

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

145TH YEAR, NO. 59

DailyAstorian.com // THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

ONE DOLLAR



Photos Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Cannon Beach will soon offer beach accessible wheelchairs to the public.

Public, but not always accessible

BEACH WHEELCHAIR PROGRAM MOVES ALONG IN CANNON BEACH

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

Cannon Beach will soon join the small but growing number of communities on the Oregon Coast that offer beach accessible wheelchairs.

It's an idea that has been in the works for several years. The Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce and the Haystack Rock Awareness Program joined forces to purchase the first beach accessible wheelchair, which are chairs with 4- to 5-inch-wide tires that ride on top of sand.

The goal is to eventually have two wheelchairs at Tolovana State Park and two at the Gower Street beach entrances available to the public to check out for free. The city will follow Manzanita and Seaside as the third on the coast to provide any type of beach wheelchair, and the second to provide them for free as a public service.

Pooka Rice, the outreach coordinator for the Haystack Rock Awareness Program, said the group got involved earlier this year to help write grants and facilitate a program. The group is at the center of many school field trips and educational programs, and Rice said that she wanted to make sure anyone who wanted to participate in these activities could have access.



Cannon Beach will soon join Manzanita and Seaside as the only coastal communities to offer beach accessible wheelchairs. Manzanita has had three of the specially designed wheelchairs available to the public for over 10 years.

"There is a hugely underserved population," Rice said. "I am a caregiver for disabled people myself. It is so important this program exists so kids (with disabilities) can be included."

Travel Oregon Chairman Ryan Snyder, who was part of the initial push two years ago, said after developing Cannon Beach's program that he hopes to work

with Travel Oregon to make beach wheelchair access a coastwide reality.

"Today is Cannon Beach. But this is a topic I plan to bring up at the Travel Oregon level. Regardless of mobility, you should be able to experience the Oregon Coast line."

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Ryan Snyder | Travel Oregon chairman, who was part of the initial push two years ago

A window into an emergency

Emergency manager helped with response to Eagle Creek Fire

By **JACK HEFFERNAN**
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County was spared from the rush of wildfires that spread throughout the state the past few weeks. But the county has still been playing a part in evacuation and recovery efforts.

County Emergency Services Manager Tiffany Brown has traveled to Hood River twice to help with emergency services at the Eagle Creek Fire. As firefighters from around the state work to contain the blaze, Brown has helped officials in Hood River make arrangements.

Hood River Emergency Program Manager Barbara Ayers called Brown two weeks ago to ask if she could work out of the county's emergency operations center, located in the sheriff's office. An intergovernmental agreement allows employees from throughout Oregon to work for other counties, while still being paid by his or her home county, for a limited number of days during an emergency.

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Submitted Photo

Base camp at the Hood River County Fairgrounds for emergency responders.

Cannon Beach chamber leader to step down

Carrier resigns due to medical issues

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Court Carrier, the executive director of the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce, will leave his position in November due to medical issues.

Jim Paino, the chamber's executive assistant and membership coordinator, will serve as the interim director as the chamber's board searches for a replacement.



Court Carrier

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Treatment center a path to sobriety

Outpatient option for drug abusers

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

When she opened the North Coast Medical Clinic last year, Wendy Hemsley said she had found a dearth of primary care providers in the region.

Noticing a similar lack of outpatient drug treatment options, Hemsley opened North Coast Recovery this spring in the same building as her clinic on 30th Street in Astoria's Mill Pond neigh-

borhood. She gathered health care and government partners Wednesday to officially cut the ribbon on the recovery center, but also to talk about the need for more services for those struggling with substance abuse.

North Coast Recovery is one of several outpatient treatment centers in the region.

"We're basically the transitory step between a controlled inpatient environment and functioning in a world with drugs and alcohol," Hemsley said.

The recovery center is staffed with substance abuse counselors and two medical addiction specialists Hems-

ley recruited from the Portland area.

When patients come in, counselors sit down with them to assess what level of treatment they need, said Sandy Ferguson, a chemical dependency counselor.

The recovery center offers varying levels of intensity to help patients transition from withdrawal to daily life, from 20 or more hours of structured programs a week and daily monitoring to one or two hours a week in meetings about how to maintain a sober lifestyle. Outpatient services can last up to a year, Hemsley said.

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Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Astoria Mayor Arline LaMear, left, cut the ribbon Wednesday at North Coast Recovery, a drug and alcohol treatment center opened this spring by Wendy Hemsley on 30th Street in the same building as the North Coast Medical Clinic she opened last year.

