

Cannon Beach takes 'community approach' to emergency planning

By **DANI PALMER**
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — When an emergency hits, the city of Cannon Beach intends to be ready, and it wants the community to play a part.

During a City Council work session Tuesday, Emergency Management Consultant Stacy Burr gave a presentation on the community emergency asset program, which aims to coordinate community resources to protect lives and property following a disaster.

After stocking up on food and water at its three emergency cache sites for three years, Cannon Beach currently has enough to support about 1,500 people short-term, Public Works Director Dan Grassick said. Money

is in the general budget to replace those items when needed.

The city also encourages residents to prepare go-bags, filled with items such as food and water to last at least 24 hours after a disaster, and offers barrels for residents to purchase and store supplies in. About 100 are currently in use.

"That program remains intact and we hope to expand it," City Manager Brant Kucera said.

He said the city needs to establish a "more robust framework" for dealing with potential emergencies.

During an Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting in July, Mayor Sam Steidel said staff need to work on helping "people stay alive" for longer than a few days.



Submitted Photo
Stacy Burr, emergency preparedness coordinator for the city of Cannon Beach, addressed city officials Tuesday night.

Assessing needs

The community emergency asset program is based on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's "whole community approach" in which residents, emergency managers, community lead-

ers and government officials work together to assess needs and determine how to best strengthen assets, Burr said.

Those assets include food, water, medical resources, transportation, continuity of government assets and more.

Cannon Beach budgeted nearly \$40,000 for hooking up water and power services to the cache container and assembly sites this fiscal year.

Burr said the city needs to take more preparatory measures to build disaster-resistant and resilient resources, be collaborative with community organizations and be coordinated to provide effective response and recovery.

"A more sophisticated understanding of a community's needs and capabilities also leads to a more efficient use of existing resources," she said.

The program's goals include developing continuity of operations and a government plan, and an emergency operations plan that reflects the whole community approach at each of the cache sites.

So who is in charge?

Kucera is listed as the emergency manager under the city manager job description, but Emergency Preparedness Committee Chairwoman Karolyn Adamson said the city needs to address the fact many staff, including Kucera, don't live in the city.

She added that residents may find themselves at a cache site without an authority figure. The discovery of guns in personal emergency barrels has already raised

safety concerns.

"Unless we can schedule emergencies between 8 and 5, we need to have an incident commander who lives in Cannon Beach," Councilor Mike Benefield said.

Burr noted someone at the city level, perhaps the fire chief or public works director, could serve as that leader.

"It doesn't mean the community isn't a critical part of the conversation," she added.

It's just that the city is obligated to provide services while a community member may decide to ignore an older population, for example, in order to provide more food to a younger one.

Burr said staff are aiming to have those draft emergency operation plans ready to go by February.

Warrenton's April Clark moves up to finance director

13-year city employee to assist with budget, perform audit

By **ERICK BENGEL**
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The city of Warrenton didn't need to look far to find the right finance director. April Clark, a 13-year employee with the city, stepped into the position last week.

One of 11 applicants, and one of two interviewed in person, Clark will oversee the city's financial operations, including assisting with the budget and performing the annual audit. She will also be involved in labor negotiations, City Manager Kurt Fritsch said.

A Warrenton resident, Clark was hired as the city's account tech in 2002 before moving up to accountant in 2006. With her latest promotion, Clark replaces Laurie Sawrey, who became Cannon

Beach's finance director in June after 14 years with Warrenton.

"She has a tremendous amount of knowledge about Warrenton. She has a great deal of experience. It's going to be an easy transition for her to come in and be the full-time finance director," Mayor Mark Kujala said.

Clark, who served as the interim finance director after Sawrey's departure, said she is most looking forward to "the opportunity to continue to serve the citizens of Warrenton and learn new things and working with the staff."

Clark's annual salary starts at \$74,000.

"We're just glad to have April," Fritsch said. "All of our executive staff work well with April and look forward to working with her in this new position."

