

Proposal to pave streets causes dust-up

Councilors, residents worry about maintaining Cannon Beach's unique 'character'

By NANCY MCCARTHY
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — A mild dust-up over a proposal to pave some of Cannon Beach's gravel streets occurred between city councilors during a work session Tuesday night.

Another work session will occur to discuss the proposal, and a public hearing will be scheduled before any action is taken on it, the council promised.

Public Works Director Dan Grassick hopes to encourage property owners along the city's abundant gravel streets to pave those that present ongoing maintenance problems by having the city pay 15 percent of the cost of asphalt on projects initiated by local neighborhoods. Projects initiated by the city would be paid for by the city, Grassick told the council.

The proposal also calls for approval by 51 percent of the neighborhood's property owners in projects initiated

by the neighbors before a local street is paved. Residents would be notified of a proposed street project by direct mail; those not responding within two weeks would be considered in agreement with the project. Payments from property owners would be due 30 days after the project is completed, and those who fail to pay would have a lien filed against their property.

Before the project begins, the Public Works department would conduct a neighborhood meeting to go over designs, cost estimates and schedule.

Grassick said he was aiming at streets such as the steep slope on North Laurel Street between Fifth and Sixth streets, a small portion of Pacific Way below the "S" curves or Viewpoint Terrace, where washouts commonly occur after heavy rains and maintenance costs are high. Other gravel roads in town that are level and have relatively few problems probably wouldn't be targeted for city-initiated projects, he said.

'This has the potential of creating a lot of animosity'

— Mike Benefield
Cannon Beach city councilor

But Mayor Sam Steidel and Councilor Mike Benefield opposed the proposal. They repeated what several residents said in letters sent to the city: Paved streets could destroy Cannon Beach's character.

"I have a lot of problems with this," Steidel said. "There are too many second homeowners who you wouldn't know if they got contacted."

Instead of a simple majority of property owners, a two-thirds majority would be better, Steidel and Benefield said. The city's design review board also should be involved to give the community a chance to discuss the proposed paving of a local street, the mayor added.

"This has the potential of creating a lot of animosity," said Benefield, who read the "vision statement" attached

to the city's comprehensive plan. The statement mentions the city's gravel streets and talks about a "modest level of growth" without disrupting the character of Cannon Beach or its "relaxed pace of life."

"It raises a whole bunch of problems that I don't see," Benefield said. "Who's asking for this except the city?"

However, Councilor George Vetter, said he enjoys living on a paved street. "I don't see that having a street paved affects the town's character," he said.

Councilor Melissa Cadwallader expressed concern that paving a street would require widening it or removing some of the neighborhood's landscaping and changing many of the narrow, winding neighborhood streets into flat thoroughfares.

However, Grassick said the "existing conditions" would be maintained, even if that meant winding around a tree and maintaining a 12-foot wide road.

Grassick added that few residents have asked that the city consider paving their roads. "Only two people have come to see me in two years," he said.

CCC seeks high-achieving local high school students

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Community College President Lawrence Galizio last year championed an honors program as a way to improve the academic reputation of CCC, to attract high-caliber high school students. The rigorous program would have an "Honors" designation on the degree that would transfer to similar programs at the university level.

After the college's board of directors approved the creation of the CCC Honors program in May, it launched this fall and has so far attracted 12 cohorts from Knappa, Astoria, Warrenton, Seaside, Tongue Point Job Corps Center and home-school.

Leading the program are speech instructor Deac Guidi; Library Director Candice Watkins, the Honors program adviser; and Recruitment Coordinator Monica Van Steenberg.

"We know that our pool of high school students is shrinking," said Van Steenberg, pointing to a trend of people having fewer children.

"One of the things we definitely heard from students and their parents is that this (the honors program) was a factor in whether they came to Clatsop."

Van Steenberg recruits students at local high schools, with the help of their advisers. The first year, she said, was rough, with only three months to recruit and ultimately only 18 applicants, 12 of whom were selected.

This year, she started in September and has had a signifi-



From left, Recruitment Coordinator Monica Van Steenberg, speech instructor Deac Guidi and Library Director Candice Watkins head the new Clatsop Community College Honors Program.

cantly increased response, especially when students hear about the annual scholarship for being accepted into the program, Van Steenberg said.

