speech in two words," said Mayor Barb Knop, "at last."

At the groundbreaking, Knop kicked off the event, thanking the project team from CIDA Architects and P&C Construction, the community and city staff. Knop asked the public to be patient with city staff during construction while they are located in two portable office units on Second Street by the recycling center.

Former City Councilor Brandon Ogilve thanked the same groups as Knop and said that he was very excited to finally see the project beginning.

The new city hall will be 10,600 square feet and funding for the construction is coming from the city's food and transient lodging taxes. Voters approved the food tax to support the project and the construction of a new police station, a project which also broke ground in April at the south end of the city, in 2022, while



(Left to right) Mayor Barb Knop, former City Councilor Mike Benefield, City Manager Bruce St. Denis, former City Councilor Brandon Ogilve, City Councilor Erik Ostrander and former City Councilor Nancy McCarthy turn shovelfuls of dirt at the groundbreaking ceremony.

councilors raised the city's transient lodging tax from 8% to 9.5% to fully fund the project in 2023.

Doran Spenst, the city hall project's superintendent from P&C Construction, said that demolition on the existing city hall is expected to start on May 7, and take about ten days

including abatement of hazardous materials and salvaging other materials for repurposing in the new city hall. The next step will be sinking pilings for the building's foundation, which Spenst said is scheduled for June 10, before the building's concrete slab is poured, expected in late

August.

Spenst said that aside from the current area of Gower Street and the current city hall's parking lot that are fenced off, there should not be additional public impacts in midtown.

City Manager Bruce St. Denis said that the city's public facing employees

and police department were still operating with the same hours at the second street location, while city council and other public meetings will be held at the chamber of commerce at 207 North Spruce. The police station project is expected to be complete in 14 months.

Friend carries on Steidel legacy

PIERCE BAUGH V
for the Gazette

Reclining in a rocking chair, Peter Dueber says he can still hear Bill Steidel and his son, Sam, arguing about how to run things at the Steidel Art gallery as they did when they were alive. "Their voices and their spirits just ring in that building," says Dueber, who takes comfort and delight in sensing the classic father-son disagreements that took place in the storied building on Hemlock Street that has housed Stediel Art, formerly Staircase Gallery, for decades.

In October of 2024, community pillars Bill Steidel and his wife, Sally, died, leaving Sam to care for the business and continue what his parents had created. But two months later, on the evening before their celebration of life on December 27, Sam suffered a heart attack, succumbing to it on January 12.

Within the span of a few months, a family that had been so central to Cannon Beach was almost gone, with only Sam's widow, Deborah Laws-Steidel still in the city. In a sense, when the Steidels passed, Dueber lost part of his family.

Sam and Dueber's families latched onto each other when the Steidels moved to Cannon Beach in 1962. The Steidels and the Duebers became inseparable. "Sam has always been a Dueber, and the Duebers have always been Steidels," as

See **STEIDEL**, Page A3

Cannon Beach prepares for 61st sandcastle contest

PIERCE BAUGH V
for the Gazette

On June 21st, Cannon Beach will be holding its 61st annual sandcastle competition, one of the year's biggest events, with sand sculptors of all skill levels assembling to create masterful works of whimsy on the beach.

In 1964, a tsunami generated in Alaska hit Cannon Beach, washing away the Elk Creek Bridge and isolating residents. To keep the children entertained and attract visitors, families gathered for a sandcastle competition and 61 years later, the Cannon Beach Sandcastle Contest has become one of the biggest competitions on the West Coast.

That profile has led to the contest attracting sand sculptors from all over, like William Rose — known as Bill, by some, Billy, by others, and Will, by a few. But when it comes to sand sculpting, the art elicits the use of his full name

A former construction superintendent, Rose

See **SANDCASTLE**, Page A3

Transforming the Learning Environment

The 2024-25 school year has been an exciting time for significant changes to learning spaces, both inside and out. The Academy is a tuition-free K-5 public charter school under the Seaside School District. The focus is on small, multi-grade level classrooms with a balanced education to nurture the development of the whole child, encouraging each child to become a life-long learner and a benefit to society. To further the school's mission, the year started with the introduction of the new Seed to Table Program designed to support healthy eating habits with an emphasis on garden curriculum and monthly local artisan presentations. Presenters from Sea Spell Fibers, Ocean Beauty Seafoods, Sea Level Bakery, and Josi Farms have provided educational cooking demonstrations

and hands-on learning with a sustainable focus. In September, a fundraising dinner and auction at The Bistro in Cannon Beach raised over \$52,000 to build a new state-of-the-art teaching kitchen and school garden to support the program. New raised garden beds were constructed with support from Josi Farms in Tillamook. Students are growing their own vegetables and herbs which will later become ingredients in their school lunches. At the same time, a \$15,000 grant from the Cannon Beach Community Grant program, combined with incentives from Energy Trust of Oregon, replaced outdated classroom lighting with high efficiency dimmable LED fixtures that now allow teachers to create the perfect lighting for each learning task. The school is currently raising



money to replace the old roof and skylights. Mo's Seafood & Chowder is

currently selling cookies to raise funds for the project. Suzy Scoops held a fund-

raiser over Spring Break to also support the cause. An additional benefit event at

