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LUBA agrees, no grading of dunes for views

Kathleen Stinson For The Gazette

The Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals affirmed the city of Cannon Beach's decision not to allow grading of sand dunes for views.

The appeal was brought by the Chapman Point and Breakers Point homeowners associations, who chose not to comment on the LUBA decision for the purposes of this story.

"On March 3, 2021, The Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) issued an opinion upholding the City of Cannon Beach's controversial decision to end all grading of sand dunes for view protection and/or enhancement,"

as stated in a press release issued by the Friends of the Dunes at Cannon Beach. "This government decision is a victory in that it favors the coastal environment and will result in a positive conservation outcome and improved public safety and

access. We often hear 'it takes a village.' Today we celebrate the village that is Cannon Beach. This decision will not, however, be limited to our little village. It will reverberate up and down the coast giving strength to other communities who want to protect their dunes and beaches," said Dianna Turner, co-chair of Friends of the Dunes at Cannon Beach

"In our new world of warming oceans and ever-increasingly strong storms and tidal waves, grassroots activism is critical. We must continue to push for policies to maintain coastal dunes both for their natural beauty, and as a front line of defense from environmental threats. she added

As stated in the LUBA opinion: "A city may allow grading or sand movement to maintain views or to protect structures from sand inundation if the city adopts a foredune grading management plan for an area within an acknowledged urban growth boundary. However, [Statewide Planning] Goal 18 does not require a city to allow such grading."

As previously reported in The Gazette: "The petitioner's attorney [James] Howsley in rebuttal [at the appeal's hearing] said European beach grass is a non-native, invasive species, which is "causing artificially high dunes in the area.

"Howsley said Chapman Point is recognized as an important scenic area. In order to protect the area, the petitioners seek to restore the natural vegetation, which involves "removing a lot of the dunes. The city insists the dunes grass is natural."

As stated in the Friends' release, "Cannon Beach, like six other Oregon coastal communities, allowed dune grading for views for more than 20 years, and found that

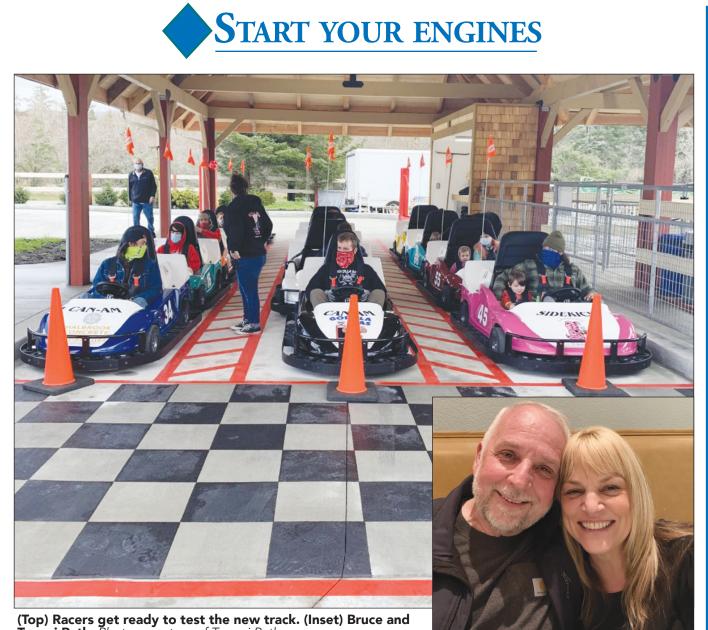


it led to interminable hearings, requests for ever-increasingly large amounts of grading, and damage to the dunes needed for flood control and wildlife habitat," the Friends release states.

The Gazette contacted the Breakers Point Homeowners

Association for comment on the LUBA decision but did not receive a response.

The Gazette contacted agent Timothy Ramey of the Chapman Point Homeowners Association who said the homeowners association will not have a comment.





Seaside High School begins hybrid model March 16

> **Hilary Dorsey** For The Gazette

Tammi Rath. Photos courtesy of Tammi Rath

CAPTAIN KID AMUSEMENT PARK DEBUTS NEW GO-KART TRACK AND MORE MARCH 20

Hilary Dorsey For The Gazette

aptain Kid Amusement Park is holding a grand opening of their new, modern, updated go-kart track Saturday, March 20. The opening will begin at 11 a.m. after the sponsor race at 10 a.m.

Bruce Rath, who owns the amusement park with wife Tammi, said the track was relocated and more of the property is functional now than before.

"It's way cool," Tammi said of the track. "It's very unique. He designed it. It's bigger – 200 feet bigger – than the old one.'

Total footage of the new track is 600 feet. The track includes corners and hills.

Bruce and Tammi said the new track also includes a control tower with someone watching the whole track, a stadium for people to watch the races, surround sound and 14 new cars.

"There's music when they leave the pits," Tammi said. "There's a song we play every time. We play another song coming in."

Previously, Bruce owned a logging road construction business but always dreamed of owning an amusement park. He purchased the go-kart business with his late wife in Seaside in 2008. They lived in an RV and worked on the business.