A dog day at McClure



Maggie Wilski leads her dog, Bandit, through the agility course during "Dog Days of Astoria" at McClure Park Saturday afternoon. Dog lovers converged on the park for an event that helped pups and Friends of McClure Park.

Linh DePledge/For The Daily Astorian

Business group quietly works to shape wage debate

By **HILLARY BORRUD**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A group of Portland business leaders wants to shape the debate over raising Oregon's minimum wage ahead of the 2016 legislative session.

New Seasons Market co-founder Stan Amy formed North Star Civic Foundation earlier this year with his wife Christy Eugenis, who is a partner in a real estate development company, and Rejuvenation Hardware founder Jim Kelly.

The group plans to work on solutions to income inequality and climate change, and it is quietly arranging a statewide listening tour to learn what Oregonians think about the state's minimum wage. The tour appears to be an effort to develop a minimum wage proposal with support from rural areas as well as urban centers.

"Oregon has one of the strongest track records of bipartisanship in the country, but in recent years we've seen more polarization," North Star Civic Foundation executive director Caitlin Baggott wrote in an email.

Baggott helped launch the Portland get-out-the-vote nonprofit Bus Project in 2002 and served as its execu-

utive director from 2011 to 2013.

Amy said part of the group's strategy was to work "in the background," and he referred questions to Baggott.

Competing proposals

Oregon's minimum wage is currently \$9.25 an hour and two existing coalitions, 15 Now Oregon and Raise the Wage, are promoting competing proposals to increase it. Both coalitions include unions, and both plan to seek ballot measures in 2016.

Raise the Wage wants a ballot measure that would increase the minimum wage to \$13.50 by 2018, and 15 Now Oregon has filed paperwork for a measure that would raise the wage gradually to \$15 per hour by 2019. Raise the Wage also plans to push for legislation next year that would increase the minimum wage to \$13.50 an hour.

North Star Civic Foundation has not yet put forward its own minimum wage proposal, and Baggott said the group wants to first gather input from people around the state. However, the group is concerned about "the growing share of low-wage workers who cannot earn enough to support

themselves without government assistance," Baggott wrote in an email.

"It is clear that the minimum wage will be a major focus in next legislative session and that if it is not resolved in that session expectations are it will be on the ballot the following November — where current polling shows strong support for an increased wage," Baggott wrote. "We're in the process of organizing a series of 'kitchen table' conversations around the state with rural and urban business owners, farmers, non-profit leaders, and community groups this fall."

Connect with leaders

As North Star Civic Foundation planned the conversations, the group

sought recommendations from newspaper executives around the state. Publishers of The Daily Astorian and East Oregonian newspapers were among those that helped North Star Civic Foundation connect with local business leaders and other community members.

Baggott said North Star Civic Foundation wants to engage "people on all sides of this issue. We are optimistic that there is an opportunity to find common ground and a path forward that works for all of Oregon's communities, and for all the parts of Oregon's economy."

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.



Erick Bengel/The Daily Astorian

April Clark, the city's former accountant, stepped into the finance director position last week. She replaces Laurie Sawrey, who became Cannon Beach's finance director in June.

Coast Guard rescues distressed surfer

The Daily Astorian

TILLAMOOK — A U.S. Coast Guard MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter crew from Air Station Astoria medevaced a distressed surfer near Cape Kiwanda Sunday afternoon.

Tillamook emergency responders contacted the Coast Guard requesting assistance to rescue a surfer drifting in and out of consciousness. The helicopter, training nearby, diverted to the scene, while the Coast Guard also launched a 47-foot motor lifeboat from Station Tillamook Bay.

While the helicopter and boat were en route, the Coast Guard was notified that good Samaritans pulled the surfer

onto a rock formation, and the Coast Guard's assistance was no longer needed. But local authorities decided a helicopter hoist would be the safest option for retrieving the man, considering his location and condition.

"This rescue highlights the importance of teamwork with local emergency response agencies," Petty Officer 3rd Class Brian Rodriguez, an aviation survival technician and member of the crew who hoisted the man, said in a release. "The responders on scene were well trained, and their clear communication allowed us to get the man out quickly and safely."

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