Pelican Brewing will take place on May 8th. "It has been so wonderful to see the support of the community. I know how important this school is to the families of Cannon Beach and beyond. We have a pretty special thing going on here. The kids are excited about learning new things and the hands-on opportunities that we are able to give them beyond the 'textbook' are the lifelong skills that they will take with them beyond our four walls," states MaryEllen Kiffe, Director of Cannon Beach Academy. The school will have an Open House for new prospective students on Wednesday, April 23rd from 2:30 to 3:30 pm at 3781 S Hemlock Street, Cannon Beach. For more information, contact MaryEllen Kiffe at kiffem@thecannonbeachacademy.org / 503-436-4463

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H25246

Weber concerned by transportation proposal

WILL CHAPPELL
Gazette Editor

As the long legislative session in Salem passes the halfway mark, State Senator Suzanne Weber is apprehensive about the proposed transportation package put forward by Democrats in Salem last week. Weber said that she was uneasy about the impacts of tax and fee increases on her constituents, and the absence of benefit for the heightened costs, while taking Democrats to task for their lack of transparency and bipartisanship in developing the bill. "It's been said that we're going to sit down and we're going to negotiate several things in this structure. So far, no one has been approached

to work on that," Weber said. "It needs to be a team approach because it's got to be more than just the Democrats deciding this, it's got to be a concerted effort between both sides." Weber is a member of the legislature's joint transportation committee but said that as of last week she had only received the four-page document released to the public describing the proposed package. In the document, Democrats proposed a 20 cent in the state's gas tax, from 40 to 60 cents, implemented in four phases by 2032, increasing title and registration fees, as well as the weight-mile tax, almost doubling the state's payroll tax, instituting a road-user charge for electric vehicles, implementing a 1% fee on new

vehicle sales and creating a 3% tax on tire sales. In total, the proposed new and increased fees and taxes would generate at least \$1.9 billion biannually for the state's highway fund, Oregon's main transportation funding source. The revenues from the tire tax would go to support rail, wildlife crossings and salmon recovery. Weber said that the sweeping proposal had been developed without input from Republicans, lamenting the fact and saying that it marked a change from the process around amending Measure 110 last year when Democrats participated in bipartisan discussions. While recognizing that funding the state's highways was going to necessitate increasing tax and fees, Weber had doubts about the equity of some of the proposed measures, particularly the tire tax. Weber pointed out that Tillamook did not have rail projects that could benefit from the funding and worried that the lack of consideration for returning value to rural taxpayers, who travel longer distances than their urban counterparts, would play out in other aspects of the package as well. "That is going to burden, especially rural Oregon, especially where we live," Weber said. "Our gas is higher in price where we live on the coast, and we have to travel farther in order to get services and so we are paying more money in taxes than just about any other place other than eastern Oregon to be able to maintain our transportation system and what are we getting out of it?" Weber said that she would like to see funding devoted to problematic highways around the district, mentioning 6, 26 and 30, as well as 101 between Rockaway Beach and Wheeler. As of April 15, Weber said that no hearings had yet been

scheduled on the proposal and that she hoped there would be more collaboration on the process moving forward. "This can't be the final solution," Weber said, "there has to be some ability to bargain on this, not necessarily for the party but for the people, because this is a huge package." In the education committee, Weber said that she is more pleased with the work being done on Governor Tina Kotek's proposed reforms to accountability, put forward in Senate Bill 141. Earlier in the session, Weber had concerns about how the state would intervene in struggling districts and how those districts would be identified through testing, but she said that many of those concerns have now been addressed, though work is ongoing, with even more clarity needed on testing. "I'm feeling much better about 141," Weber said, "I think that it is also going to have to be one of those issues that is a work in progress." Weber said that she was still hoping to work on legislation to address student and teacher absenteeism and that she wanted to see instructional time increased for students, who end up with a year less of instructional time between kindergarten and high school graduation than their peers in Washington and California. Weber also mentioned that she would like to see more counselors provided to help support students and cut down on classroom interruptions. Outside of transportation and education, Weber is promoting bills on a variety of other subjects that are still moving forward. They include funding for a study of Highway 30 in Columbia County, a bill to support the children of military families, a tax credit for childcare workers and an exemption from the corporate activity tax for healthcare businesses.

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H25245

25th Spring Unveiling

Cannon Beach's Spring Unveiling festival returns for its 25th year from May 2 to May 4, with events scheduled at galleries around town to mark the transition to spring. Various galleries will feature unveilings and receptions with featured artists,

like one pictured here in 2023 at Dragonfire Gallery featuring artist Andrew Holmberg. Find more information in the event program, which can be found at participating galleries or online at www.cannonbeachgazette.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SANDCASTLE Contest

From Page A1

discovered his passion for building with sand during a family vacation to Hawaii in 1992, where he took a sand sculpture class. From that point on, he was hooked.

While he doesn't consider himself a professional sand sculptor due to not being able to pursue it full time, he has competed in many regional events, travelling as far afield as Denver and Omaha, where, despite the lack of ocean, sand sculpting competitions are held.

Now an Astoria resident, the annual competition in Cannon Beach is one of his favorites because of its size, the crowd and the history of the competition.