Since 2008, Bruce has been working on beautification of the park and doing things people don't see, such as paperwork. The amusement park started with an old track and old mini golf course. The park now

offers go karts, 18 hole mini golf course, kids rides, a rollercoaster, a rock climbing wall and GyroXtreme, which simulates weightlessness.

Bruce's wife passed away in 2015. They were married for 44 years. For a couple years, Bruce worked the ticket booth and took a break on updating the park.

"In 2018, my late husband passed," Tammi said, stating Bruce was her rock after her husband's death. "We were all friends. We knew each other and did things together."

Tammi said the two couples had gone to Universal together in 2007. A year later, Bruce and his late wife moved to Seaside and bought the amusement park.

"We would have never in a million years thought this would happen but we ended up together," Tammi said of her relationship with Bruce. "We got married in 2019."

Tammi had previously been in the restaurant business with her late husband and has experience in marketing and advertising.

After they married, Bruce got back to updating the park and designed the mini golf course, which was finished March 20, 2020, right when businesses started to shut down during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We got shut down the day we finished the golf course, the day spring break was kicking off down here," Tammi said.

The amusement park opened back up in June. Tammi said the park has been busy ever since. Everyone wears masks

and equipment is sanitized before and after people use it.

The track had already been started but was put on pause when the park was shut down. The track was finished in October 2020. Concrete for the track was poured by Halbrook Concrete.

'All the buildings here, the stadium, Bruce designed and built," Tammi said. "He hires people to help him."

Tammi said all of the cars for the gokarts are sponsored by area businesses. These sponsors get a decal on the side of the car with the name of their business. Sponsors will kick off a sponsor race at 10 a.m. March 20, before the grand opening begins at 11 a.m.

The sponsors will race their cars and the winner will receive a trophy. After the sponsor race, the day will kick off with a ribbon cutting with Seaside Chamber of Commerce. There will be giveaways and prizes from the sponsors throughout the day with each race.

Future plans for the amusement park include more rides and an old fashioned downtown themed area with shops, a shooting gallery and bumper cars. Tammi said they would do a little at a time. They aim to keep the amusement park's familyoperated feel.

Captain Kid Amusement Park is located at 2735 South Roosevelt, just south of Seaside. The park will be open daily starting March 20 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day.

Send comments to: headlightreporter@countrymedia.net Seaside High

easide High School students will be back in Sclass Tuesday, March 16, to begin a hybrid model. Gov. Kate Brown announced March 5 an executive order to return public schools students to the classroom. Students K-5 are directed to return to in-person instruction on or before the weeks of March 29 and students in grade 6-12 by April 19.

Lynne Griffin, director of special services for Seaside School District, provided a school update during a Cannon Beach Chamber Virtual Breakfast Meeting Tuesday, March 9. She said all health and safety protocols remain required as students return to class. There is mandatory wearing of masks, a daily screening of students and staff, and hand sanitizing stations.

On Feb. 15, kindergarten and first grade opened up for hybrid and sixth grade opened Feb. 22. On March 1, second, third, seventh and eighth grade began hybrid. Preschool opened this week. On Tuesday, March 16, fourth, fifth, and all high school students will begin the hybrid model.

"At the elementary school, there are two three-hour cohorts four days a week," Griffin said of Pacific Ridge Elementary.

Griffin said for the a.m. cohort, students come from 8-11 a.m. These are students who live in the area and families who are able to transport their kids.

"There's another cohort from 12:30 to 3:30," Griffin said. "That time in between allows for all the classrooms to be disinfected."

The students in the morning cohort take their lunch with them when they leave for the day, Griffin said. At the elementary level, no students are eating on campus.

Seaside Middle School students attend in person two days per week.

"At the middle school, it looks a little different obviously," Griffin said. "They still have access Monday and Tuesday or Thursday and Friday where they stay a little bit longer.'

Seaside High School students will start Tuesday, March 16. They are divided the same, with two days in class and two days learning from home, Griffin added.

When the students are not in class, they are attending the same class virtually from home for the other two days of the week. Griffin said the model is a hybrid model with simultaneous instruction.

"They'll attend four classes a day like the middle school," Griffin said. "Some of the classes will have two periods."

Regarding sports, Griffin said once spectators are allowed, an allotment of tickets will be designated for each student athlete on a team. There will not be any admissions or concessions. Some of the outside perimeter lines are not included as places to view.

Send comments to: headlightreporter@countrymedia.net

Where to get vaccinated, your turn depends on age, supply

Staff

It has been challenging getting the COVID-19 vaccine distributed in Clatsop County.

Cannon Beach's emergency manager Rick Hudson said one of the challenges is the system is technologydriven and some people don't have the internet. Also, some older people are afraid to leave their homes or even talk to their neighbors about how to get vaccinated.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has gone so far as to hold venues on some street corners with their tents to talk to people about how they can schedule their vaccinations, Hudson said.

"A significant number of people are getting left behind," he said about the technology-driven process. Last night the CERT team was at a business and heard about an elderly gentleman who wanted to get vaccinated, who they were able to help.

