



Mayor talks elementary school purchase
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CANNON BEACH GAZETTE



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Two city councilors eye upcoming election

Kathleen Stinson
For The Gazette

Two Cannon Beach City Council positions come open in November, with the incumbents announcing they intend to run for a second term, according to city officials.

The Gazette recently asked those councilors their reasons for running for re-election.

Nancy McCarthy and Brandon Olgilvie both said helping the city get through the coronavirus pandemic figured prominently in their decision to seek re-election.

"There's still so much work to do," McCarthy said in an email. "When the coronavirus hit, the council had to set aside the projects we were working on to deal with

the pandemic and Cannon Beach's survival. We are still steering that ship, and I don't think it is fair or wise for me to abandon the effort.

"Our council members work well with each other and with city staff, and it is a privilege to be part of that.

"This is a small, close-knit community that I care for very much, and if voters still have confidence in me, then I want to help plan for a future that will retain the spirit that is Cannon Beach."

Olgilvie said, "I am running for a second term partly because of the coronavirus. I would like to help the city get through the pandemic and beyond.

"I have also been approached by residents and asked to run for city council



Nancy McCarthy

again."

Mayor Sam Steidel posted a message on the city's website on the Fourth of July containing his thoughts on how residents could work together to plan use of the Cannon Beach Elementary School site



Brandon Olgilvie

recently purchased by the city.

The Gazette asked the two councilors for their thoughts on the mayor's ideas and for some of their own thoughts on the project.

"I think the mayor's ideas are good (he says he has 50,

but I haven't seen them all yet)," McCarthy said. "They are ideas we all have discussed.

"But I want to know what the community wants, and I foresee - after the pandemic - several community gatherings that will discuss the school's use.

"Whatever we do, it will have to be something that visitors can use, too, since lodging taxes are buying the school and lodging taxes will help pay for its maintenance, in addition to grants and community fundraisers.

"I definitely would like to see that anything we do incorporates the property's history that involves the Clatsop Indians and Lewis & Clark."

Olgilvie said, "I support the purchase of the elemen-

tary school and would like to see it utilized as a space for residents and visitors to gather as a park space as well as a center for events.

"The City of Cannon Beach faces challenges in the coming year from the pandemic. These challenges will consume a great deal of effort for the near future.

"Beyond the pandemic, the city is and has been in the process of updating water and sewer infrastructure. These projects may be more difficult to complete due to financial uncertainty.

"The elementary school will be another challenge to remodel or reconfigure."

McCarthy said the top

■ See **ELECTION**, Page 2

BIRDERS PARADISE

PURPLE MARLINS NOW NESTING IN CANNON BEACH

Joe Warren

jwarren@countrymedia.net

Purple martins are a beautifully spectacular bird, the largest of the swallow family.

While they rarely are seen on the West Coast, they've actually lived here for a long time.

According to Shoaib Tareen, an avid bird watcher in Cannon Beach and cofounder of the Tareen Filgas Foundation, the purple martins are seen more on the East Coast, although a subspecies lives here on the Oregon coast.

They are starting to be observed more and more in Cannon Beach thanks to a grant from Shoaib and his wife's foundation - and the hard work of the Ecola Creek Awareness Project, along with other local birding groups.

In 2014, Shoaib and his wife started the Tareen Filgas Foundation to protect birds and their habitat. Shoaib has been an avid bird watcher and for the past 30 years.

The couple has had a second home in Cannon Beach and now live here full time.

"I knew purple martins passed through here," Shoaib said. "I wanted to set something up to see if we could get them to nest here."

So, the foundation donated a large birdhouse to the Ecola Creek Awareness Project, built specifically to attract the martins.

Jan Siebert-Wahrmund, a longtime Cannon Beach resident who sits on the board of the awareness project, said that in



Purple Marlins are starting to nest in a birdhouse built specifically for them at the lagoons and walking trail. Photos by Katherine Mace and Shoaib Tareen

the spring of 2017 her group received the birdhouse from the foundation as a gift.

Her group, along with the Cannon Beach Public Works Department, is in charge of putting the house up in the spring and taking it down in the fall. They also collect data on the number of families nesting in the house and then record their findings.

"We do this to try and determine when the purple martins are passing through,"

said Siebert-Wahrmund. "We are starting to see some success."

The birdhouse is something of an apartment building, with 14 separate compartments, or nesting areas, for couples to raise their young.