He, like most in the sand sculpting community,

enjoys sculpting things that expand people's minds on what is possible with sand. One of his favorite designs has been a wizard sitting at a table reading a book to two goblins. There's one thing he's not a fan of crafting: "I don't do the classic sandcastle," Rose says.

With the crowd watching him sand sculpt, Rose refers to it as "performance art," given that much of the fun of sandcastle competitions is watching a sculpture take form.

The team he sculpts with is called Mai Tai, named after the cocktail that fuses different ingredients, which he feels represents his team.

For those wanting to pursue sand sculpting, he has one word of advice: "practice."

Jim Butler first competed in the Cannon Beach Sandcastle Competition in 2010, but his interest in sand sculpting and sculpting in general started long

before, back in his younger years.

An architect, Butler's occupation pairs perfectly with his hobby. "It always comes in handy, because as an architect, you have to think in 3D, and the same thing goes with the sculptures," says Butler of architecture's relation to sand sculpting.

He enjoys working with his team, Form Finders, to create mesmerizing works of art. One of his favorite pieces has been "After Hours," depicting a scene of a veterinarian clinic gone awry.

He enjoys people being able to figure out what he and his team are shaping out of sand. "I love the crowds and the excitement of just being out there," Butler says.

Hailing from Olympia, Washington, Butler enjoys making the three-hour trip to Cannon Beach to compete in the sandcastle competition, which he says is always well organized



PHOTO CREDIT: BOB KROLL

and always brings in wonderful crowds.

While Form Finders isn't sure what design they'll bring to life at this year's competition, their team does have a motto: "go big or go home," aiming to add height, sometimes eight to ten feet, to their sculptures.

There will be plenty to marvel at on June 21st at Cannon Beach. Related events begin on Friday, June 20th, and will continue on Sunday, June 22nd.

Board of Forestry discusses state forester recruitment

WILL CHAPPELL
Gazette Editor

Oregon's Board of Forestry met on April 23, in Salem, and began discussions about the process of recruiting a new state forester as well as desired attributes for candidates.

Board members agreed that the search should be conducted in a way that kept candidates' names private until the final stages to encourage a wider pool of applicants and will adopt a formal recruitment process at a meeting in the coming weeks.

The search for a new state forester to lead the Oregon Department of Forestry comes following the resignation of Cal Mukumoto from the position in January.

At April's board meeting, Kylen Stevens, an executive recruiter from the state's Department of Administrative Services who will be assisting in the search, presented on the general form recruitments for executive officers take at state agencies.

use a recruiter when searching for an executive and salary is developed based on the salaries of top deputies who have state-mandated wages.

Stevens said that boards usually appoint a subcommittee to lead the next stages of the process, with a first review of applications occurring in an executive session of the subcommittee to identify five or so applicants for interviews. The committee then announces their list of candidates in a public session before interviewing them in another executive session and winnowing the list down to three finalists.

Finalists are then interviewed by agency staff, interested partners, tribes or whomever the board thinks should provide input, before a final decision is made and contract negotiated.

Stevens said that it was also possible to delegate an individual to make the initial decisions on which applicants would be interviewed. This would allow those applicants' names to remain confidential, whereas a subcommittee would be required to name the applicants chosen for interview in a public meeting following their executive session, which could deter some potential applicants.

state forester with the board. Just over 10% of the agency's workforce of just over 1,000 responded to the survey, which provided the list of desired attributes from 2021 and provided respondents an open-ended opportunity to make recommendations for changes or additions to the list.

The survey found that respondents wanted to see a new state forester with experience in the forestry industry, at a department of forestry or in fire response, and who has an understanding of the department's operations, divisions and programs. Respondents said that they wanted someone with strong communication and leadership skills, who would prioritize in-person engagement with staff, accountability and integrity, to help improve the agency's public perception.

After a lunch break, the board heard public feedback on desired attributes for the next forester, with seven commenters weighing in.

Michael Lang from the Wild Salmon Center said that his organization hoped to see a candidate selected with a grounding in the ecological impacts of forests who could rebuild public trust in the department.

applicant with relevant experience was critical, as whoever was hired would need to balance science, departmental values and political pressures to be successful in the job.

Kelly said that he wanted to lean heavily on the work done in the 2021 search, which had been substantial, while also keeping in mind the issues that had made Mukumoto's tenure short.

The board then discussed the next steps, with some confusion arising about the need to make public the decisions of a subcommittee and the specifics of delegating part of the narrowing of applicants to an individual.

Kelly said that he thought a subcommittee would be well-suited to working on developing the list of desired attributes but that he thought the board as a whole might be able to meet in executive session to winnow the initial list of applicants down to

finalists.

Interim State Forester Kate Skinner suggested waiting for the board's next meet-

ing, when Stevens would be able to offer answers to the board's questions and provide advice.

Stevens said that the process typically began with recruiters gathering input from various interested parties, including staff, partner agencies and tribes, and using that feedback to develop a list of qualifications and desired attributes for the role.

With that in hand, the agency's governing board determines whether to hire an outside recruitment firm to help with the process, where to advertise the position and approves funding for those items. The board then develops a recruitment plan that includes the number of interviews, who will be involved in them, whether the interviews are virtual or in-person, how long the recruitment will take and other specifics.

