



Charter reaches enrollment target

Cannon Beach Academy will open in the fall

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

The Cannon Beach Academy is officially set to open this fall almost four years after the town lost its elementary school.

The charter school had until May 1 to en-

roll at least 17 kindergartners and 17 first and second graders combined. As of Friday, April 28, 18 kindergartners are enrolled and the first and second grade class has been maxed out with 22 students, board member Phil Simmons said.

“We as a team, and as a community, have been working on this for years,” Simmons said. “When they first closed the elementary school, some families had to move, and I was a little concerned there wasn’t going to

be enough interest. But in my heart I knew that there was, and this victory supports this interest.”

Cannon Beach Elementary School closed in 2013 due to tsunami safety concerns and budget shortfalls. Now the academy has secured the lease for a temporary space on Sunset Highway and has hired a director to lead the school into its first year.

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Arch Cape still hopes for design review

Technicality sends appeal back to county

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

Arch Cape residents fighting to retain oversight of key development decisions saw a victory last week at the state level.

For the second time, the Land Use Board of Appeals has sent the decision to dissolve the Arch Cape Review Design Committee back to Clatsop County, leaving county commissioners to either keep the committee in place or vote to dissolve it again.

The design committee makes recommendations on development within the unincorporated town south of Cannon Beach. Commissioners have deemed the group unnecessary, time-consuming, expensive and a potential legal liability, voting to dissolve it twice.

Supporters of the 34-year-old committee challenged the move, citing the state’s obligation to have citizen involvement in land use decisions as a primary reason.

Community engagement

Cameron La Follette, who helped represent the petitioners from Arch Cape through the Oregon Coast Alliance, said the county shouldn’t expect every community to collect input in the same way.

“If Arch Cape wants more opportunities to review, the county should honor that,” La Follette said. “In my experience, the more engaged a community is, the better. Land is an absolute — there’s only so much of it.”

County Manager Cameron Moore said the decision to remand the decision back to the county boiled down to a technicality. The county did not publish a separate, specific notice of a public hearing. Moore said he will take time to review the decision before taking a next step.

“This was simply an oversight on the part of county management,” Moore said in an email.

The Arch Cape committee is the last of its kind in Clatsop County. Supporters argue the county should honor the community’s decision to keep the committee active.

“The county has been looking for a way to get rid of our committee for some time,” Tod Lundy, who was chairman of the Arch Cape Design Review Committee, said in February 2016. “It’s a burden for them to come down to Arch Cape and review every sizable remodel and new building.”

Quasi-judicial

One issue for the county is that the Arch Cape committee is quasi-judicial, requiring extra staff time to keep minutes and send notices for each meeting. County Commissioner Lianne Thompson said this week there is a way to have Arch Cape neighbors participate without a formal committee. She is recommending the town funnels development recommendations and reviews through a neighborhood association, which would allow for more voices to be heard rather than a few on a committee, she said.

“I believe in neighborhood livability. I am a neighbor,” Thompson said. “Accountability can be used as a tool or a weapon,

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Harding’s Trading Company transitions from coffee shop to rustic French cuisine

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

At Harding Trading Company, every part of the restaurant is for consumption.

No, it’s not all edible. But as long as it has a price tag, a restaurant goer can buy one of the many vintage items that line the walls and adorn the tables of the new French rustic-style restaurant — even some of the tables and chairs themselves.

Whether it be the colorful, antique cookware and glass chandeliers, the cuisine or a space light exclusively by candlelight, every aspect of the restaurant is important together co-partner Jane Harding said.

“You are coming for more than just dinner. You are coming for an experience,” she said.

The restaurant on Beaver Street transitioned from an organic coffee shop into casual French cuisine mid-April and is managed by Harding, her husband and the Becklund family.

Part of the inspiration came from her French heritage, and a lot from the building itself.

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Harding Trading Company in Cannon Beach

Chamber hosts celebration ‘about saving the beach’

Historic Beach Bill celebrates 50th anniversary

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

50 years ago, former Governor Tom McCall flew his helicopter onto the beaches on Cannon Beach to declare a simple statement.

Keep Oregon beaches public.

On May 13, 1967, that publicity stunt helped drive public support to pass the Oregon Beach Bill — the legislation that established public ownership of Oregon Coast.

To celebrate this, the Chamber of Commerce is hosting the 50th anniversary of signing the Beach Bill on Saturday, May 13, with a host of activities, music and possibly a visit from Governor Kate Brown.

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CANNON BEACH HISTORY CENTER AND MUSEUM/SUBMITTED PHOTO

An important figure in Oregon’s Beach Bill was Bob Straub. Straub stands on a van parked on the beach in Cannon Beach promoting the Beach Bill.