



2016:

the Year in Review

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Departing councilors celebrated

Cadwallader, Higgins say goodbye

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

Melissa Cadwallader and Wendy Higgins were recognized this month for their commitment and accomplishments on the Cannon Beach City Council. Both complete their eight-year term limits on the council at year's end.

In January, newly elected councilors Nancy McCarthy and Brandon Ogilvie will step up to fill the vacant seats.

At the December council work session, Mayor Sam Steidel honored Cadwallader and Higgins as well as former Parks and Community Services Committee Chair Barb Knop and former Emergency Preparedness Committee member Les Wierson for completing their maximum time of service.

"I want to thank everybody for stepping up and spending that time, for putting in eight years of commitment," Steidel said. "I really appreciate it."

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Beyond the Beach Bill

Local naturalist explores history and future of Oregon's public beaches

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

The public has enjoyed access to state beaches since the Oregon Beach Bill passed almost 50 years ago. Although Oregon's beaches are now celebrated, public access to beaches was challenged by a Cannon Beach hotel owner, and the Beach Bill almost died before citizens brought it back to life.

On Dec. 14, local naturalist Neal Maine delved into the history of the landmark legislation and discussed future opportunities for public education at a Cannon Beach Library lecture sponsored by Friends of Haystack Rock.

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'WE'RE HERE FOR THE COMMUNITY'



CANNON BEACH FIRE AND RESCUE

Cannon Beach firefighters and police help load and deliver boxes of food to local families for the holidays for the American Legion Christmas Basket program.

A community effort to deliver food, gifts to families in need

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

Every year since the 1970s, the Cannon Beach American Legion Post 168 and local volunteers have spent almost a week gathering, organizing and distributing items to make sure families have food on their tables and gifts under their trees during the holidays.

This year, the post's Community Christmas Basket Program delivered children's gifts, whole turkeys and various other items, from milk to paper towels, to 55 households. About 30 people total were involved in preparation, food gathering and wrapping the toys, said Dan O'Reilly, the post's commander.

"The American Legion is the one that puts it all together and gathers all the toys and food," O'Reilly said. "We get this all going without the city's help. It's very significant."

On Thursday, Dec. 22, the American Legion Post 168 building was filled with piles of wrapped presents — games, puzzles, books, stuffed animals and more — meticulously organized by age group and household.

"It's a big job trying to figure out who gets what," said Nancy Teagle, who has volunteered for the program for about 20 years.

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DANNY MILLER/EO MEDIA GROUP

American Legion First Vice Commander Don Boehm fills a box with eggs and milk for delivery to families in need on Friday, Dec. 23, in Cannon Beach. Boehm has been helping organize this charity with the American Legion since 1977.



DANNY MILLER/EO MEDIA GROUP

Volunteers prepare to deliver boxes stuffed with food and household supplies for families in need.

'We wish to thank all the people who donate and make it known that we appreciate their support.'

Don Boehm,
American Legion first vice commander

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Spreading holiday cheer at 'Shop With a Cop'

Cannon Beach, Seaside officers participate in Rotary event

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

Donning Santa hats, 10 police officers from Cannon Beach and Seaside paired with local children to help them shop for Christmas gifts at Fred Meyer in Warrenton.

The Dec. 10 event was the Rotary Club of Seaside's first time adopting the nationwide "Shop With a Cop" program that connects local police officers with children.

"It was an absolutely wonderful event," said organizer Maureen Casterline. "The

kids had a great time and the police had an equally good time."

After the loss of Seaside Sgt. Jason Goodding earlier this year, the Rotary Club searched for a way to help build relationships and appreciation for their local police force.

"We put our heads together and this is what we came up with," Casterline said. "We think of it as a small step."

The Rotary Club provided the children with gift cards to purchase presents for family members at Fred Meyer. Officers also purchased a gift for each child and drove them back to Seaside in the squad cars.

"It was a lot of fun to see the children so excited to ride in the police cars and activate

the lights and sirens," Cannon Beach Police Chief Jason Schermerhorn said. "They were also so happy to be able to buy items for their parents and siblings. It was fun watching them shop for great deals and put a lot of thought into their purchases."

Broadway Middle School helped identify 10 students who might benefit from the experience.

After the event, the children started referring to the officers as "my police officers," Casterline said. "Sometimes that relationship-building piece takes a bit of a commitment, but the kids will now think of police officers as someone who could help them if they needed help."

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Cannon Beach police officers Josh Gregory, Lt. Chris Wilbur, James Jordan, Chief Jason Schermerhorn, Jodi Symonds and Matthew Nunnally participate in the Shop With a Cop program.