Members of the public are given an opportunity to comment on both the recruitment plan and desired attributes before the board adopts them. Stevens said the discussion, comment and adoption of the plan and desired attributes could take place at the board's next meeting.

Typically, agencies opt to

Representatives from the Oregon Loggers and Society of Foresters, as well as a forestry student and Tillamook County Commissioner Erin Skaar, speaking on behalf of the Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee, echoed staff sentiments, saying they hoped to see an applicant selected with experience in the industry who would appreciate and respect the communities and industries that depend on forests.

Before concluding the meeting, members of the board discussed the next steps of the recruitment process and desired attributes.

Board Member Ben Deumling said that he hoped whoever was hired would be able to take the vision put forward in plans developed by the board and department in recent years into action.

Justice said that hiring an

STEIDEL Legacy

From Page A1

Dueber puts it.

Some friendships are forever, which is the connection that Dueber and Sam shared. But Dueber loved the entire Steidel family. "Bill has always been my inspiration, and Sam has always been my best friend," says Dueber.

Though the Steidels died, Dueber felt a determination to keep their gallery open. "I just know that tragedy had something to do with me, he says. "I decided right at the very beginning that I needed to go and keep that 'open' sign open."

It was then that Dueber decided it was time to return home, to the city he loves, the gallery he loves and the families he loves, his own and the Steidels.

In what could best be described as kismet — an Arabic phrase meaning fate or destiny — things quickly came together, allowing Dueber to move back home and care for the gallery that meant so much to the people he cares about.

Steidel Art's building at 116 South Hemlock, which some say resembles a castle, houses so many memories for Dueber. He recalls Bill, clad in a bowler hat and apron covered in multiple colors of brush strokes, working in the gallery. If Bill wasn't completely enraptured in a piece he was working on, he'd regale visitors with stories, which, according to Dueber, were essentially what his pieces were. "Every one of his paintings had stories," says Dueber of Bill's work.

With the upcoming Spring Unveiling Festival, Dueber feels this year is an opportunity to show that even death won't dim what the Steidels have created in Cannon Beach and that the stories of Bill's work continue. "It's just going

to be an amazing thing for three days in Cannon Beach. And I'm so glad to be a part of it," he says. Dueber looks forward to displaying some of Steidel's pieces and letting the community know that Steidel Art isn't going anywhere if he can help it. And he's not alone, Laws-Steidel has been helping to keep Steidel Art a part of Cannon Beach's present and future.

Even now, Dueber feels close to the Steidels. "I still hold them he says," he says. "I basically work for them." Dueber feels keeping the gallery alive is his calling.

"It's still a viable, wonderful, imaginable, just a wonderful place to come in and visit," he says. He welcomes people to stop by, even just to say hi, and he looks forward to any opportunity to share stories about the Steidels.

For Dueber, the calling is clear: "the important thing is that the gallery is open, and their memory has not diminished."



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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

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CANNON BEACH
GAZETTE



Publish Date

Deadline

June 6

June 2, noon

July 4

June 30, noon

Aug. 1

July 28, noon

Sept. 5

Sept. 1, noon

Oct. 3

Sept. 29, noon

Nov. 7

Nov. 3, noon

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120 "Leave — the pros"
121 Anna of fashion
122 It has Cut and Copy commands
126 Apt playing card for this puzzle's theme?
131 Company VIP
132 Barrymore or Waters of "Pinky"
133 Consignment shop deal
134 "I have no idea!"
135 — Dame
136 A whole lot

DOWN

1 Become lenient
2 Intestine: Prefix
3 Of axons and dendrites
4 "— be my honor"
5 Ram's mate
6 Prince, e.g.
7 Eye-related
8 Philippine capital
9 One-sharp musical key
10 Sticky gunk
11 Hit — (run into some trouble)
12 Urbane
13 Fruity drink
14 Foot part
15 Busy crawler
16 Artsy cap
17 Garlicky mayonnaise
18 Replay speed, briefly
19 "Your Song" singer John
24 Whole lot
29 Ice cream drink
32 "Tsk!"
33 — -friendly
34 She was Mrs. Gorbachev
35 Stephen of "Still Crazy"
36 Nuptial oath
37 Buddhism branch
38 Point of view
43 K-O linkup
45 Toon frame
46 Fish eggs
47 Seep out
48 Wields
49 Crime doer
50 French bud
51 Join nuptially
52 Pitching stat
54 Sharp as —

55 Popular Aussie boots
56 Avocado dip, for short
60 Fidel's cohort
61 Swellering
62 "... sad and dreary everywhere —". Stephen Foster
63 Suitable
64 Disloyal sort
67 Ivy and kudzu
70 Go in haste
71 Electees, e.g.
72 Diner offering
73 "— Lisa"
74 PC key
75 Gin inventor
76 Ski lift type
77 Pakistani language
78 Tennis' Björn Whiney
82 Positive vote
83 And so on: Abbr.
84 Dark loaf
86 Fly trapper
87 Jazz's — Gyra
88 Mecca-lo-Medina flight
89 Country east of Arg.
90 Little drink
91 Giraffe's kin
93 Be certain

