

Fountain: Relocation was work of public art committee

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moving between the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce and the tennis courts on East Second Avenue. The latest relocation was the work of the public art committee.

"This was one of their projects, to move the fountain over here instead of bringing another piece of art into town," Judy Wood, co-president of the Cannon Beach library board, said.

James Harley Sroufe's wife, Margaret, was a volunteer at the library for about 20 years, making it a fitting location.

And his daughter-in-law, Maureen Dooley-Sroufe, is the co-owner of Cannon Beach Book Co. "I can walk across the street and get a drink of water," she said.

The drinking fountain actually hadn't worked in years, but is once again fully functional in its new location.

Another son, Peter Sroufe, also attended the event. Peter recalled how the fountain had been clogged with sand during its time at the park, when kids used it to rinse off after coming from the beach. He and the rest of his family said they were

grateful for its move to a more visible location.

"It got made because our dad was a great guy," Gerald said.

Peter noted that Cannon Beach was once a logging town. His father would allow the loggers to purchase their groceries with credit until they received pay.

He was 16 when his father died, and he remembers seeing a line of headlights from Seaside to Gearhart on the way to the funeral in Warrenton. Cars filled the cemetery.

"That's when I realized who Dad was," he said.

Mayor Sam Steidel said he was

happy to see the project completed, adding it "turned out so well."

Cannon Beach's Design Review Board approved the fountain's relocation in May and work began in early June. It finished right in time for the city's Fourth of July celebration, making it easily viewable during the library's annual book sale.

Wood called the installation an "engineering feat." It includes an underground steel support frame to handle the 600-pound marble structure and a well underneath that can be accessed for plumbing repairs. A new step to reach the fountain was also included.

The Cannon Beach Public Works Department handled much of the physical work. Cannon Beach Construction was the main contractor and designer Beth Holland did the landscaping.

Public Works Director Dan Grasic said they haven't received the final invoices yet, but that the final cost is estimated around \$6,000 with the landscaping.

Now all who pass by the fountain can stop to "drink to the memory of Harley Sroufe." As the inscription on the marble reads, the water that flows serves as "a toast from his friends."



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Lee Cain, an instructor with Upward Bound Summer Academy, points out a spotted sandpiper to Pi Espinoza, who is recording data about the number of birds in the area.

Wild: 'I don't have to do much. Nature does the teaching'

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The water in the wetlands comes and goes, sometimes submerging the marshy ground and isolating spits of land where the students must go. And go they do. Students wore hip-waders or knee-high boots and paddled canoes to navigate the flooded areas.

Learning from nature

Lee Cain, an Astoria High School biology teacher, leads the Upward Bound wetlands project.

"I don't have to do much. Nature does the teaching," he said.

The students will ultimately collect, analyze and interpret data from the wetlands. At the end of the program, they will present their results.

Even in the afternoon, the air teemed with bird calls — ornithologists usually survey in the morning when most birds are active, Cain said.

Cain is interested in exposing the students to the world of field biology. They study amphibians, birds, water quality, as well as any non-salmonid fish they incidentally encounter.

Teaching outdoors can open students up to the complexity of the natural world and their place in it as citizens and as part of the ecosystem, he said.

Breaching the dike

The natural world enveloped the students. Two spotted sandpipers swept through the grass over cloven-hoof impressions in the mud. A blue heron took wing as Espinoza and McCleary surveyed. And a spooked bullfrog, a non-native species to the area, croaked in surprise as it was disturbed.

The wetland is 50 acres of floodable land, but it wasn't always that way. Sharnell Fee, the director of the Wildlife Center of the North Coast, bought the property for the center with the dream of breaching the dike to allow the area to return to its natural state.

"It took me 18 years to breach that dike," she said. "It was one folly after another. But it happened, and we're happy."

Fee said bureaucracy slowed the process of breaching the nearly century-old dike along the Klaskanine River. Part of the hold up concerned neighboring property.

"You have to consider neighbors that you might flood," she said.

So they built a cross levee to protect property.

And now, she has what she has wanted all along. The dike was breached in February. And since then, wildlife have flooded in with the river.

"It's amazing how fast the wildlife discovered it," Fee said.