Siebert-Wahrmund said that in 2017, the first year, a swallow family moved into the house, but one purple martin was seen

■ See **NESTING**, Page 2

Officials hand out 3,500 masks in Cannon Beach

Kathleen Stinson
For The Gazette

The Cannon Beach Community Emergency Response Team has been part of an areawide effort to distribute 3,500 face masks in Cannon Beach, according to city officials.

The Cannon Beach City Council recently authorized the city manager to approach Clatsop County officials to petition Oregon Gov. Kate Brown to add Clatsop to the group of counties requiring the face masks, said Assistant City Manager Colleen Dick.

Brown extended the mandate for wearing face masks in indoor public spaces to all counties in Oregon beginning July 1, according to a state press release.

As of 7 a.m. June 29, Clatsop County had 48 COVID-19 cases, of which 46 had recovered, as stated in a city briefing.

City Emergency Manager Rick Hudson said Monday they delivered the masks "to citizens in vehicles, walk-ups and on bikes."

"Special thank you to Clatsop County Emergency Management, CB CERT, CB Public Works, CB Police Department, CB Fire and the CB Chamber of Commerce," Hudson said.



White Bird Gallery open for summer exhibits

Hilary Dorsey
For The Gazette

White Bird Gallery has reopened with modified hours.

Owner Allyn Cantor said the gallery is now open on Tuesdays, and on Thursdays through Sundays.

On Mondays and Wednesdays, the gallery is open by appointment (or by chance), in response to reduced staffing.

The gallery space is limited to six people at any given time to ensure everyone's safety. Private viewings are also available.

The White Bird Gallery has been open to the public on busy weekends since the beginning of June. It was open by appointment only in May.

"It was my hope to be open regular hours by now," Cantor said.

Current and upcoming exhibitions also are online.

Cantor said the online exhibits have been going well. Traffic consists mostly of those who receive White Bird Gallery's emails, as well as clients and "people who have been following us for many, many years."

The gallery has always promoted artwork online,

although it's particularly relevant during the COVID-19 pandemic, Cantor said.

You can view Christopher Mathie's new paintings, resin paintings by Faryn Davis, and altered book sculptures by Valerie Savarie among the online exhibitions.

Upcoming will be a new exhibit, Summer Salon, featuring new pastels by Alexandra Boyden, new paintings by Brooke Borcharding, and raku-fired ceramic by Boni and Dave Deal.

Cantor said the physical show will be open the week-end of July 11-12, and online the week following.



Gallery view, Christopher Mathie, June 2020. Courtesy photo

Election

Continued from Page 1

challenges the city will face in the next term, in her opinion, are:

- “Continued concern about the coronavirus and its effects on tourism, businesses and lodging taxes (which make up two-thirds of the city’s general fund). The two-month lockdown of restaurants, retail shops and hotels caused much concern about the village’s economy. Small stores and galleries are still struggling and will continue to do so for a while.

- “Detrimental effects of too many visitors. Ironically, while we worry about businesses surviving the coronavirus because they had to shut their doors to visitors, we continue to deal with an over-run of visitors to this small community. We are going to have to consider the city’s parking and short-term rental policies to determine how we can maintain Cannon Beach

as a small coastal residential community but still welcome visitors who appreciate our beautiful environment.

- “Emergency preparations. Before the coronavirus rudely threw us off track, the council was deep in discussion about replacing our deteriorating City Hall with an earthquake- and tsunami-resistant City Hall/emergency command center. We need to continue to work on that because emergencies don’t take turns - they strike when we don’t expect them.

- “This is a fourth ‘challenge,’ but one I’m looking forward to: Creating a community/visitor center at the former Cannon Beach Elementary School. It has been a community goal since the Seaside School District abandoned it in 2013, and I’m happily anticipating the day when we open the doors to the newly transformed gathering place at the entrance to Cannon Beach.”

As of press time, no one else had filed to run for these city council positions, according to the city.

Tolovana exercise classes now available



Kathleen Stinson
For The Gazette

The Tolovana Arts Colony has restarted its Zumba and yoga classes at Tolovana Hall in Cannon Beach.

Zumba classes are held on Monday and Wednesday mornings at 8:30 a.m., according to an arts colony press release. Yoga classes are held Thursdays at 5 p.m.