At first Clatsop County only received 100 doses a week, he said. The county has 40,000 people. "Last week we were up to 1,000 a week."

Who is eligible to get the vaccination

According to information from the Clatsop County Health Department, when it comes to the COVID-19 vaccine, "eligibility" does not necessarily mean "availabity."

Clatsop County is offering its Vaccine Planning Survey. This survey allows you to enter your name, contact information, age and any underlying medical conditions. With this information, we will be able to contact you when you are eligible for the vaccine.

As the public vaccination campaign continues, some members of the public have questioned why local vaccine clinics are not yet open to people declared eligible for shots by the State of Oregon.

The answer – supply. Individuals age 80 and over were declared eligible for vaccination by the state Feb. 8. Eligibility was extended to those 75 and older on Feb. 15, to those 70 and older on Feb. 22, and, on Monday, March 1, to individuals 65 and older.

However, due to the limited number of vaccines delivered to Clatsop County so far, there are still many county residents 80 and older who have yet to receive their first dose.

The local Vaccine Task Force – a partnership of the Clatsop County Public Health Department, Columbia Memorial Hospital and Providence Seaside Hospital – is prioritizing vaccinations for the senior population by age. When all residents 80 and older who want the vaccine have at least received a first dose, then vaccinations will open up to those 75 and older, followed by those in the younger age groups.

The Task Force hopes to open its vaccination events to those 75 and older as soon as supplies increase, but at present it cannot predict when that will take place.

In addition to the senior population, the Task Force is also identifying and scheduling shots for remaining members of other first-priority groups – including health workers and educators – who were missed or unavailable earlier in the vaccination program.

As of Friday, Feb. 26, a total of 6,555 shots have been given in Clatsop County, and 2,371 individuals were fully vaccinated.

The Task Force has scheduled four clinics for the week of March 1 to deliver 1,300 shots – including 600 second doses.

The county has been informed that larger weekly deliveries of vaccines from the state are anticipated to begin later this month.

Last week Gov. Kate Brown announced future eligibility dates for other categories of vaccine recipients. Beginning March 29, state eligibility will expand to adults age 45-64 with underlying health conditions and frontline workers including seafood and agriculture workers. However, the local Vaccine Task Force notes that local eligibility for vaccines will continue to depend on supplies.

Clatsop County residents are urged to take the Vaccine Survey. This will allow vaccine organizers to contact you with instructions to sign up for a vaccination event. A link to the survey is at: https:// www.co.clatsop.or.us/

Cannon Beach Emergency Manager Rick Hudson said the city is assisting people

to sign up for the survey and also to identify vulnerable members who need transportation or in-home vaccination. They are directing people to the public health hotline, which will do all those things for them. The public health hotline can be reached at 503-325-8500.

Citizens can also email Clatsop County Emergency Management at tbrown@ co.clatsop.or.us or email Rick Hudson at Hudson@ci.cannon-beach.or.us

SENIORS: Vaccination events are open up to seniors in both the 70 and 75 and older age groups. The Task Force is scheduled to administer 1,400 first dose shots to seniors at two clinics. Individuals in the two age groups who have signed up with the County Vaccine Planning Survey will be contacted by email or phone about registering for one of the vaccine clinics – the events are not open to the general public.

ELIGIBILITY: The State of Oregon has declared individuals age 65 and older to be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. However, Clatsop County is only opening up vaccination events to senior groups as supplies allow. JOHNSON & JOHNSON VACCINE: The county has received a limited shipment of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and will be developing plans for the most efficient use of this one-dose vaccine.

Target Population for these events

Members of Phase 1b,
Group 1 – teachers (K-12),
early learning staff
Members of Phase 1b,
Group 2 – people age 70 and older

• Individuals receiving second doses

Other Local

Vaccine Providers

• Safeway pharmacies, Astoria and Seaside: https:// www.safeway.com/pharmacy/ covid-19.html

• Costco pharmacy, Warrenton: https://www.costco. com/covid-vaccine.html

• Walmart pharmacies are expected to begin offering vaccines soon. Go to the link below for information on availability: https://www. walmart.com/cp/flu-shots-immunizations/1228302

State to keep vaccine timeline in place, for now

Zack Demars For The Gazette

Oregon health officials aren't quite ready to commit to an ambitious vaccination eligibility timeline laid out by President Joe Biden.

Oregon Governor Kate Brown and officials from the Oregon Health Authority addressed the state's vaccination timeline and called for continued vigilance in the face of variants of the virus in a press conference Friday.

"As weekly shipment allocations increase, we will reassess those timelines. If the doses are there, I have every intention of utilizing all available state and federal resources to match the president's timeline for universal eligibility," Brown said. "But let me be very, very clear: While our timelines will accelerate with available supplies, my commitment to equity in our vaccine distribution will not change."

The announcement came the day after Biden announced in a televised address his plans to direct states to make vaccines available to all adults by May 1 — two months ahead of Oregon's current timeline — which Biden said would allow to country to see a Fourth of July closer to normal.