97 Actor Ayres
98 A, in Berlin
99 Self-help author
101 Lyric-penning
102 Ballplayer of D.C., in brief
105 Apple computer camera
106 Bible book before Job
107 Mark with multicolored spots
109 Optical
110 Exact look-alike
111 Licorice-like seeds
112 Listens to
113 Classic song
114 Actress
115 PC key
116 Dutch painter
117 Dove's call
123 Roman 1,200
124 Biblical verb suffix
125 — de plume
127 Figure skater
128 To's partner
129 Company
130 Timothy Leary's drug

Answers

GENIES OMEGA DATABASE
ONETWO CAMOS EDONEILL
STUDENTUKION BEETROOT
OER O IN AMO E MO
FRA ERNALORGANIZATION
TOLUCA RARE LADEN
OIL ACTIONGROUP
AWE SMAJG EER LOOSE
MERCHANTGUILD FREEZER
IDAHO AGAR VIA ESP
ETHICSCOMMITTEE
TUB INK AEON SLIER
BROWSES HUMANESOCIETY
ADREP MER LASIK ACE
RUGBYLEAGUE PAIN
REIKI DEM PRAYDA
HOMEOWNERSASSOCIATION
ELON SAT TTD SCI
EDIT MENU EIGHTO CLUBS
DIRECTOR ETPEL RESALE
SEARCHME INOTRE FOOD ES

(SNOWFLAKES)
solution

ABOUT US

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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

requisite identifying information will not be published. Letters are published in the order received and may be edited for length, grammar, spelling, punctuation or clarity. We do not publish group emails, open letters, form letters, third-party letters, letters attacking private individuals or businesses, or letters containing advertising.

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CANNON BEACH
GAZETTE



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OBITUARIES

Email obituaries to: classifieds@orcoastnews.com
The Cannon Beach Gazette has several options for submitting obituaries.

- Basic Obituary: Includes the person's name, age, town of residency, and information about any funeral services. No cost.
- Custom Obituary: You choose the length, the wording of the announcement, and if you want a small photo included -

Cost is \$100 for the first 200 words, \$75 for each additional 200 words.

- Premium Obituary: Often used by families who wish to include multiple photos with a longer announcement, or who wish to run a thank-you. Cost varies based on the length of the announcement.

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

AT THE LIBRARY



Book Sales, a Speaker, a Book Club & a Festival

By PHYLLIS BERNT
Library Volunteer

As a private nonprofit organization, the library is continually raising funds to pay for its operating expenses, and it does so through a variety of fund-raising activities. Book sales are a major source of funding for the library. Thanks to generous book donations and dedicated volunteers, the library is able to hold book sales that are truly win-win activities. Patrons find satisfying reading materials, gently loved books get another chance to be enjoyed and the library raises much-needed funds to cover expenses. In addition to maintaining

a well-stocked book sale room, the library holds annual book sales, two of them in May. As part of celebrating Cannon Beach’s Spring Unveiling Arts Festival, residents and visitors can drop by the Annual Art and Music Book Sale Fundraiser at the library (131 N. Hemlock in downtown Cannon Beach). This book sale will be held during regular business hours, 12 to 4 p.m., from May 2 through May 10. Patrons can browse a selection of reasonably priced, hand-picked art books, music books and collectible vinyl records. The Annual Rare and Old Book Sale will be held over Memorial Day Weekend, from 10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 24; Sunday, May 25; and Monday, May 26. An annual event, this sale offers a wide range of books and prices, from a few dollars for tempting old volumes, to a bit more for collectible books, to a few hundred dollars for rare treasures. Especially interesting books will be featured on the library’s website (www.cannonbeachlibrary.org) in the weeks before the sale. These book sales are a great warm-up for the library’s biggest book sale

and Cannon Beach tradition, the Fourth of July Book Sale, which will be held July 3 through July 6 (Thursday through Sunday). More details will be provided in next month’s column. Funds raised by these sales help pay for programming for both children and adults, including story times, a speaker series, a book club and a new event—a local authors festival. Young library patrons can get ready for Mother’s Day during Story Time and Crafting at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 10. After listening to volunteers read books about mothers and motherhood, young patrons can craft collages, perfect gifts for their moms. Children of all ages are welcome and must be accompanied by an adult. Just a reminder—Mother’s Day is Sunday, May 11. The NW Author Speakers series will welcome Portland author and editor Marcelle Heath for a talk and book signing at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 17. This will be a hybrid presentation, with patrons able to enjoy the talk in the library or from home via the library’s website. Heath’s debut short story collection, “Is That All There Is?” was a finalist

for the 2024 Oregon Book Award for Fiction. The stories in the collection deal with women’s lives and the dangers and losses they face across time and geography. The collection has been called “brilliant and elegant,” and Heath’s prose has been described as “masterful, electric and brilliantly precise.” Heath writes short stories and tiny fictions. Her work has been published in Fractured Lit, Joyland, Little Fiction, Nat Brut Magazine and the Kenyon Review. She is currently an editor at Matchbook Magazine. Marcelle Heath lives in Portland with two dogs, one tortoise and one film professor. The Cannon Beach Reads Book Club will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, to discuss “The Librarianist,” by Patrick deWitt. 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). “The Librarianist tells the story of Bob Comet, a 71-year-old retired librarian, who lives in the mint-green Portland bungalow in which