Zumba instructor Joy Sigler said the Tuesday Zumba classes are now held outdoors at the bandstand or the tennis courts, depending on the weather. Face masks are not required, but six-foot

social distancing is practiced.

Sigler said Zumba is a dance fitness class that uses “world rhythms.”

“Zumba is dance for everybody,” she said. The movements are repetitive, making it easier for students to learn.

“We stick to our interval training process,” she said. The movements alternate between higher cardio movements followed by “a recovery phase,” which is not as strenuous.

The class is open to new students, said Sigler.

For more information, call 541-215-4445 or email tolovanaartscolony@gmail.com.

Did you know the Cannon Beach Gazette is free to read online?

Keep up on Cannon Beach news at cannonbeachgazette.com

Nesting

Continued from Page 1

flying around the area. “We believe he was scouting out a place for next year,” she said.

Sure enough, in 2019 two nests were heavily used by martin couples.

The birdhouse can be seen at the wastewater treatment facility along the walking trails. You can view the birds and many other species from the main platform near the trails.

Siebert-Wahrmund said the Tareen Filgas Foundation has even solved the swallow issue. They put up the purple martin house in April after the tree swallows had secured nesting grounds.

They also had five smaller homes installed in the area where it’s easier for swallows to nest (also a donation from the foundation).

And, said Siebert-Wahrmund, the tree swallow population is really using them.

You can tell you have seen a purple martin when the male is blue and black



The birdhouse along with many species of birds can be viewed along the walking trails at the city’s lagoons and wastewater treatment facility.

Photo by Katherine Mace

above and below, the female is light-colored underneath, and has a whitish-colored forehead and pale cheeks and throat.

They have long, pointed wings up to 18 inches long. Their song is rich and low-pitched.

“The lagoon is a fabulous place to go bird watching,”

said Siebert-Wahrmund.

“There are now up to 12 adult purple martins seen at the lagoons, and we believe four of the pair are currently nesting in the house.”

Shoaib thinks this will be a destination for birders on the West Coast, especially for those wanting to see the purple martin and be able to

record the sighting.

“I have a doctor friend, who is also an international birder, and he’s traveled all over looking for birds on the West Coast,” Shoaib said. “These birds are not very common on the West Coast, so I believe it will be a real draw for the Cannon Beach birding community.”

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At the library

Trump’s success in uniting white evangelicals and nationalists

Joseph Bernt
Library Volunteer

The Cannon Beach Library remains locked down, but the library board has been using the coronavirus closure as an opportunity to repaint, redesign the office, purchase physical shields, and plan operating guidelines to protect patrons and volunteers.

Meantime, Marjorie MacQueen continues adding new titles to the library’s expanding collection.

A recent addition that caught my attention this week was “Unholy: Why White Evangelicals Worship at the Altar of Donald Trump” by Sarah Posner, a tenacious religion writer whose investigative reporting has appeared in Rolling Stone, The Nation, Mother Jones, The New Republic, HuffPost, VICE, Talking Points Memo, The New York Times, The Washington Post, The American Prospect and Politico.

A graduate of Wesleyan University, Posner holds a

law degree from the University of Virginia, has published “God’s Profits: Faith, Fraud, and the Republican Crusade for Values Voters,” and recently received a Sidney Hillman Foundation Award for “How Trump Took Hate Groups Mainstream,” published in Rolling Stone before the 2016 election.

The subtitle of “Unholy,” which expands on Posner’s earlier writings, promised to answer a question that has bedeviled me since before Donald and Melania Trump glided into the Republican primary June 16, 2015 on a gilded Trump Tower escalator witnessed by many paid attendants.

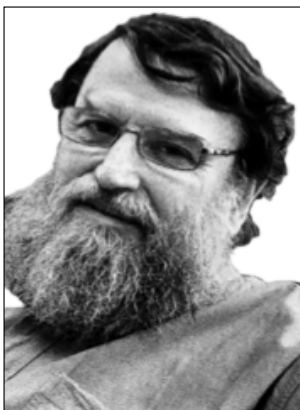
That question: How could 80% of evangelical Christians support a thrice-married, serially accused harasser of women, under investigation for providing hush payments to accusers, and impeached for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress?

