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ONE DOLLAR

## Cannon Beach treads water on rates

Hike for upkeep

By **BRENNA VISSER**  
*The Daily Astorian*

CANNON BEACH — After four hours of heated debate, the public works committee decided Tuesday to table a plan that would increase water rates in Cannon Beach by 40 percent.

Instead of recommending the plan at the May 2 City Council meeting as originally planned, members of the committee decided to schedule a special meeting May 9 to discuss issues each had with the proposal.



Dan Grassick

"I think it's a little rushed. We need a more robust conversation about priorities and where all the money goes," public works committee ice chairman Richard Bertelotti said. "The reality is we have to raise some rates to do some maintenance, but we need to understand why it is needed."

Dan Grassick, the city's public works director, said the average combined sewer and water rate in Cannon Beach would increase from about \$52 a month to \$70 beginning in July.

### Infrastructure needs

The water and wastewater master plan seeks to finance about \$3.4 million in water infrastructure, as well as about \$1.3 million in wastewater projects, according to the Civil West Engineering Services study commissioned by the city. These projects would focus on rehabbing or replacing a variety of systems, including brittle water lines and water storage tanks.

"We are retaining the same rate structure, just increasing the base price and unit price to fund operations, maintenance and capital projects," Grassick said.

But members of the public works committee took issue with how projects were prioritized, how high the rate would jump, and, most notably, the lack of involvement the committee had in forming the plan.

"We were frozen out of this process," Bertelotti said. "That's got to change or there is no reason to have a public works committee."

Grassick said he apologizes for not including them in the two preliminary planning meetings last year. He also said committee members were given the master plans in December, but due to travel and weather complications couldn't meet until now to discuss it.

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## 'RIDE FOR REDD'

**HORSE SHOUTOUT TO SALMON**

Trio travels the river to promote salmon runs

By **EDWARD STRATTON**  
*The Daily Astorian*

Northbound traffic stalled momentarily on Old Youngs Bay Bridge Tuesday afternoon. Plodding along on horseback, a line of cars stretching behind them, were Idahoans Kat Cannell and Katelyn Spradley. The two women, each riding a horse and with another pack animal following, skirted around the south side of Astoria on their way to Pipeline Road, ending their first day of riding in Svensen.

The two explorers, to be joined by another friend in Portland, are on a seven-week, 900-mile Ride for Redd, an awareness effort to promote Idaho's endangered salmon runs.

### Going upstream

Redd is a term for the spawning grounds of salmon and other fish. By early June, the trio will end their trip at one of those spawning grounds, the alpine Redfish Lake at 6,547 feet in Idaho's Sawtooth Mountains.

"Idaho salmon come up the Columbia, come up the Snake and then come all the way up the Salmon River, 6,500 feet in elevation, 900 miles inland and they're some of the toughest salmon in the world because of their route," Cannell said. "Not many salmon travel that hard."

"... Sometimes referred to as the Olympians of the salmon world," Spradley added.

Of the 13 salmon species on the endangered species list, four are located in Idaho. Sockeye salmon are listed as endangered. Spring,

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### MORE INFO

Ride for Redd will soon be setting up an online fundraiser to help pay for the trip. For more info, visit [www.rideforredd.org](http://www.rideforredd.org)



Photos by Damian Mulinix/For The Daily Astorian  
**TOP:** Kat Cannell and Katelyn Spradley ride up through a south Astoria neighborhood Tuesday afternoon. The two, and a third rider joining them in Portland, are riding to Redfish Lake, Idaho, to bring attention to endangered salmon populations. **ABOVE:** Kat Cannell laughs with members of her support team as she and Katelyn Spradley rode through Astoria Tuesday.



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian  
Katelyn Spradley, left, and Kat Cannell start their horseback journey from the Pacific Ocean up the Columbia, Snake and Salmon river basins to Idaho Tuesday morning on Sunset Beach.

## Health care could take budget hit

350,000 Oregonians could lose coverage

By **CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE**  
*Capital Bureau*

SALEM — With about a month to go before a critical revenue forecast, Oregon's budget writers released a more detailed list of cuts to address the state's approximately \$1.6 billion budget gap if new revenue isn't raised.

The cuts are across the board and intended to show what it would take to balance the state's budget. For example, about 350,000 Oregonians would no longer be eligible for coverage under the recent Affordable Care Act Medicaid expansion, and a ballot measure to require the state to pay dropout prevention, college readiness, and career and technical education for high school students would only be partially funded.

The co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means released a similar document in January, with fewer specifics. Since then, subcommittees have been working on different areas of the state's budget to figure out where agencies and programs could be cut to make those targets.

### \$1.6 billion gap

Lawmakers face an approximately \$1.6 billion gap between what the state is expected to realize in revenue and what it would take to pay to maintain existing services.

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Submitted Photo

Malheur Enterprise editor Les Zaitz in the weekly paper's newsroom last year. The tiny paper was embroiled in a potentially costly public records fight with the state.

## Newsman challenges state, wins

Zaitz is a former Oregonian reporter

By **KATY MOELLER**  
*Idaho Statesman*

BOISE, Idaho — Les Zaitz has been living and working at a ranch near John Day in Eastern Oregon for more than a decade — not exactly where most would expect to find one of the state's top investigative journalists.

The 61-year-old is a former reporter and editor for The Oregonian who favors jeans and boots as daily attire and a cowboy hat when not in the office. He grew up on the west side of the state in Keizer, and started muckraking as a teenager, probing high school budgets in response to grumbling about cuts.

"I did an investigation of the athletic department's budget," he recalled. "They were in the red, and other departments had to cut spending."

He followed the money to find out why.

### Pulitzer Prize finalist

Almost a half-century later, the two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist hoped to relax more after retiring from The Oregonian following exhaustive coverage of the armed occupation at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. But he's still working long hours and breaking big news, now for a weekly newspaper that he owns with his family, The Malheur Enterprise.

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