he grew up. Bob leads a solitary life, and has “long given up on the notion of knowing anyone, or of being known.” He has been divorced for decades and has no friends. He spends his days “reading, cooking, eating, tidying, and walking.” All that changes when he finds a disoriented, elderly woman in a 7-Eleven store. The laminated card hanging around her neck says she lives at the Gambell-Reed Senior Center, and Bob decides to return her to her home. Once at the Center, Bob decides to become a volunteer, a decision that will irrevocably change his life. Through a series of flashbacks, deWitt explores the highlights of Bob’s earlier years, explaining how Bob found his calling as a librarian, describing his short marriage and recounting his adventures as an eleven-year-old runaway who joins up with two eccentric actresses and their performing dogs in a decaying hotel on the Oregon coast. “The Librarianist,” which is reflective of deWitt’s humor and quirky style, was awarded the Oregon Book Award for Fiction in 2024. His other novels, which include “Ab-lutions: Notes for a Novel,” “The Sisters Brothers,”

“Undermajordomo Minor” and “French Exit,” have won, or been shortlisted for, an impressive list of literary awards. Pam Avila will lead the discussion on May 21. Coffee and cookies will be provided at the library. New members are always welcome. The library is planning a new event this year: a Local Authors Festival to be held September 27. The purpose of the Festival is to recognize local authors and to provide them with a chance to interact with readers, sell their work and meet with fellow writers. The library is now soliciting applications for table space at the Festival from local authors of any age who have published a book in any genre during the past five years. Authors from the Washington peninsula down to the southern Oregon coast are the target audience for this solicitation. Information about the Festival and the application process is available at the library website. Applications can be completed online on the website or picked up at the library. Twelve local authors will be selected to participate in the Festival. The application deadline is June 15. All applicants will be informed of their status via email by July 14.

LETTERS

Ballot Measure 4-235 Jeopardizes CB Water Resiliency Project

Cannon Beach voters will decide the fate of two separate ballot measures on May 20th. The first one, Measure 4-235, would effectively prevent the city from applying for low-interest state and federal grants and loans for large infrastructure projects, such as the ongoing “Water Resiliency Project”, which is essential for the safety of residents. Phase 2 of this ongoing three-phase project, which will replace the old and seismically-unsafe concrete-asbestos and PVC water mains with earthquake-resistant HDPE pipe, is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2025 (Phase 1 was completed in 2024) Phase 3 includes the construction of a new HDPE water main along Highway 101 which will tie together all of the upgraded city water infrastructure. The construction of this new water transmission backbone will ensure that we can get water from the north end to the south end of town after the current aging concrete-asbestos and PVC water mains running along Hemlock Street fail during a seismic event. Approval of Measure 4-235 by voters will jeopardize this crucial final phase of the project. There is a critical 3-month window that allows for the acceptance of grant and loan applications, so prolonging the process to wait for the results of an election as mandated by Measure 4-235 will effectively prevent the city from obtaining these low-interest grants and loans. The end result is that this critical \$7 million final phase of the Water Resiliency Project will not be completed without a significant increase in water rates or a bond measure that raises property taxes on residents and businesses. The competing Measure 4-236 will maintain the city’s ability to apply for low-interest loans and grants to pay for large infrastructure projects. Please vote NO on Measure 4-235 and YES on Measure 4-236. *Bob Atiyeh Cannon Beach*

Cannon Beach Ballot Measures

Cannon Beach Ballot Measures... Confusing, Ambiguous – Not Really. The concept is simple - ensure community alignment on large projects. The City Charter always said debt funded by property taxes required a vote. This kept us aligned. But the Charter hasn’t kept up with the times.

Tourism taxes appeared – and grew. Tourism receipts are now 5x revenues supplied by property taxes (\$9M vs. \$1.5M.) We learned it requires no formal community approval to: raise tourism taxes, spend tax \$ receipts nor issue long term project debts. The charter need to adapt. Measure 4-235 is a step in that direction. Only very large projects would require a vote. Large for today is \$6.5M – but it can scale. Large projects used to get a vote: Water Treatment, Ecola Forest Reserve and Prepared Food Tax for Fire District / CBE bond. But our Charter did not ensure a vote for community alignment on \$40M of the recent projects. The City could have responded to this Initiative by helping write more clear and succinct language. But they didn’t. They chose more confusing language and a competing ballot measure. Worse is Oregon law gives the city power of the pen so the City Attorney drafted all these complex and confusing ballot measures. Make it simple. Ensure a vote on BIG projects. High five for Measure 235...Vote yay for a say...Vote yes on 4-235 Nix Measure 236...Vote no on the status...Vote no on 4-236. *Randy Neal*

Keep the city working

Keep ‘Cannon Beach Working’ is the perfect slogan from the citizen group who is opposed (vote no) to measure 4-235 and supports (vote yes) measure 4-236. The large and much needed projects done in Cannon Beach are funded multiple ways through local funds, grants, federal and/or state funds. If we have to wait for a vote and a possible no vote it can mean the grants and other non-local funding is no longer available. Elections cost us, you and me, every time we have to put something on the ballot. This isn’t about raising property taxes, any funding that raises property taxes has to be voted on separately. This is about maintaining our safe livable city with the projects we need. Please keep Cannon Beach Working. Vote no on Measure 4-235 and yes on Measure 4-236 which will clarify the city charter on this matter. *Virginia Wright Cannon Beach*