Posner’s explanation is multifaceted, beginning with the willingness of white evangelicals to view Trump, a deeply flawed, seemingly im-

moral man, as a divinely anointed strongman who would rescue their changing country from further decent into godless liberalism and permanent normalization of abortion, immigration, LGBTQ rights, women’s right, equitable treatment of all Americans, single-sex marriage, perceived attacks on religious liberty, secular public schools, and so forth.

Evangelicals saw in Trump a strongman who stood up to the diabolical Hillary Clinton and actually listened and responded to their concerns, unlike so many past Republican politicians who sought evangelical support but, when in office, cut deals with liberal Democrats.

They dismissed concerns about Trump’s moral shortcomings by identifying



Joseph Bernt

flawed biblical leaders such as King David, who was guilty of rape and murder and yet anointed by God to lead the Jews.

Or Cyrus the Great, another flawed leader, chosen by God to liberate the people of Israel from Babylonian exile and help them rebuild the temple in Jerusalem.

Trump’s conservative Christian evangelicals used the book of scripture to explain the book of nature, justifying their present support for Trump. A slippery slope, indeed.

Such comparison may convince true believers, but Posner argues that evangelical support for Trump has a far more practical and historical foundation, one that spans the past half-century.

Before Jerry Falwell, Sr. received credit for building the Moral Majority into an alliance with the Republican

Party, Rev. Bob Billings, a graduate of Bob Jones University, was a central figure in the Christian school movement and its backlash against government efforts to ensure that tax-exempt private schools were not segregated.

Billings led the effort to brand the Supreme Court desegregation of public schools, separation of church and state, the end of mandatory public school prayer and bible reading, and the rise of secular humanism as part of a Communist plot to destroy Christian America in the early 1960s.

He portrayed his Christian school movement as an antidote to everything in the 1960s that conservatives despised: moral laxity, secularism, and particularly federal involvement in the desegregation of public education. The roots of Trump’s merger of white nationalism and white evangelicals in the 2016 presidential campaign began with Billings’ Christian school movement in the early 1960s.

In 1969, parents of black children in Mississippi public

schools asked the D.C. federal court to rule that private “segregation academies” founded in response to public school desegregation as all-white private schools not be eligible for tax exemptions and deductions. In 1971, the Internal Revenue Service held that any private school without “a racially nondiscriminatory policy as to students” was not entitled to a tax exemption.

As Posner concludes, “As much as the Christian right of the twenty-first century is now fixated on abortion and sexual politics, the backlash against the efforts of the federal government to desegregate tax-exempt private schools is embedded in the movement’s DNA...”

“In Trump’s words and deeds, they see an idealized white Christian America before civil rights for people of color—and a meddling government—ruined it.”

White nationalists, a relatively powerless political movement, thus saw the political wisdom of allying with the much larger religious right.

Letter to the Editor

Good stewards needed for our outdoor spaces

Dear Editor,
Summer is here, COVID restrictions have eased, and it’s a beautiful time to get outside - with some considerations.
The pandemic caused a \$22-mil-

lion budget shortfall for Oregon State Parks, which means fewer staff educating visitors and maintaining facilities. Coupled with feeling tired of staying home and record unemployment, we have increased foot traffic in our outdoors spaces with fewer caretakers.

More than ever, it’s important to be good stewards of the outdoors.

Know before you go. Find out

what’s open, if dogs (leashes?) or fires are allowed.

Prepare before you go. Gas up at home. Pack food, water, toilet paper, trash bags and hand sanitizer in order to conquer any facility closures and to not further drain rural communities’ resources.

Leave it better than you found it. For the health of our planet and the enjoyment of fellow humans, please

pack out any trash, food scraps, and human and dog waste.

Reduce your trash by leaving home with reusable water bottles and food packed in reusable containers.

Organize a family beach cleanup. Make a competition by tracking your results with Surfrider Foundation’s beach cleanup tool (select your home chapter to give credit).

Above all, if you play it safe and mindful, you’ll enjoy the coast without causing negative impact.

Jessica Gilligan
Beaverton

(Jessica Gilligan grew up on the Oregon coast and serves as an executive committee volunteer of Surfrider Foundation-Portland.)

Free masks for everyone



The Cannon Beach Community Emergency Response Team has been part of an areawide effort to distribute 3,500 face masks in Cannon Beach, according to city officials. Courtesy photos

Beau
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Mayor Steidel talks Cannon Beach Elementary School purchase

Kathleen Stinson
For The Gazette

Mayor Sam Steidel spoke with The Gazette recently about the former Cannon Beach Elementary School site purchased by the City of Cannon Beach.

