

PREPARING YOUR PETS

Cannon Beach launches new disaster response team for animals

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Bob Kroll has spent most of his life treating animals in distress. Sometimes that meant working as a veterinarian in an emergency clinic. Other times, it meant treating severe seizures in dogs at his practice in Clackamas.

But as Kroll enters into retirement, the longtime second homeowner may be tackling his toughest challenge yet — designing a plan to save the four-legged friends of Cannon Beach.

This spring, Kroll is teaming up with the city to launch a Disaster Animal Response Team — a volunteer group with the mission to assist pets and pet owners during an emergency.

With Kroll at the helm, part of the team's role will be to recruit volunteers who can be trained in proper animal handling and basic pet medical care. As it grows, another goal will be to set up a network of animal shelters in conjunction with human shelters for misplaced or stranded animals.

The idea came to fruition after Kroll's wife, a retired nurse, attended a Medical Reserve Corps meeting a little over a year ago in Cannon Beach, where dozens of retired doctors and nurses train for a natural disaster. When it came time from Kroll to retire, she asked the leaders of the group if they could use a veterinarian.

"It turns out the answer was 'yes,'" Kroll said.

The group will join a growing trend of animal preparedness in Oregon, but is a first for Clatsop County.

"A lot will be about education, like how we tell people to prepare with a go-bag — it's the same kind of thing for your pet," Kroll said. "You want to pack some food and water, prescriptions,

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Bob Kroll, who is helping launch the Disaster Animal Response Team, plays with his dog, Betty, at his Cannon Beach home.



ABOVE: Pets playing on the sand is a common sight near Cannon Beach. BELOW: Two visitors to Cannon Beach walk and play with their pets.



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Oregon looks to end waiver trials

Defendants waived rights to get out of jail

By **DERRICK DePLEDGE**
The Daily Astorian

Kristin Medina's drunken-driving trial was quick and efficient.

She did not object when the prosecutor asked a Seaside police officer to describe how she failed a field sobriety test. She did not challenge the results of a breath test that put her blood alcohol content at 0.23 percent, nearly three times the legal limit. She did not offer a single word in her defense.

Medina wasn't even in court. As a condition of release after her October 2012 arrest, Medina, who lived in Washington state, signed a waiver of appearance for trial. When she did not show up, the criminal justice system moved on without her.

"We'll catch up with her at some point, I would assume," Circuit Court Judge Cindee Matyas said after finding Medina guilty of misdemeanor drunken driving in January 2013.

With an overcrowded jail and a significant share of defendants who live outside the North Coast, Clatsop County has routinely required people accused of misdemeanors to waive their right to appear at trial as a condition of release.

But the state Legislature, concerned the waivers are too high a price to get out of jail, has overwhelmingly voted to ban the practice in Oregon.

"I think the most important thing the state does is the criminal justice system, because it's where the full power of the state is on one person," said Kirk Wintermute, a criminal defense attorney in Astoria who urged the Legislature to change the law. "And if that person is not there to answer that, and they're not there to question their accusers, I think that's pretty significant."

District Attorney Josh Marquis predicts the change will make it easier for defendants to wriggle out of convictions by never showing up for court and — if caught years later — claiming they were denied the right to a speedy trial.

Judge Paula Brownhill, the presiding judge of the Circuit Court, cautions that the potential impact may be overstated. In 2017, defendants in Clatsop County signed waivers in 372 misdemeanor cases, but only 11 led to trials where the defendant was not in court.

"We have a lot of defendants sign waivers of appearance as a condition of release, but we don't try very many of them," the judge said.

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Sandpiper Square sold to Salem investor

New owner pledges to 'preserve what is already there'

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Sandpiper Square, the iconic shopping complex that anchors downtown Cannon Beach, has been sold to Salem-based entrepreneur and investor Roger Yost for \$4.2 million.

Yost purchased the property

from Coaster Properties LLC, the company that developed the complex in 1973 along with other well-known properties like the Coaster Theatre Playhouse, Mariner Market and the U.S. Bank Building.

Yost is a former marketing executive at Jantzen, a Portland-based swimwear company, who lived in Arch Cape for nearly 30 years before purchasing and restoring landmark Salem properties like the Reed Opera House, Capitol Center and Alessandro's Restaurant building in 2003. All three were sold in the last three months in an attempt to

move back to his coastal roots, Yost said.

"I didn't build any sandcastles, but I definitely have watched many be built," Yost joked, referring to the town's long-running Sandcastle Day celebration. "I've had a long connection with Cannon Beach. When I sold my house in Arch Cape, I instantly regretted it."

Yost said he intends to keep almost everything about Sandpiper Square as is. Part of what made the sale attractive, he said, was the building's

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Sandpiper Square hosts community traditions like the holiday lamp-lighting ceremony.

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