

A retired attorney reconnects with Cannon Beach

Portland native helps guide public works

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian



Douglas Craner, a retired attorney for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, serves on the Cannon Beach Public Works Committee.

Brenna Visser/
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Douglas Craner isn't a local to Cannon Beach yet, but he's visited enough to have some favorite hangouts.

"I love the Sunday afternoon ribeye at The Driftwood. And in the morning, my favorite thing is to go to the Cannon Beach Bakery and sit out on those white benches with the regulars," Craner said.

While Craner has spent

the majority of his life in the Portland area, a part of his heart lives in the summers he would spend with his family in Cannon Beach since he was a kid. So when he saw a position on the Public Works Committee open up last month on the city's website, he saw

an opportunity to reignite the connection.

His new position, which officially started Aug. 1, will be to discuss issues concerning city infrastructure like sewer lines, water resources and other public works projects and recommend decisions

EVERYDAY people

to the City Council.

Before retiring two years ago, Craner spent 30 years in legal counsel for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Throughout his career, he worked in real estate law, evaluating environmental laws and other disciplines related to carrying out projects.

One of his favorite projects was redeveloping failing infrastructure in Celilo Village, he said.

"I was always amazed at

the confidence and professionalism it took to design and engineer complex projects," Craner said. "I'm glad through my legal training I am able to participate in these projects that hopefully leave something tangible, and something hopefully for the public good, for generations to enjoy."

Craner hopes to bring a broader, citizen perspective when evaluating public works projects by engaging with the community early and thoroughly so that projects can be built from a "consensus building basis," he said.

As a committee member, Craner will be a part of ongoing discussions to restructure city water and sewer rates, a

hot-button issue after a proposal to raise water rates by 40 percent to address failing infrastructure was rejected in May.

When it comes to addressing the public works needs in Cannon Beach, he said his first item on his to-do list is to "listen and learn."

"With the rates, it's going to come down to evaluating the cost benefit. I don't have a preconceived position on that, but I'll be taking a close look at it," he said.

This will be Craner's first professional commitment since retiring, though he said he still plans to spend his days off at the tennis court or with his grandchildren in Portland and Eugene.

Clatsop County firefighters battle blazes in central Oregon

By **BRENNA VISSER**
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Multiple firefighters all over Clatsop County have been called to help respond to the Milli Fire in Sisters.

Knappa Fire Chief Paul Olheiser, who is coordinating the effort, said 13 firefighters from Seaside, Olney, Lewis and Clark, Warrenton and Knappa fire districts were sent out Friday morning with brush trucks to help central Oregon personnel combat the growing fire.

Gov. Kate Brown invoked the Emergency Conflagration Act Thursday morning in response to the Milli Fire, located west of Sisters in Deschutes County. It is a statewide request for resources when the governor deems local resources are not enough. The fire affects approximately 1,200 residents and threatens 434 structures.

Due to the fire burning partially in the fire scar of the 2006 Black Crater Fire, crews on the ground are using extreme caution in areas with dead and standing timber. Local officials issued a Level 2 evacuation notice for areas south of Oregon Route 242 (McKenzie Highway) and west of the Pole Creek Ditch.

Olheiser said the number of people sent and from which department is based on availability of personnel and resources.

"When the state gives resource order, you go down the list of what the state is asking for and see who has it," he said.

Right now there is no estimated return date for these fire-

fighters, but Olheiser said they usually go out for three to five days.

"The departments that couldn't spare the personnel didn't send any. The chief makes the decision on how many people can he can spare and still provide the same amount of care to the community," he said. "We have 13

less, but we are not in a position where we do not have enough people to operate safely."

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