The mayor has a message posted on the city’s website as to his hopes for development of the site, and how he thinks local residents can work together to find the best use for the property.

The Gazette earlier this week asked Steidel about the historical nature of the site ...

Sam Steidel:
“There is deep Native culture connected to the mouth of the creek,” he said in an email. “Tribal history speaks of a long and thriving life surrounding the site. This location is mentioned in the Lewis and Clark journals in detail, and is understood as the physical end of their travels.

“As well, the old school is held dear by many who grew up going to school there, attending the holiday and summer school events. It has (a) strong cultural connection to our becoming an arts-oriented community.”

The Gazette:
“What may happen first?”

Steidel:
“Hopefully, several things at one time. Yes, the buildings do need repair. They are being assessed for strength and code. This will entail some planning and design process,s which will be annoyingly slow and costly.

“Meanwhile, my hope is the community will have many long and fruitful conversations about the future uses and prospects. A lot of understanding and differences will need to be stuffed into those old buildings if we are to make this a gem of history, culture and commerce.

“When? I see two initial ‘whens’ - when we may start working to revive the place, and when we will hold the first concert or dance. I suggest we avoid setting a specific date for now, believ-

ing it will happen.

“Side-along ‘whens’ are to be looked forward, too - the first grant, the first fundraiser, the friends-of group is officially founded, and every first-type of event under the refurbished roof. A lot of fun first will be forthcoming.”

In the mayor’s message, he said room tax dollars will fund the “restoration and operations of the old school project. Essentially, these are the only funds the city has available to fund this type of project without involving real estate tax dollars.

“The room tax dollars do come with restrictions. Specifically, the intended uses for the facility must include the ability to draw visitors from outside of our region. Not necessarily the only purpose, but it must be a significant factor.”

The Gazette:
“What is the reason for

the purchase?”

Steidel:
“After many years of trying, after knowing the history both recent and distant, after seeing the simple size and utility of the old gym, I can only ask how can we not.

“Any community would, let alone at a location on the beach, beside a creek, open and natural at the entrance to our town.

“Then, falling into our lap comes the county adding a bit to the transient room tax, which the city is bound to use for either marketing or facilities. This is a facility, if we do it right.

“Mind, there will be a lot of work and fundraising yet to come. We will have this trickle of funds to help get started, and now that the property is in community hands we are free to hassle out how to start in our own

manner.”

The mayor talked in his message about his hopes for the site in connection with the community.

“The old school gym has the potential to be the centerpiece of our gathering place, once it is allowable to fully gather comfortably and safely again.

“It is the only space in town where distancing indoors makes sense and could be possible. Time will come when gathering under one roof may be safe. What better roof?

“Think of the future. Concerts, dances, receptions, the holidays and special events. Cold winter nights, when the rain is sideways and the kids need a place to run, or us seniors need to walk.

“We could hear lectures on native songbirds and speeches from ‘wannabe’ politicians, or swap meets and game nights.”



Mayor Sam Steidel spoke with The Gazette recently about the former Cannon Beach Elementary School site purchased by the City of Cannon Beach. The mayor has a message posted on the city’s website as to his hopes for development of the site, and how he thinks local residents can work together to find the best use for the property. *File photo*

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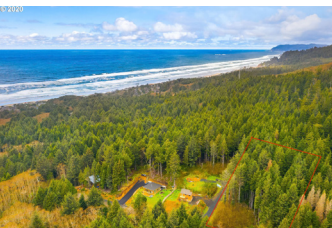


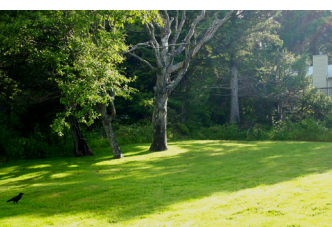







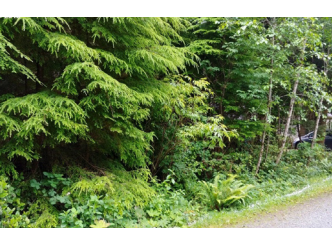
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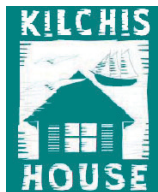
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- Premium Obituary: Often used by families who wish to
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wish to run a thank-you. Cost varies based on the length of
the announcement.