"After this long hard year, that will make this Independence Day something truly special, where we not only mark our independence as a nation, but we begin to mark our independence from this virus," Biden said Thursday night.

But Oregon officials Friday weren't so ready to upend the multi -stage virus timeline they announced just weeks before, which sees some with vulnerable conditions and in high risk occupations eligible March 29, other frontline groups eligible May 1 and general population groups eligible June and July 1 based on age.

OHA Director Patrick Allen said the state's currently on track to meet the timeline it's already set, meaning those over 45 with certain health conditions, certain high-risk workers and anyone who's pregnant, among other groups, will be eligible March 29.

But Allen also said OHA won't change its timelines without more specific allocation commitments from the federal government.

"However, we need to know when more vaccine vials will actually arrive in Oregon as promised before we can tell a frontline worker or anyone else that we're adjusting our timelines," Allen said. "Until we get more clarity, we need to keep our current timelines in place."

Allen said the current projections and timelines are based on the assumption the state will receive over 200,000 first doses of the vaccine each week — and that roughly an additional 100,000 or more could be necessary to meet the president's May 1 timeline.

Still, Allen said the state currently exceeds the national average in fully vaccinated individuals, with 11% of the state's population fully vaccinated.

And the state is providing support next week that are falling behind the state in vaccinations, Allen said.

"This week, we're providing one-time catchup doses for seven

counties," Allen said.

Those doses include 700 addi-

tional doses to Clatsop, 1,100 to Columbia, 1,400 to Coos, 500 to Curry, 500 to Grant, 2,040 to Jackson and 3,080 to Josephine.

What's more, health officials said Friday Oregonians need to remain cautious as some counties see restrictions ease and other counties report cases of mutated forms of the virus.

"Our recent modelling suggests that with the presence of the new variants and the relaxing of restrictions, we can expect to see an increase in new cases," said State Epidemiologist Dr. Dean Sidelinger. "Or put more bluntly: We can expect to see wider distribution of this virus in Oregon."

Those variants aren't unex-

See VACCINE, Page 3





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We are excited to show off our 'new and improved' office space to all of you when the project is completed! The plan is to have construction finished by March 15th, so stay tuned and make a plan to come see our 'new digs'.

Thank you from everyone at Duane Johnson Real Estate.



Duane - Managing Principal Broker





Jeremy - Broker



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At the library

Haunted by memories historians capture

Joseph Bernt Library Volunteer

regon historian and journalist R. Gregory Nokes will discuss via Zoom three of his recent contributions to early Oregon history.

These include "The Troubled Life of Peter Burnett: Oregon Pioneer and First Governor of California," "Breaking Chains: Slavery on Trial in the Oregon Territory" and his essay on early Oregon pioneer Jesse Applegate being published in "Eminent Oregonians," edited by Steve Forrester. Applegate, an early Oregon pioneer, took command of the first major wagon train on the Oregon Trail in 1843, after Burnett resigned the position.

Sponsored by the library's Northwest Authors Speakers Series, Nokes-who logged 43 years in more than 50 countries as a reporter, international correspondent and editor for the Associated Press and the Oregonian—will discuss the 1857 controversy about inclusion of slavery in

Oregon just prior to the Civil

War. In addition to the three historical writings noted above, Nokes also has published a carefully researched account of the 1887 Snake River Massacre, the largest attack on Chinese immigrants in the American West. The murder of 34 people on the Oregon side of Hells Canyon went unpunished, largely ignored by contemporaries and, until recently, mostly lost in the mist of Oregon history.

Nokes, a graduate of Willamette University, attended Harvard as a Nieman Fellow. He and his spouse Candise live in West Linn, Oregon.

Three of Nokes histories of Pioneer Oregon are available to library patrons in the "Northwest Collection."

Nokes' Zoom presentation can be joined at https://us02web.zoom. us/j/81571047248 or accessed directly from the Cannon Beach Library website by clicking the banner at the top of the page, Saturday, March 20, at 2 p.m.

A Zoom session will also be the venue when members

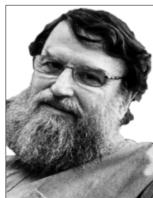
of Cannon Beach Reads, led by Les Sinclair, will next meet on Wednesday, April 21, at 7 p.m. to discuss "Night" by Elie Wiesel. In this classic, Wiesel describes his and his father's experience in Nazi concentra-

tion camps at Auschwitz and Buchenwald toward the con-

clusion of the Second World War in 1944 and 1945. In slightly more than

100 pages Wiesel describes becoming a resentful teenaged caretaker for his father, who died from starvation and dysentery, before GIs of the United States Third Army entered Buchenwald, near Weimar, Germany, on April 11, 1945.

Wiesel writes in "Night" of the death of God and his disgust with humanity and the loss of human values: "I wanted to show the end, the



Joseph Bernt

finality of the event. Everything came to an end-man, history, literature, religion, God. There was nothing left. And yet we begin again with night." Wiesel died in 2016 at the age of

87, 36 years after President Jimmy Carter

appointed him as the founding chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, which created the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. As a result, future generations may never forget the inhumanity that Wiesel describes in "Night" and with which so many descendants-including children, grandchildren and great grandchildren--still contend.