The program includes a maximum of 20 scholarships of up to \$4,000 annually for each cohort. Each scholarship lasts the two years the student is in the honors program.

"We have juniors who are now really thinking of us as an option," said Van Steenberg, who's wrapping up recruiting, with the final deadline Feb. 1.

Students applying for the program must be admitted to CCC, pursuing a two-year degree, ready for Writing 121 and exhibit academic readiness, including at least one of the following:

- A high school GPA of at least 3.5.
- A college GPA of at least 3.25, if the student has earned at

least 12 credits.

• A composite score of at least 25 on the ACT college readiness assessment.

• A score of at least 1,700 on the SAT.

Students must also fill out an application, write an essay and include two letters of recommendation. For more information, visit www.clatsopcc.edu/honors

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Honors curriculum
Watkins and Guidi taught Honors 101 — "Introduction to Academic Inquiry" — with the first honors cohort in fall term, focusing on a research theme of privacy issues.

"Critical thinking is the key to this class," said Watkins, who as library director at CCC focuses much of her time in an age of information overload on teaching information literacy: the ability to recognize pertinent in-

formation; efficiently locate, accurately evaluate and effectively use it; and to clearly convey it in multiple formats.

While she focused on the building blocks of informational literacy, Guidi taught students to creatively convey the information, in their case through a podcast.

"If you speak it, it has to take on a different tone," said Guidi, the college's primary speech instructor, trying to help his students create something both informative and engaging.

The result was a series of short podcasts, some of which he said will be airing on Coast Community Radio with their student narrators as guests.

In addition to Honors 101, students take Honors 295 — "Culminating Project" — in which they complete an extended research paper or project guided by honors program faculty.

The advanced curriculum also includes more rigorous honors courses in molecular biology, ancient world literature, inferential statistics, an energy project in physics and writing for the college's literary publication Rain.

"I think this is increasing our enrollment, and this is increasing campus involvement," said Van Steenberg.

Guidi added that the honors program students will also be part of his and writing instructor Nancy Cook's Ales & Ideas lecture presentation "The Power of Song," at 7 p.m. Feb. 26 in the Fort George Lovell Showroom.



Courtesy Oregon State Police
A Vernonia man was killed in this single-vehicle crash near Vernonia Tuesday.

Vernonia man dies in Highway 47 crash

VERNONIA — A 36-year-old Vernonia man died Tuesday night after crashing his gray 2008 Subaru Outback into a tree on Oregon Highway 47 near milepost 54.5, just north of Vernonia.

Nathan J. Jackson, Vernonia, was driving southbound on Highway 47 when he crossed the northbound lane, left the roadway and struck a tree, ac-

ording to a Oregon State Police preliminary investigation.

Jackson was pronounced dead at the scene. Alcohol is being investigated as a potential contributing factor, according to OSP.

OSP was assisted at the scene by the Oregon Department of Transportation, Vernonia Fire District and Mist Birkenfeld Rural Fire Protection District.

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Q: My daughter is having her wisdom teeth removed and fillings put in at the same time. Is this safe?

A: This is a common combination and generally a convenience for the patient, fewer appointments, less injections and less time away from home or work. Usually, filling procedures would be done first before extraction of wisdom teeth.

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Q: Muscle spasms can be a thing of the past.

A: Charlie horses in the leg, facial tics and back spasms are all deficiency symptoms — muscles are irritated and working too hard — they don't have the nutrients they need. Muscles need calcium, magnesium and Vitamin D taken together. Seventy-six percent of Americans are deficient in those nutrients. People may be OK until an injury when the increased activity in the hurt area causes the deficiency symptoms. It is easy and quick to correct. Time of day and dosage are important and need to be adjusted until the spasms stop. If you need help figuring this out, call Dr. Goldeen or Dr. Sears.

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Q: Do I need to call a water restoration company or is it ok to use a General Contractor for the water damage and dry out?

A: Water restoration companies specialize in water damage and have the certifications, training, experience, and know-how needed to deal with any water damage situation. A general contractor may not have the necessary experience or knowledge needed to mitigate or remediate the negative effects of water damage. It is best to find a water restoration company that is also a general contractor.

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