Let elected officials lead

To the Editor, We elect people to represent us. That’s how our government works. If you

don’t like what they’re doing, vote them out—but let them do their jobs in the meantime. As someone who served on the Cannon Beach City Council, I know how much time and effort goes into making smart decisions for our community. It’s not simple work—and it gets even harder when you throw up roadblocks like Measure 4-235. This measure doesn’t add transparency. It adds delays, red tape, and costs. It makes it harder for the city to respond quickly when it matters—especially in emergencies or safety issues. Do we really want to wait months for a public vote just to fix something critical? That’s not protecting the community—that’s putting it at risk. And let’s be clear: we already have the right to vote on anything that raises our property taxes. That protection is already there. We don’t need to pile on more process just for the sake of it. Measure 4-236 gives us information without getting in the way. It’s the smart way forward. I’ve lived in Cannon Beach for decades. I love this town, and I want to see it thrive—not get stuck in gridlock. Vote no on 4-235 and yes on 4-236. Sincerely, *Betsy Ayres Cannon Beach*

Let the city function, no on 235

If 4-235 passes, it will essentially hamstring the city, making it impossible to get low interest loans and grants for infrastructure projects. But there is a broader issue at play. Free and fair elections are the life blood of a democracy. Those who want to see 4-235 pass are framing it as a voting issue. It is not. If it were, why wouldn’t they call for a vote on changes to land use ordinances, budget amendments, and other big policy changes? No, this referendum was created to ensure no future approval for major projects could occur without an election (think N’Cus). However, in a representative democracy, decisions on projects-except those that would raise your property tax rates-are delegated to elected representatives. This permits the city to function effectively and is how almost all other cities in Oregon do business. I saw a sign-”don’t vote for the status quo.” Well, the status quo is pretty damn good. Cannon Beach has an excellent bond rating, healthy reserves, and the ability to institute critical infrastructure needs. We still have a lot more to accomplish. A yes on 4-235 will inhibit our ability to do so. So rather than stopping the city from functioning effec-

tively, don’t vote for Councilors whose platform you don’t like! Question them and be clear on what they stand for before voting! Simply voting against the status quo is what our country did in the last national election, and how’s that working out? *Lisa Kerr*

Opt for consensus, conversation, cooperation

By now, most Cannon Beach residents know that there will be two competing measures on the May ballot. Measure 4-235 comes out of frustration for a perceived disconnect between elected officials’ decisions and community desires, i.e., not listening to the will of the people. Measure 4-236 is the city council’s response, pointing out the risks and unintended downsides of the opposing measure. No matter how you choose to vote, neither of these measures is going to solve Cannon Beach’s problems. In fact, it seems likely this voting cycle will have the opposite effect – more divisiveness and distrust. We are going to continue to treat each other with disrespect, failing to seek to understand or show kindness to one another. According to experts, “Consensus is the desired way of making decisions of public policy. Consensus is different from voting.” Votes result in winners and losers with hurt feelings and underlying grievances left to grow and fester. Much of the anger we all feel in the community today stems from past instances where we let a vote make the decision for us. I hope you’ll vote no on Measure 4-235 and yes on Measure 4-236. Not because I disagree with community concerns, but because voting is the wrong tool - we need more participation, more conversation and more cooperation. I offer my comments as a homeowner in Cannon Beach and not in my roles of Parks and Community Services chair nor as a Planning Commissioner. *Les Sinclair Cannon Beach*

Letter to the Editor CB Gazette

I would like to remind everyone to VOTE. Election Day is May 20, 2025. Clatsop County Elections Office’s website has a complete list of all ballot drop box site locations. Ballots must be turned in at an Official Ballot Drop Box/Site by 8 pm on Election Day or by US Mail with free postage. Cannon Beach voters will be able to approve a very

important measure in the May 20, 2025 election by voting YES for Measure 4-236. Measure 4-236 clarifies the city’s ability to fund municipal projects without voter approval. The exception to this is that before issuing general obligation bonds that would increase property taxes, voter approval would be needed. The city of Cannon Beach has been able to fund some major city projects with grants and low-interest loans that have enabled the city to save substantial funds. A YES vote on Measure 4-236 would allow the city to apply for grants and low-interest loans without waiting for election results. By voting YES on Measure 4-236 voters would insure that all of our city’s operations including public works, finance, planning, parks, emergency management and police department could continue to forge ahead on projects without costly delays. Please allow the elected officials of our City Council do their job to represent the best interests of the city and not have to delay major projects with elections. Please join me in voting YES! on Measure 4-236. *Barb Knop Mayor of Cannon Beach*