In other library business, here's a quick reminder about this year's election of library officers and board members

to be conducted entirely by mail. Only members who have paid their dues for 2021-22 will be able to vote, so memberships should be renewed, as soon as possible.

Ballots, developed by a nominating committee for this year's election, will be mailed to current library members in early April and will be due for return to the Cannon Beach Library office by May 7.

Nominated to fill two open seats on the board are Melodie Chenevert and Caroline Godderz. Also nominated are Phyllis Bernt, president; Lynne Murray Stuart, vice-president; Claire Landrum, secretary; and Karen French, treasurer. Amy Jones, Mary Kerwin, Wanda Meyer-Price and Linda Sugano are returning board members. Rance Babb and Janet

Bates are stepping down from the board following their years of invaluable service.

In other business news, the library—thanks to the efforts of Carole Whitlock, Duncan Wallace and Phyllis Bernt-has been approved

for a Coronavirus Relief Act Paycheck Protection Program loan to help subsidize the office manager's salary.

To ensure the safety of patrons, staff and volunteers, the library will continue to quarantine materials for 72 hours and to disinfect book jackets and DVD/audiobook covers. Wait times for popular titles may be longer than usual as a result. Remember, though, that circulation desk volunteers are pleased as punch to suggest other titles while patrons wait.

The library's online catalogue can help, too. From the website homepage, click on "Search the Catalog." This will lead to the "Destiny Discover" page from which titles, authors, and keywords can be searched at the top of the page. "Topics" and "Recently Added Books" can also be explored.

Library patrons can use their patron number or password to manage accounts, review their checkout history or place materials on hold. The circulation desk will call when the item is ready.

Meredith Lodging files lawsuit against Vacasa

Hilary Dorsey For The Gazette

Meredith Lodging filed a complaint Wednesday, March 3, with the US District Court of Oregon against Vacasa. Meredith Lodging claims Vacasa has embarked on a smear campaign, contacting Meredith Lodgings homeowners and spreading false and misleading statements about the company.

In the lawsuit, Meredith Lodging brings a false advertising claim under the federal Lanham Act, as well as defamation and trade libel claims under state law. The complaint states over the last two months, Vacasa's sales representatives have contacted homeowners

who Vacasa knows are under contract with Meredith Lodging, and spreading false and misleading statements about the company, including that it "suffers from lack of cleanliness," "has problems with its housekeeping crews," and does not have "A manager to manage negative online reviews."

Annie Robertson, chief legal officer of Meredith Lodging, said these statements are false and misleading.

"Meredith Lodging is standing up for its homeowners who have been disturbed by unwelcomed solicitation calls," Robertson said. "We are asking the court to require Vacasa to stop making these calls, falsely defaming a business.'

Robertson said Meredith Lodging, on behalf of its own business and for all of the other locally operated vacation rental property management companies, is also protecting its business from untoward business practices.

Meredith Lodging is a family owned business with regional headquarters in Lincoln City and Bend, and additional offices along the coast and Central Oregon, manages more than 700 homes exclusively in Oregon. Vacasa, based in Portland, provides property management services to over 25,000 vacation rentals in the U.S., Europe, Central and South America, and South Africa.

"We did not want to have to resort to this lawsuit," Robertson said. "Unfortunately, after sending Vacasa a letter and requesting they stop, they did

not agree, and so now, we are taking a stand."

Vacasa has not responded to request for comment at the time this article was published.

Send comments to: headlightreporter@countrymedia. net



Vaccine

Continued from Page 2

pected — they come as a normal part of virus spread, Sidelinger said.

But according to researchers from Oregon Health & Science University, a variant of the virus which has spontaneously appeared in Oregon is potentially concerning because of

we think it's something we need to keep an eye on," said Dr. Bill Messer, an assistant professor of epidemiology at OHSU.

The continued appearance of variants means residents need to continue wearing masks, washing hands and socially distancing — even in spite of declining case rates statewide and expanding vaccine eligibility, according to Sidelinger.

"But as it seems with all things COVID, progress is conditional. The virus is dangerous and it remains a threat to all of us." Sidelinger

its likeness to other variants reported to have higher risks of transmission.

"We don't really understand exactly what the implications are for this variant because it hasn't been really well described anywhere in the world yet, but because it shares a marker,

said. "(Getting a) vaccination is not a free pass to come to our pre-pandemic behavior, and we are months away from achieving our community immunity.'



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Real estate brokers talk potential changes in rates for investment property purchases

Kathleen Stinson For The Gazette

Two real estate brokers weigh-in on the current Cannon Beach market.

"I think the new story is what Fannie/Freddie just announced about the change in rates to second homes and investment homes," said Maryann Sinkler, broker for Realty ONE Group Prestige in Cannon Beach. "Given that our market is exactly that, if these changes are implemented, it could really have an impact here!"

"Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are being required to lower the percentage of their portfolio taken up by second homes and investment property financing," Sinkler told The Gazette.

"I just received another email from a lender saying that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are limiting the number of second home and investment property loans they take on, effective immediately," she said. "My assumption based on that, is we'll see a rate increase on those types of purchases. The lenders I work with are saying it's possible qualifying for these types of loans may become a little more difficult."

Cheryl Johnson, broker for

Realty ONE Group Prestige, said: "When rates increase it absolutely impacts the ability of buyers to purchase as their purchasing power goes down. In spite of the increase in rates for 2nd home buyers, with inventory at record lows, I anticipate demand to continue to outpace supply in Cannon Beach as well as the entire North Coast for the foreseeable future. It's a seller's market." Both brokers discuss the

low housing inventory.

"Lack of inventory isn't a new story, but it is definitely our reality at the moment!" Sinkler said. "I'm personally selling more land as people have run out of homes to purchase. I have several new listings 'getting ready' to come to market and have been wondering if everyone else does too - if so, maybe the market will change in the next few months, depending on how many buyers are in queue .. "

Johnson said people are "flocking to the Oregon Coast" to buy property.

"People are moving in from all over...most from (the) western US such as California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Arizona," she said. "We are seeing a lot of

people that now have the

ability to work remotely and perhaps commute to Portland once a week rather than having to go into a Portland office on a daily basis, or people who fly out as needed for work but otherwise based at home," she added.

She said Cannon Beach is a place where few buy out of necessity. "In general jobs don't drive people to buy real estate in Cannon Beach.'

She said low interest rates. builders' inability to keep up with demand for new housing and COVID-19's effect on the home construction industry have all contributed to the low inventory of homes for sale.

The other thing that is happening is locals that want to sell yet stay local are holding off," she said. "Maybe they want to upgrade or downsize or simply move from Tolovana closer to downtown Cannon Beach. If they plan to stay local and without assurance of being able to secure a replacement property, they (may) avoid putting their place up for sale rather they sit tight in a holding pattern waiting for more inventory to appear.

'We are also seeing more off-market real estate activity through local connections and word of mouth -- properties that never make it to the MLS

or properties that are already under contract by the time they officially hit the MLS. This is where a well-connected local agent can be indispensable working behind the scenes finding properties that are not publicly for sale.

"Like Maryann has observed, people are more open to buying land or contracting with a builder to buy the land and future home as a package There has never been a better time for new construction, although land is hard to come by in Cannon Beach. Buyers are finding more options outside of Cannon Beach both north and south of Cannon Beach. Even if the completion date for that new home is 6-9 months in the future, it is an opportunity for buyers to lock in the price now.

"My background is in new construction. I am a resource for buyers who are interested in learning about new construction in the works, even before ground is broken on the North Coast. By the time something is nearing completion, it may be too late. For buyers that need to sell in order to buy, new construction might be the answer. With a solid game plan and cooperation from a builder, it can be done in a properly timed coordinated effort.'

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Free rides announced for vaccine appointments

Kathleen Stinson For The Gazette

The Sunset Empire Transportation District is offering free rides for those who have appointments for a COVID-19 vaccination in Clatsop County.

Jeff Hazen, district executive director, said a small bus called a para transit will pick people up from their home and take them to the vaccination site and then back home again. This is a small bus that holds only one or two people at a time due to social distancing requirements, and face masks must be worn.

Hazen said they started the service a few weeks ago, but so far not a lot of people have taken them up on their offer.

'There is a need out there so that's why we started this," he said. "A lot of times a municipality or county will set something up but they don't necessarily think of transportation." There is no case of someone contracting COVID-19 from

bus service follows all state and federal safety guidelines.

"Making sure that transportation is not a barrier to someone receiving their COVID-19 vaccine is very important to all of us," he stated in the SETD release.

"The free transportation is available by appointment only and those requesting transportation will be asked for the date, time and location of their COVID-19 vaccination appointment for verification prior to scheduling their transportation request," as stated in the release.

"SETD's free transportation will be provided to any of the Clatsop County Vaccination Clinic's, local Health Care Providers, or pharmacies. Scheduling is required at least 24 hours in advance and all vehicles are ADA accessible.

schedule transportation

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riding a bus, he said. The

please call 503-861-7433 Option #2. For more information visit the SETD website at https://www.nworegontransit. org or contact Jennifer Geisler at jennifer@ridethebus.org or 503-861-5385."

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Nehalem **Nehalem Bay United Methodist Church**

36050 10th Street • PO Box 156 Nehalem 97131-0156 503-368-5612 nehalembayumc@gmail.com The Reverend Steve Wolff Worship Service: Sunday 11:00 Adult Sunday School: 9:30 A.M. Sunday

Nehalem Senior Lunches: Noon Tuesday & Thursday Nursery Available ADA Accessible

To feature your spiritual organization on this panel:

Contact Katherine at (503) 842-7535, headlightads@countrymedia.net.

