

# Cannon Beach may go with outside interim chief

Main goal is 'continuity of the fire department'

By DANI PALMER  
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — The Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District Board is leaning toward bringing in an outside interim to stand in as fire chief until a permanent leader can be found. The search process will be discussed at a meeting at 5:30 p.m. today.

Former chief Mike Balzer was dismissed in mid-October FOR personnel issues and Assistant Chief Frank Swedenborg has been covering his post since. The Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District provides firefighting

and emergency service to the North Coast communities of Cannon Beach, Arch Cape and Falcon Cove.

At a special fire board meeting last week, Swedenborg noted he would fill in as chief until March at the latest. Then he suggested the district not go with an outside interim as it "mixes the pot for the firefighters."

"My main goal is continuity of the fire department," he said at Monday's regular board meeting at the fire station.

But presented with the possibility of a permanent chief not to come until after March or during the middle of budgeting season, he said a Special Districts Association of Oregon interim might be best. He added having some-



Mike Balzer

one with better knowledge of the industry in the post might relieve Capt. Matt Gardner of extra duties he has taken on, as well.

"This gives us some time so we're not rushing it," Special Districts Association of Oregon representative Bill Anderson said.

He added that the retired chiefs they recommend are familiar with the budgeting process.

If the board chooses to go that route, Anderson said the organization could provide three fire chiefs for board members to choose from. He or she would step in until the search for a permanent leader is over.

Swedenborg is ready to retire and not looking to fill in permanently for the

fire district. He works about 12-16 hours over a four-day week.

Anderson said the Special Districts Association of Oregon could also assist in the search process. It typically brings in five candidates to speak with a community and technical panel, comprised of neighboring fire chiefs and the police chief, to narrow the search down to three or less candidates.

"Our goal is to have someone that is a community fit run your department," Anderson said.

Anderson said the board needs to begin updating the job description and figuring out what the chief's salary and benefit package will be. The district paid Balzer \$36 an hour for 2,000 hours annually.

If it chooses to go with an outside interim, Cannon Beach could have one within two weeks.

## Four cases of canine parvovirus confirmed

By CYNTHIA WASHICKO  
EO Media Group

LONG BEACH, Wash. — One puppy has died of canine parvovirus in Long Beach and another three cases of the virus have been treated in Raymond.

The Long Beach case involved a puppy who was brought to the Oceanside Animal Clinic in Seaview, where she received treatment but could not be saved, said Kelly Freese, associate vet at the clinic. The puppy was not vaccinated against the virus, and had been sick for days before coming into the clinic, Freese said. There haven't been any cases at the South Pacific County Humane Society, said shelter manager Sara Tokarz.

Owners should look for symptoms like vomiting, diarrhea and lethargy in their pets and, if they notice these symptoms, take their dog to the vet as soon as possible, she said. The sooner the dog starts to get treatment, the more likely they are to survive the virus, Freese said.

One puppy and one young dog were treated at Veters Animal Hospital in Raymond. The puppy was released Nov. 2 after spending the weekend in the clinic, and the young dog was expected to make a full recovery, said clinic owner and veterinarian Gina Lewis. The dog treated was 9 months old, and had only had one of the necessary vaccines to immunize it against the virus. Another dog was treated and released from

Willapa Veterinary Service in Raymond, said the clinic's receptionist Ryan Lewis. Both puppies treated in Raymond were brought to the clinic soon after they started showing symptoms.

Parvovirus is most common in young dogs and puppies before they receive the three-part vaccine for the virus, Freese said. Some breeds, including Labrador retrievers and Rottweilers, can contract the virus even when they're older, she said.

Once it is in the dog's system, the virus attacks rapidly-dividing cells like those in the intestines and white blood cells, Freese said. The result is diarrhea and vomiting and, as a result of the attack on white blood cells, a decreased immune function in the dog.

Lewis said it's important to keep up on vaccination booster shots even for adult dogs, in particular for breeds that are prone to contracting the virus as adults. The virus is hardy, she said, and can live in soil for eight to 10 years.

"Any disease like this relies on population immunity in order to control the disease because it is in the environment, it is out there and puppies aren't fully protected until they've had all of their vaccines," Freese said.

Puppies showing signs of vomiting and diarrhea should be taken to a vet to avoid dehydration — which can happen easily due to puppies' smaller size — and to determine whether or not they have parvo, she added.

## Assault support group being offered

The Harbor's Sexual Assault Peer Center is offering a multi-week support group for women who are survivors of sexual violence. This group will run from 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesdays from next week through Jan. 27. The

topics include: the importance of self-care, developing coping skills to manage stress and anxiety, identifying the effects of sexual violence, and inner strength identification.

For information, and to

register, call Sharon Moore, 503-325-3426, ext. 106, or sexual assault advocate, at go to [www.harbornw.org](http://www.harbornw.org)

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## Missing teenager found in Long Beach after 1 1/2 years

By NATALIE ST. JOHN  
EO Media Group

LONG BEACH, Wash. — Police on Oct. 26 found a runaway teen who had been missing from Longview for about a year and a half.

The 16-year-old girl, who had an outstanding felony warrant, had been living on the peninsula under an assumed name for at least a year. She had concocted such a convincing story that she managed to dupe police on both sides of the river.

"She had an alias. A pretty good one, actually," Long Beach Police Chief Flint Wright said Thursday.

According to Wright, the girl's father visited the Long Beach Police Department in late October. He provided officers with a photo-flier and explained that he had received a tip that his daughter was living on the peninsula.

Officer Rodney Nawn instantly recognized the girl, who had lived in an RV with an adult man for a while, and had claimed that she had escaped from a troubled family life in Oregon. However, Nawn and the other officers all knew her by a different name.

Wright said local officers had several interactions with the girl over the course of about a year. They were concerned about her, but there wasn't much they could do about it. They didn't have cause to arrest her, she wasn't asking for help, she didn't show up in any missing persons databases, and

because she was 16, they couldn't make her enroll in school, either.

The girl was listed under her real name in a Longview Police database of runaway children, but local officers had no way of knowing that. Furthermore, when they called Astoria Police to get more information about the girl, authorities there said they'd called to verify her name and story, and it checked out.

"She had quite a story," Wright said. "She had this really good alias. She stayed very much under the radar."

A few days after the father's visit, a resident at an apartment building in the 1600 block of California Avenue South asked police to investigate possible drug activity at a neighboring apartment, according to an incident report.

While police were talking to the alleged drug-user, the girl came out of the same apartment. Officers recognized her and arrested her on the warrant.

Wright said she had been staying with "druggies," but there are no indications that she had been kidnapped or otherwise held against her will. No criminal charges have been filed against anyone else involved in the incident.

Police officers transported the girl to a juvenile facility in Cowlitz County, where she may be prosecuted for the outstanding felony charge and reunited with her family.

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