A way station for ducks

The Wildlife Center recently released rehabilitated mallard ducks



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Shoshanna McCleary, left, and Pi Espinoza, right, listen for birds at the wetland restoration site near the Klaskanine River.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

A male spotted sandpiper stands on a sign in the wetland restoration site.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Asia Lambert, a student with Upward Bound Summer Academy, paddles a canoe along the Klaskanine River.

and a kingfisher into the wetland. The ducks still live there, using it as a way station before moving on, she said.

She has spoken with people who

had trouble understanding she wants to leave the land alone, that she does not want to use it.

"I want it to be natural," Fee said. Cain's Upward Bound project



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian
Shoshanna McCleary, left, and Pi Espinoza, right, look out over the Klaskanine River.

had surveyed the area before the breaches, collecting data. That data can be compared to what his students have collected this summer, a before-and-after illustration of restoration.

"His information that he's gathering will be really valuable," Fee said.

The Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce will also study the area for the next five years to monitor water quality.

Hands-on learning

Upward Bound serves 71 high school students in the area. To qualify, students must meet criteria pertaining to need, including interest in higher education and academic ability, according to the college's Upward Bound website.

Hands-on learning and rotating academic seminars make up the program. In the morning, students take classes on math, science, foreign language or writing. In the afternoons, they work on the projects. Besides the wetlands survey, the summer academy also includes projects on nutrition and cooking, wellness and theater.

Beg: Penalty for violating ordinance would increase to \$700

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in any public place under a different ordinance. The amendment to the itinerant merchant regulation would allow that activity — as long as the individual has obtained a permit.

The definition of temporary fixed location would also change to "any business location, public or private" and the amendment would also prohibit selling or providing services from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. Additionally, the amendment would add a new exception to limit licensing during high-traffic times.

The penalty for violating the ordinance is \$500; the amendment would increase that to \$700.

Most of the nearly dozen speakers took issue with the idea of requiring panhandlers and street performers, many of whom don't make \$50 per day, to pay for a permit. For some who spoke, the change carries implications about how individuals and society should approach poverty and homelessness.

"This is not a monetary issue, it's a morality issue," said Todd Irving, a traveling street performer known as Funkplastic.

Lisa Dooney of Portland said if community residents are concerned about panhandling or seeing homeless people on the streets, this isn't the way to handle it. No ordinance will make them disappear, she said.

"The way I was raised, it didn't matter if a person was begging or asking for help. You didn't ask if it went for booze, or drugs, or cigarettes or toilet paper. It didn't matter. What mattered was a person was asking for some help," Dooney said.

Many took issue with the \$50-per-day charge, which Irving said is "unprecedented."

Sam Condron agreed, adding the way the amendment is written seems to be aimed directly at excluding from Seaside homeless people who don't have an option except to solicit money from passers-by.

"By charging them \$50 per day, you're making that cost-prohibitive," he said. "You're making it cost-prohibitive for them to live, to eat, to sustain life. That's not fair to anybody."

Anne Danen, a working mother of two, also confronted the message she believes would be sent by passing the amendment.

"We want our nice, little town to appear to be something other than what it is," she said, later adding, "I can't afford \$50 per day. If I can't, what makes you think they can? Oh, but that's right — that's the point, isn't it?"

Those concerns were echoed by several people in the audience who engage in panhandling and said paying \$50 per day would be too much of a burden.

A few people offered possible solutions or different ways to mitigate panhandling and help homeless individuals.

"For me, pushing the envelope in terms of getting the housing and the food and the resources and the humanity to the people is a worthwhile cause," Eng said.

Irving and others talked about similar permits for panhandlers or street performers in other cities that carry a yearly fee of up to \$127, which might be more practical.

Seaside resident Angela Fairless also spoke against the council's tendency to do multiple readings in a single meeting — as was done with this ordinance June 29 — because it allows less time for public awareness and involvement. She described it as "a slap in the face of democracy," and suggested councilors take more time to work through the process, especially when dealing with complicated or convoluted issues.

For instance, Fairless said, this ordinance would apply to children selling seashells or lemonade from a stand, so maybe there should be an exemption for them.

Irving said the council needs to discuss what to do with the money brought in by the fees. He suggested putting it toward creating positive recreational outlets for youth.

After the public hearing, the councilors voted unanimously to table the ordinance to take the received comments under consideration.

No one spoke in favor of the ordinance, but Seaside Police Chief Dave Ham said the department gets numerous calls from people complaining about panhandlers and who see it as a livability issue.