Manzanita **Calvary Bible Church**

560 Laneda Avenue, PO Box 308 Manzanita, OR 503-368-5202 calvarymanzanita@gmail.com Pastor Ryan Holloway Worship Service: 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. Sunday Sunday School: 10 A.M. Nursery Available ADA Accessible



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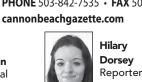
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LETTER POLICY

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



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Deadline for letters is noon Thursdays. The date of publication will depend on space.

Email letters to jwarren@countrymedia.net

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Manager/ Classifieds



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 and wording of the announcement. The cost is \$75 for the first 200 words, \$50 for each additional 200 words. Includes a small photo at no additional cost





The Cannon Beach Gazette is part of the Country Media family of newspapers.

· 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.

Email obituaries to classifieds@orcoastnews.com





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Merkley touts elements of America Rescue Plan relief is coming directly to Katy Brooks with the **David Rupkalvis**

Country Media

When Pres. Joe Biden signed the America Rescue Plan into law Friday, it did much more than just send \$1,400 checks to Americans.

During a call with Oregon journalists Friday, Sen. Jeff Merkley said the law will help the country recover from a year of turmoil, pain and lockdowns due to COVID-19.

'It's a massive \$1.9 trillion bill and one of the most transformative pieces of legislation since the New Deal," Merkley said. "This will get America back on its feet.

During the call, Merkley was joined by several Oregonians who touted aspects of the bill.

Curry County Commissioner Court Boice said the bill will make a big difference in rural Oregon.

"The America Rescue Plan is most welcome legislation," Boice said. "I believe the work is good enough it could ultimately unite all Oregonians."

Boice said money set aside for Oregon, totaling \$5.8 billion, will make a big difference in smaller counties. He especially touted the fact the money will be sent directly to counties, rather than having it filter through the state.

"This time, our COVID



the counties, where people trust us," Boice said. "the funds are fair, they're equitable based on population. I'd like to note rural Oregon does not keep Senator Merkley in business, and he never ignores our needs."

Jim Doherty, a commissioner in Morrow County, agreed.

"One of the key things that is so special in this is the direct funding," he said. "One size doesn't fit all. What might fit for one county, won't fit here."

Markley said the changes in the bill, like direct funding to counties, came about because leaders like Boice and Doherty reached out.

"Your feedback on the first round was this didn't work so well, can you do better," Merkley said. "We listened."

Miriam Cummins with Casa Latinos Unidas said the legislation will help improve vaccinations in minority communities, like the ones her organization works with.

"With the new funding coming in, this will ensure individuals, especially in communities of color, will receive the vaccine," Cummins said. "The funds will also allow partnerships with the focus of vaccine distribution. This will help ensure the message will get to people in their family language."

Bend Chamber of Commerce said the legislation will be a lifesaver for local businesses.

"This package will get them over the hump," she said. "It's won't make them whole, but it will keep them going. This piece of legislation and actual real money will get us over the hump."

Brooks said elements regarding childcare will be especially helpful as students return to school and parents go back to work.

"There are a number of different programs that impact small business and a number that impact childcare," Merkley said. "This is really a dramatic assist for the coming year."

One element Merkley pointed to was a change in the child tax credit. He said low-income families will receive a tax credit of \$300 per month for up to three children, beginning in June.

"For lower-income and middle-income, this is a huge bonus for the rest of the year," he said.

While the COVID battle is not yet finished, Merkley said the end is coming. He pointed to an announcement by Biden on Thursday that all Americans should be able to receive a vaccination in May If that plays out, Biden said the Fourth of July could be a real reason to celebrate this year.

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MUNICIPAL MEMO **MARCH 2021**

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION **MAYOR: Sam Steidel** COUNCILORS: Mike Benefield, Nancy McCarthy, Brandon **Ogilvie and Robin Risley**

CITY MANAGER: Bruce St. Denis

MEETINGS **APRIL 2021**

(subject to change depending on COVID-19 concerns)

City Council Regular Meeting

City Council Work Session

15 6:00 p.m. 22 6:00 p.m.

Design Review Board Meeting

Planning Commission Meeting

6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.

Of Interest...

Cannon Beach Community Bulletin

A monthly newsletter of City information To receive the newsletter, email cityhall@ci.cannonbeach.or.us. One more way to stay in the know.

Cannon Beach Elementary School Project

Project updates are available on the City's website at <u>ci.cannon-beach.or.us</u> Click the Cannon Beach Elementary School Project link under the heading Current Topics

Administrative Order 20-02

Requiring all Participation in Public Meetings to be Accomplished Electronically In keeping with the Governor's social distancing direction and to minimize the spread of COVID-19, the City of Cannon Beach has issued an Administrative Order requiring all public meetings to be closed to in-person attendance and held electronically, until further notice.

You are invited to attend telephonically or through the Zoom meeting service.

A PDF of the order may be viewed on the City's website.

How to Make Public Comment at a Virtual Meeting How to Attend a Virtual Meeting

- 1. Go to the Agenda & Minutes tab on the main page of the City's website https://www.ci.cannon-beach.or.us/
- 2. Find the meeting you want to attend
- 3. Click view details
- 4. Scroll down and you will see the links called How to Make Public Comment How to attend a City Meeting through Zoom
- 5. Click on the link and follow the steps

Want to join Coffee with a Councilor?

