

Cannon Beach to explore the reuse of former children's center

Possibilities include community event space, affordable housing

By LYRA FONTAINE
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — The former Cannon Beach Children's Center building is vacant, but could be used as a community hall soon — or eventually torn down for affordable housing units.

As the city works toward its goal of increasing affordable housing, Cannon Beach city councilors will explore how the structurally sound building can be used. Building housing on the site or using the existing space for a community hall were discussed as potential options at a work session Tuesday.

Another idea is to use the space as an interim community hall while the city decides whether affordable housing is viable on the site.

"It's a wonderful asset, no matter what you decide to do with it," City Manager Brant Kucera said. "It could be a great site for affordable housing but it could also be a great site for a community hall or senior center."

The building became city property after the children's center closed in April due to lack of funds and declining enrollment.

Kucera said the building could become a maintenance issue in terms of landscaping and paying for heat in the winter. He asked the council to begin thinking about how to use the building in the next couple of months.

"From staff's perspective, we want to know what road we're going to go down," he said.

Housing, community hall are options

In a letter, Cannon Beach Children's Center board president Barb Knop proposed keeping the building as a community hall, suggesting that the children's center manage the building as a nonprofit.

"We were hoping that we could become its management and rent it to other community members that would use the facility," she said.

She said residents, from families to home-schooled students, have approached her about using the space.



Submitted Photo

The Cannon Beach Preschool and Children's Center.

Meanwhile, the city's affordable housing task force has looked at the former children's center property as one potential city-owned location for affordable housing, which would be available to those who make 70 to 100 percent of area median income.

Carleton Hart Architecture created a concept of what nine affordable housing units could look like on the old children's center site.

Councilors discussed the housing need, the costs of building affordable housing on the site, and whether to prioritize housing for first responders.

Mayor Sam Steidel said he would like to see an affordable housing plan that takes into account the entire property, both the children's center building and Tolovana Hall across the parking lot.

"When I start thinking housing, I think of the entire property," he said, adding that Knop's offer is "a good interim use of the building until we have a good plan."

Kucera said the city should request a business plan for a nonprofit that wants to use the space.

Councilor Melissa Cadwalader said the building is "sad and overgrown," but the nonprofit that could take it over should be financially solvent.

"Whichever direction we go, we have an empty building," Steidel said. "So do we just mothball it and let it get like the gymnasium, or do we try to propose something that can be used as an interim?"

Former elementary school site

According to the recently adopted strategic plan, the city will make a decision on

whether to purchase the former Cannon Beach Elementary school site by the end of the year. The site is now owned by the Seaside School District.

The city budget includes a \$665,000 placeholder for purchase, demolition, remediation and restoration of the school site.

The city has hired a structural engineer, who is working on a structural analysis of the building, which will be done by the end of August. The city will also retain a building contractor to help evaluate maintenance and cost of repair, Kucera said. The electrical system may need to be upgraded and the roof is leaking in the gymnasium.

Warrenton teachers, baseball coach honored

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The Warrenton-Hammond School Board had some big kudos for its teachers and a coach Tuesday.

The board honored Warrenton Grade School's Crystal Salmi, Kristina Marshall, Patricia Janzen and Dee Hartley, who were recently named to the National Honor Roll of Accelerated Reader, a widely used early literacy program. The district said its teachers were the only ones in Oregon to receive the honor.

To be named to the honor roll, elementary teachers must get their classroom to read at least 25 minutes a day and have 90 percent of their students earn at least 85 percent on practice quizzes.

Salmi, starting her sixth year as a first-grade teacher, said she had her students reading an hour a day and averaging 97 percent on quizzes. She gave students raffle tickets for each book read, letting kids earn 1,000 before putting the tickets in a drawing for prizes displayed on her classroom wall.

"They leave fluent readers in my classroom," she said. "I take it very personally."



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

First-grade teacher Crystal Salmi, center, was honored Tuesday by the Warrenton-Hammond School Board for her literacy efforts. From left to right are board members Darlene Warren, Dan Jackson, Debbie Morrow, Greg Morrill and Dalan Moss.

500th win

After Salmi left with her award, the board brought up Lennie Wolfe, who joined the district in 1991 and on May 6 earned his 500th win in the second game of a double-header against the Portland Christian Junior/Senior High School Royals.

With 25 years of coaching baseball under his belt, Wolfe is ranked 11th all-time in wins in Oregon, along with 247 losses. His teams won a state championship in 1994 and were runners-up in 1993 and

1998. He was named coach of the year for 2A baseball in 1999, the Northwest Region District in 2004 and eight years for the Lewis and Clark League.

Wolfe might be the longest-tenured and winningest team sports coach in Warrenton history if not for John Mattila, with 252 wins in football and 290 in girls basketball over 37 years.

Mattila will have the high school's football field named after him Sept. 2 during the season opener against the Knappa High School Loggers.

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Q: Where have all the Tuna gone?

A: Just at what is usually the peak of canning season, the fresh Albacore fishery has come to a sudden halt. Albacore Tuna are nomadic fish that feed off small bait fish along the Oregon Coast in the summer. However, high winds and a cold front have cooled the California current that runs along our coast, transitioning us into a La Nina weather pattern. The width of this cold current determines how far off shore the Tuna migrate. Currently they are out past 100 miles, far beyond the 40 mile limit for day boat fishermen. Perhaps the cold current will narrow, but it may end up being a very short season.



JEFFREY M. LEINASSAR
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Q: I am interested in changing the shape of my teeth. What options are available to me?

A: Many options exist to solve this question. Depending on the particular situation and condition would determine the best option(s). To name a few options would be: simple re-contouring, composite bonding, porcelain veneers, porcelain crowns, and a very thorough mastery of esthetic tooth morphology and dental smile design. Please feel welcome to schedule a complimentary consultation.



Mary Altieri's goat, Alert, won the Pirate themed contest last year



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Q: What is the theme for Dog Day Afternoon this year?

A: Dog Day Afternoon is our annual fashion and carnival for dogs with funds benefiting Clatsop Animal Assistance! The theme for the fashion show is Astoria Clowns in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Astoria-Megler Bridge. So come clown around with us on Sunday, August 28! We give awards and prizes for best dressed and other honors.



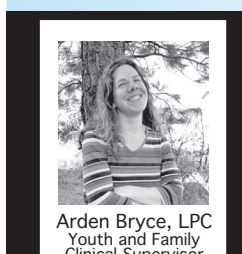
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Q: Are there any Belly Dance events or festivals held locally?

A: Belly Dance is everywhere! I host The Beach Belly Dance Festival every year on the third weekend of August at the Painted Lady Lavender Farm located at 1664 Hwy. 101 S. in Ilwaco Wa. This year's festival falls on August 20 & 21 and is themed "A Circus of Life." There will be workshops, demonstrations, music, vendors, food, games, raffles, a dance party, and lots of Belly Dancing performers from every walk of life. This is all set amidst the beautiful backdrop of the lavender farm. For more info on this and upcoming local belly dance events, follow Beach Belly Dance Studio on Facebook, or go to www.beachbellydancestudio.com. I will keep you in the know!



Arden Bryce, LPC
Youth and Family Clinical Supervisor



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Suite 204
Warrenton
503-325-5722

Q: What kinds of issues are worked on in therapy for children?

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