Say No to Continued Divisive Politics, Vote No on 4-235

Your no vote on measure 4-235 is important for the future of Cannon Beach. Although this measure may seem well intended, it is simply a bad idea that will lead to never-ending divisive politics, prevent accomplishing critical city projects, drive costs up with delays and put at risk acquiring grants or low-interest loans for our community’s most urgent needs. Our city has accomplished great things in the past few years. We are nearing completion of a major water resiliency project that will take Cannon Beach into the next century and provide water safeguards in preparation for a major disaster. Our new Police Station with an Emergency Operations Center outside of the tsunami zone; and a new City Hall are now under construction. These projects significantly improve our safety and community preparedness. The proponents of 4-235 fought hard, injecting tens of thousands of dollars into local politics and brought legal challenges to stop the city from solving these decades old problems. There will always be those who think they know better, that things could be cheaper or that we don’t need these solutions at all. Don’t let

the future and safety of our community be left vulnerable to unending divisive politics. There is a reason no other city in the state has restrictions this limiting. It’s dangerous. Please join me in saying “no” to devise politics and vote NO on 4-235. Your yes vote on the competing measure (4-236) will keep costs down on critical city projects and assure you will always have a vote on projects that increase your property taxes. *Gary Hayes*

Vote to have your say

In the April 2025 Cannon Beach Gazette, Sharon Clyde’s letter is ludicrous. Dangerous? Really? Most other municipalities are obligated to seek vote for large spending because they do not rely on a stream of “free money.” Just because the funds for projects do not come from residents’ pockets, does not mean you should not have a say. Don’t you feel that you should have a say in the look and function of your city? Because right now, you do not. Also, what kind of world are we living in that you think limiting voting rights is okay? When we are not granted our civic rights, that is what is dangerous. Have your say in city spending, vote yes on 4-235. Avoid another boondoggle, vote no on 4-236. *Hannah Buschert Cannon Beach*

Vote no on Measure 4-235 and yes on Measure 4-236

These Cannon Beach Residents and City Leaders are Voting NO on Measure 4-235 and YES on Measure 4-236 on May 20th

- 1. Lisa Kerr
- 2. Bruce Kerr
- 3. Aaron Matusick
- 4. Sharon Clyde
- 5. Stacy Benefield
- 6. Betsy Ayres
- 7. Brandon Ogilvie
- 8. Bob Kroll
- 9. Nancy Kroll
- 10. Lila Wickham
- 11. Rock Wickham
- 12. Mary Beth Cottle
- 13. Ken Potter
- 14. Gary Hayes
- 15. Anna Rider-Hayes
- 16. Tim Ramey
- 17. Kari Ramey
- 18. Betty Gearen
- 19. Mike Gearen
- 20. Deb Atiyeh
- 21. Bob Atiyeh
- 22. Pat Durkin
- 23. Charles Withers
- 24. Dottie Avalon
- 25. Jody Yorkey
- 26. Joni Randolph
- 27. Jeremy Randolph
- 28. Ginny Wright
- 29. Linda Beck-Sweeney
- 30. Barb Knop



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CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR
is **LONGFELLOW**

One letter stands for another. In this sample, **A** is used for the three L's, **X** for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

WRR Y TWLM YH MFD
ADHM BE DXDKNMFYLU WLC
MFDKD'H XDKN RYMMRD
BE MFWM RDEM.
— JDJYR ADWMBL

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OBITUARY.

Marilyn Helen Rooper
July 7, 1943 to April 5, 2025



Marilyn's art work has been exhibited throughout the northwest including Portland Art Museum, Portland Community

College, The Lawrence Gallery, The White Bird Gallery, Cannon Beach Arts Association Gallery, and the Sandpiper Square Gallery. Her works include free-lance projects and commissioned pieces in both public and private collections.

In 1988 Marilyn purchased and operated the Wine Shack where she made many life-long friends, sharing her love of good food and wine. She sold the business in 2000.

Marilyn's other passions was Tai Chi. She studied under Gregory Fong for many years, including twice weekly drives into Portland for classes. She subsequently taught Tai

Chi classes in Cannon Beach and Manzanita for many years.

In 2018, she was diagnosed with Lewy Body Dementia and began a nearly seven year battle. She is survived by sisters Carol, Joanne, Janice, Patricia (Dave), Kathy (Mark) and her brother Ken (Diane) and many nieces and nephews. She was pre-deceased by her parents and brothers, Raymond, Robert, and James.

Special thanks to Lower Columbia Hospice and Kim Baldwin for their wonderful care. Marilyn is deeply missed by family and friends alike.

A memorial to be announced.

Hrap Welcomes Puffins

From Page A1

spotted on April 4. While at Haystack Rock, puffins live on the grassy northern slope and are most active in the morning.

During the event several hundred people came out and looked at the slope through scopes and binoculars provided by HRAP, although two bald eagles atop the rock kept puffin activity limited. HRAP volunteers also showed visitors around the exposed intertidal areas at the base of the rock and manned an information table with a taxidermized tufted puffin and a horned puffin, which range from Washington to Alaska, for comparison.

Two bald eagles perched on top of the rock during much of the event, keeping puffin activity limited.

A photograph of three people, two women and one man, standing on a rocky beach. They are all wearing red jackets. The woman on the left is wearing a red bucket hat and a name tag. The man in the middle is wearing a tan cap and sunglasses. The woman on the right is wearing a blue headband and sunglasses. They are all smiling at the camera. The background shows a rocky coastline with the ocean and a clear blue sky.

HAYSTACK ROCK AWARENESS PROGRAM

Become a Volunteer!

Are you passionate about environmental education? We are looking for dedicated volunteers to help our Rocky Shore Interpreter team connect with visitors about intertidal and seabird ecology.

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