The next session is April 19, 2021 at 10:00 am The Zoom link is available on the City's website. Go to upcoming events on the main webpage Click view calendar, click Coffee with a Councilor.

The Haystack Rock Awareness Program (HRAP) is accepting volunteers!

Do you enjoy sharing your love of Haystack Rock? Do you want to gain experience in education, conservation, or environmental stewardship? HRAP is accepting volunteers for the upcoming 2021 season. No experience necessary - we train and all ages welcome

Have you checked out our website lately? The City website provides updates on current topics such as:

Emergency evacuation lists, Go-Bag lists Training Calendar

https://www.ci.cannon-beach.or.us/emergencymgmt



Want to be in the know?

Community members, visitors and businesses can choose up to 3 ways to receive emergency notification and community information from City, County and Public Safety Officials for Clatsop County, Oregon

Sign up for CLATSOP ALERTS

Receive notifications via: Home Phone Cell Phone Voice/Text Email

Sign up online at: https://bit.ly/32aSffk Questions or other information: clastopemd@co.clatsop.or.us 503-325-8645

Notice of Vacancies City Commissions, Boards & Committees The City of Cannon Beach is seeking applications for the following vacancy:

BUDGET COMMITTEE

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

For details, please visit our website at www.ci.cannon-beach.or.us/volunteer-committees or email recorder@ci.cannon-beach.or.us

Invitation for Community Grant Applications Funding Requests

Nonprofit organizations providing programs/projects in arts, educational, recreational, environmental, community, or social services in Cannon Beach are invited to apply for funding from the City of Cannon Beach Applications are available at www.ci.cannon-beach.or.us Applications must be received by 2 p.m. on April 13, 2021 If you have any questions, please contact Kelsey at (503) 436-8048 or balensifer@ci.cannon-beach.or.us

Code Enforcement

Did you know the City has a Code Enforcement Complaint Form on their website? Go to <u>ci.cannon-beach.or.us</u> Click Services, Under the Police Department section click Code Enforcement Complaint It's as easy as that!

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, March 2, 2021

• Council continued the Slansky application for Waiver from Requirement to Remove an Encroachment of Private Improvement into Public Street Rights-of-Way to the April 6th meeting.

• Adopted Resolution 21-09 For the Purpose of Approving Changes to The FY 2020-2021 Budget By Increasing Appropriations in the General Fund to Allow for a Specific Purpose Grant from the National Association ff County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

• Adopted Resolution 21-10 for the Purpose of Raising the Short-Term Rental Rates

• Adopted Resolution 21-11 for the Purpose of Approving Increases and Decreases to the FY 2020-2021 Budget By Making An Intrafund Transfer of Appropriations for the Recycle Bailer Repair

 Council held a scope of review determination for Moon Appeal APP 21-01 and remanded the item back to Planning Commission for reconsideration as a conditional ues

• Council appointed Betty Gearan to the Parks and Community Services Committee and renewed David Doering on the Design Review Board

• Chief of Police Jason Schermerhorn presented the Police Department 2020 Annual Report

• Council approved the contract for Auditing Services with Isler CPA

• City Manger Bruce St. Denis gave an overview from the Zoom call with the

Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce regarding on-street dining possibilities · Council reviewed the Matanuska Overflow Notice of Civil Penalty letter options.

• Adopted Proclamation 21-01 declaring March Red Cross Month CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION, March 9, 2021

• Windsor Engineers presented their Water Source Capacity Study

• Mike Passo gave a presentation about the 2020 Accessibility Assessment Report

 Finance Director Laurie Sawrey presented the financial report for the 2nd quarter of fiscal year 2021

• Chief of Police Jason Schermerhorn discussed the firework violation that occurred on January 1

• Council discussed the lowering the Business License fees for Farmer's Market vendors for this Farmer's Market season

BUDGET COMMITTEE, March 10, 2021

• Preliminary Budget Meeting to discuss preliminary matters prior to the 1st Budget Committee meeting. No deliberations were conducted on the proposed budget itself at this meeting

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION, March 15, 2021

• Council and the Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District held a meeting to discuss funding

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD - The Design Review Board met February 18 to discuss

DRB 21-03, Cindy Beckman application to add a ground-floor patio and second-story deck for outdoor dining at Ecola Seafood. Approved

DRB 21-05, Mark and Karyn Davis application to construct an accessory dwelling with a new single-family residence at 347 Deer Place. Approved

DRB 21-04 Request by Cory Burnett on behalf of Driftwood Restaurant for approval of a freestanding sign to replace a storm-damaged freestanding sign at 179 N. Hemlock. Approved

PLANNING COMMISSION - The Planning Commission met February 25 to discuss

V 21-02, Jay Raskin request, on behalf of Stan and Becky Roberts, for a variance of the Oceanfront Setback for the construction of a new residence. Continued