



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

Lt. Brian Smith presents an automatic electronic defibrillator to Cannon Beach Academy Director Amy Moore.

## Firefighters team to help Cannon Beach Academy

By R.J. MARX  
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — With workers hammering and sanding in the background, members of the Cannon Beach Fire Department presented a gift of an automated external defibrillator Tuesday to the Cannon Beach Academy's Director Amy Moore and President Kellye Dewey.

The defibrillator will be stored at the academy's new location on South Hemlock.

"Anybody with some basic training can save a person's life," said Lt. Brian Smith, a firefighter and president of the Cannon Beach Fire and Rescue Association. "Any time you have a heart issue, time is life."

Proceeds from the association's annual ham dinner and other fundraising events raised the \$2,000 to purchase the device, used in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

"Hopefully we'll never use it, but if we do need to, we'll save lives," Dewey said. "And every time somebody walks by and asks about our fire department, we can brag about it."

"It's fully automatic," Fire Chief Matt Benedict said of the defibrillator. "If the staff has a heart issue, this is the first thing they have to do. All they have to do is hook up the pads and it does everything for them."

Benedict said the academy staff is abiding by all state fire safety mandates. The hydrant

will be located most likely on the road by the driveway. "They're just wrapping everything up right now. They've got the exit signs up, the doors are up, the emergency lighting."

Moore said she expects temporary occupancy to begin Tuesday. Teachers arrive Aug. 21 and the academy's first year of operation begins Sept. 5. More than 40 first- and second-graders are enrolled in the new charter school.

The academy has two teachers, Dawn Jay and Theresa Dennis.

# Oregon raises smoking age to 21

## Aligned with alcohol, marijuana

By PARIS ACHEN  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon has become the fifth state to raise the legal age to buy tobacco from 18 to 21.

Gov. Kate Brown signed the legislation into law Wednesday. The new requirements take effect immediately.

The law, co-sponsored by a Republican and Democrat, aligns the legal age to purchase tobacco and nicotine products with that already established for alcohol and marijuana.

Raising the legal age to buy tobacco products "significantly reduces the number of youth who begin using these products and become addicted to them, saving Oregonians billions of tax dollars, and the lives of thousands of loved ones, each year," state Rep. Rich Vial, R-Scholls, a co-sponsor



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of the legislation, said last month.

The law enacts fines ranging from \$50 to \$1,000 for individuals or businesses that distribute or sell such products to buyers younger than 21.

The new regulations also ban a 21-year-old from possessing tobacco or nicotine when on a postsecondary education campus, effective in January.

Vial and Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, D-Beaverton, sponsored the legislation to help prevent youth from becoming addicted to tobacco.

About 1,800 Oregon kids

become smokers every year and an alarming 24 percent of Oregon's 11th-graders report using tobacco products.

The increase in sales age will keep tobacco products out of high schools, where young teens often access them from older classmates, according to advocates with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. About 95 percent of adult smokers started smoking before age 21, according to the Cancer Action Network.

Health advocates hope a reduction in young smokers will translate into fewer tobacco-related diseases, the state's leading cause of preventable death.

The statewide law would follow a similar law enacted in Lane County in March.

Oregon, Hawaii, California, Maine and New Jersey have raised the legal age to buy tobacco.

More than 200 cities and

counties, including New York City and Boston, have similar laws.

Despite endorsements from public health advocates and an easy passage in the Senate, the bill faced a setback when tobacco company Altria hired former state Sen. Margaret Carter, D-Portland, to lobby against the measure, according to a story by Willamette Week. Carter, the first black woman elected to the state Legislature, argued to lawmakers that raising the legal age could prompt racial profiling of minority youth, according to the alternative-weekly article.

The House Rules Committee amended the bill in July to eliminate the potential for that problem and ensure individuals younger than 21 are not penalized for possessing tobacco.

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