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Cannon Beach hopes to redevelop a former elementary school.

Cannon Beach to borrow to finance redevelopment of former school

Loan would help turn property into a tourist destination honoring tribal history

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

CANNON BEACH — The city intends to secure a loan to redevelop the former elementary school into a tourist destination honoring local tribal history.

The City Council, during a meeting Tuesday night, authorized the city to borrow \$4.6 million for the project, which is expected to cost \$5.5 million. Lodging taxes will be used to pay off the loan.

To prevent overborrowing, City Manager Bruce St. Denis said the city will split the borrowing into two issuances. The second one could be made as part of the financing for a new City Hall and police station.

The city-owned property on Beaver Street — formerly Cannon Beach Elementary School — is about 1.6 acres. St. Denis said the goal is to create a destination that honors the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes, since the site was home to the tribes' ancestors.

"In a lot of ways, we're trying to emulate what the tribe did there for a long time, which is bringing people together," he said.

The city issued a request for proposals from design firms late last year. Proposals are due by Feb. 9. The City Council expects to select a firm by March.

There are two buildings on the property that need to be renovated. One is a 7,500 square-foot gymnasium and the other is a 5,000 square-foot one-story building with four classrooms and



Cannon Beach has plans for a new City Hall and police station.

THE CITY ALSO HOPES TO INCORPORATE WALKING TRAILS, INTERPRETIVE SIGNS, DISPLAYS AND PLANTED AREAS.

office space.

The buildings have not been used for several years, according to the city, and have had limited maintenance for more than a decade.

The city envisions creating meeting places, a garden and spaces that showcase tribal agriculture practices. The Cannon Beach Food Pantry will remain.

The city also hopes to incorporate walking trails, interpretive signs, dis-

plays and planted areas.

When the property is not being used for visitors, St. Denis said the space could be used for community events.

The city manager said the design firm will be expected to meet with stakeholders and understand the goals before starting the design process. The City Council and the public will have the opportunity to engage throughout the process.

Meanwhile, St. Denis expects to issue a request for proposals from architectural firms to build a new City Hall and police station.

He said the city will likely be ready to borrow funds for the project next January. When the city makes that issuance, St. Denis said it will include whatever amount is needed to complete the project at the former elementary school.

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Record value for Dungeness crab hauls

Season off to a strong start

By ABBEY McDONALD
The Astorian

Oregon's Dungeness crab fishermen have already hauled in the highest-grossing season on record, with an ex-vessel value of \$78.1 million.

The previous record was \$74.2 million in ex-vessel value, set in the 2017-2018 season. The value is calculated by the average cost fishermen get per pound, multiplied by pounds brought in.

This year's record-breaking value comes a quarter of the way into the season, after negotiations, chance and consumer demand increased dockside value.

Last year had a low haul of around 12 million pounds. In comparison, fishermen have already brought in 15.3 million pounds since this season opened in December. This caused processors and restaurants to have lower reserves than usual, increasing demand.

Tim Novotny, a spokesman for the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission, said anticipation was a major contributor to this season's explosive start.

"A lot of people were really getting a great opportunity to get crab out there to the consumers who were really clamoring for it. So they didn't want to mess around

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CANNON BEACH

City given state grant for disaster preparedness

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

CANNON BEACH — A state grant will help the city build sites that can turn into emergency village shelters after a disaster.

The city was awarded \$360,000 from the state's coronavirus fiscal recovery fund to add resources to its safety and survival cache sites. The City Council accepted the grant on Tuesday.

Rick Hudson, the city's emergency manager, said the grant will help the city add electricity, sanitation, heat, lighting, generators and security to the cache sites.

He said investing in and maintaining the sites will help ensure people have a safe place to temporarily harbor if the city cannot be reoccupied after a disaster.

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Assistance League to donate books to new teachers

Idea to help build classroom libraries

By ETHAN MYERS
The Astorian

The Assistance League of the Columbia Pacific has helped to provide resources to students across Clatsop County.

At the end of February, they have plans for a new deed.

Local members of the Assistance League, a nationwide non-profit that seeks to strengthen the community through philanthropic programs, will purchase books

'GOSH, (TEACHERS) SPEND SO MUCH MONEY ON EVERYTHING THAT THEY HAVE TO DO AND IT'S NICE TO HAVE A LITTLE LIBRARY IN YOUR CLASSROOM.'

Mary Davies | president of the Assistance League.

from local bookstores and donate them to two dozen new kindergarten-through-fifth grade teachers.

The donations will help teachers build their personal libraries in classrooms while they juggle the other costs and challenges associated with being new teachers.

"Gosh, (teachers) spend so much money on everything that they have to do and it's nice to have a little library in your classroom," said Mary Davies, the president of the

Assistance League.

The group will buy books from Lucy's Books, in Astoria, and Beach Books, in Seaside.

After communicating with teachers to figure out what books they are interested in, Davies said, they will post the lists inside the bookstores to seek additional donations from people in the community. She hopes to see several hundred books donated.

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Lucy's Books

The Assistance League of the Columbia Pacific plans to buy books from local bookstores and donate them to new teachers.