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

Email obituaries to classifieds@orcoastnews.com

Razor clam closure set for July 15-Sept. 10 on area beaches

The annual summer conservation closure for razor clams is scheduled to begin on July 15 and run through Sept. 30 on Clatsop beaches (from Tillamook Head in Seaside to the mouth of the Columbia River.) Clatsop beaches account for more than 90% of the total razor clam harvest in Oregon.

This regulation has been in place since 1967 and closes all razor clam harvesting on the 18 miles of beach north of Tillamook Head.

By protecting newly set young clams from harvesters, the closure gives young clams a chance to establish themselves on the beach during summer.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife staff assess razor clam stocks during the closure period. Last year, assessments showed the third-highest abundance since the assessments began in 2004.

The 2020 season has been very productive, according to ODFW officials, with most harvesters obtaining their limits with a mix of large- and medium-sized clams.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that another juvenile recruitment event occurred, which will be quantified by the assessments and could bode well for the next harvest season.

“This annual closure prevents disturbing the young razor clams, increasing the chance of good recruitment for future razor clam harvesting,” said Matt Hunter, ODFW’s shellfish and phytoplankton project Leader.

Razor clam harvesting continues to be open on other state beaches, said state officials, although a few closures are in effect due to toxin levels (razor clamming has been closed from Cape Arago to the California border).

The best opportunities outside Clatsop beaches are in the Newport area, with the most-consistent producers being Agate Beach, North Jetty and South Beach.

Other beaches that can produce razor clams include Cannon Beach, Cape Meares and Yachats Beach.

Bay clam harvesting is currently open coastwide.

Meantime,, all recreational clamming remains closed to nonresidents due to COVID-19 precautions.

New water-use charges formally approved

The Cannon Beach City Council has formally voted to change the way it charges for water usage.

City Public Works Director Karen La Bonte detailed the new billing structure in a story published by The Gazette in November 2019, when the council met in a work session.

“Everyone pays a base rate based on their meter size,” said La Bonte. “Then, they pay a rate for the water they use above and beyond that base rate.

“In other words, you use more, you pay more. Everyone is treated the same that way.”

The new system will go into effect Sept. 1, La Bonte told The Gazette earlier this week.

“Under the existing structure, residential and commercial users are using about the same amount of service or usage, but residential was generating about 59% of the revenue and commercial about 41%,” according to a city presentation previously reported by The Gazette.

By looking at various billing scenarios, the council’s intent was to “find a more equitable distribution of services between audience members (commercial, residential, multifamily, etc.), not an exercise to increase revenue,” La Bonte said last November.

“In other words, the goal was to bill customers more equitably.”

Under the new billing structure, residential and commercial customers would pay “about the same amount for the same amount of usage,” she said previously.

That said, customers with One-inch meters would pay more for water and sewer services under the new structure, as stated in the city’s earlier presentation. The customers could change their meters to three-quarter-inch size at a cost.

The city is sending information fliers with more detail to its customers in their utility bills, according to Assistant City Manager Colleen Dick.

The link to The Gazette’s previous story is https://www.cannonbeachgazette.com/news/city-looking-to-adjust-water-sewer-rates/article_defc32d2-09cf-11ea-a141-670aa4285772.html.



Annual sale canceled but library still in need of books

Cannon Beach Library’s annual Fourth of July book sale was canceled this year, due to the coronavirus.

The book sale, which draws hundreds of buyers during the multi-day event, is a major fundraiser for the library. But due to state health restrictions, the library board decided to forego the sale.

“We hate to cancel this year’s July Fourth book sale,” said Phyllis Bernt, library board president, in a press release.

“It’s such a wonderful community event, in addition to being an important fundraiser for the library. But given the coronavirus pandemic, the large number of people who work together to organize the sale and the hundreds of people who come to the sale, we don’t think it would be safe for our volunteers and patrons.”

The library has been closed since March and won’t open until Gov. Kate Brown allows Clatsop County to enter phase three of the state’s reopening. The private, nonprofit library is operated by a part-time manager and dozens of volunteers.

Despite its closure, the library continues to accept donations of used books, which will be sold at next year’s Fourth of July sale and in the library’s book sale room, available when the library is open. Donated books can be left on the library’s back porch; call 503 436-1391 to notify the library of the donation.

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