



Nancy McCarthy

A state grant will help Cannon Beach improve cache sites and prepare for disasters.

Grant: The deadline to complete work is 2024

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“It means there is a safe place off grid that creates a lot of resiliency to the community,” Hudson told the City Council. “And there are other residents around our area that would end up migrating to our location anyway due to the geographic island nature of

where we are. So it does create a safe harbor for many, many people in this area.”

Hudson said the sites are on safe ground, outside of the tsunami inundation zone for a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake. Developing the sites is costly, so the grant is a serious benefit, he said.

Since the stand-alone utility infrastructure is usually placed underground, Hudson does not expect the additional resources to substantially change the way the sites look.

Clatsop County and the state can also use the sites to store resources, he said.

The deadline to complete the work is 2024.

Cannon Beach: ‘We want to make sure we can respond as best we can’

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Funding for the rebuild will likely come from the prepared food tax approved by voters in November. The 5% tax is estimated to raise about \$1.7 million a year and will be split between the city and the Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District.

After years of back-and-forth, city councilors unanimously agreed last year to rebuild the City Hall and police station at the existing location on E. Gower Street.

The new building could cost more than \$16 million, and will also function as an emergency operations center.

The new facility will be set back slightly and built over the parking lot, which sits higher. St. Denis said the additional height should protect the building from some tsunamis.

While the site is in the tsunami inundation zone for a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake, St. Denis said the new building is not necessarily being built to with-

stand that disaster.

City leaders had considered the city’s South Wind property as a possible location because it is outside of the inundation zone, but the 55-acre vacant lot has proved tricky and expensive to develop.

“We’re likely to see smaller earthquakes that can do a lot of damage here, but not be Cascadia,” St. Denis said. “So we want to make sure we can respond as best we can if that kind of event occurs.”

Crab: Starting price around \$5 per pound

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with any kind of delay due to a delayed, prolonged negotiation process,” Novotny said.

That resulted in a starting price around \$5 per pound for fishermen, which Novotny said is the highest Oregon’s Dungeness industry has ever seen.

In addition to a favorable price, the season started on time for the first time in seven years, allowing them to meet the holiday market.

Novotny said staffing shortages in processing facilities and rough weather in early January had an impact on the season, but, overall, conditions were in the industry’s favor.

Though the average price for Dungeness crab went up this season, factors like proximity to the coast and individual business agreements mean that the higher price doesn’t translate directly to every store and restaurant.

Wayne Jarvela, the general manager of The SEA Crab House, which has restaurants in Astoria and Seaside, said the success of



Luke Whittaker/Chinook Observer

Ex-vessel value for Dungeness crab hits \$78.1 million

this season has benefited the restaurants, and he’s seen lower prices.

“The prices going down has been wonderful,” he said. “Everything else: milk, bread, groceries, has gone up. But Dungeness crab — a delicacy — has gone down.”

An estimated \$18.7 million of the haul, nearly a quarter of the season’s value so far, came through the Astoria-Warrenton area, which brought in 3.7 million pounds.

“This is a victory for the

fishermen and the industry, but it’s really a victory for the coastal economies and the state economy as well,” Novotny said. “We’re just getting started, this season goes on until August, and hopefully there’s continuing to be a good supply of crab.”

The first few months of Dungeness crab season usually brings in the majority of the haul, meaning despite being a record-breaker in value, this season is unlikely to beat the all-time weight record of 33 million pounds.

Books: Aim to improve student literacy

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The donations will take place during the last week in February, also known as Action Week, which is a time for each chapter of the Assistance League to develop a new program to benefit the community.

The Assistance League of the Columbia Pacific has six major community-focused programs. Local members have especially made their mark with Operation School Bell, a program that clothes

hundreds of students from the five school districts each year.

Other outreach includes scholarship opportunities for students exiting high school, the donation of sports and athletic gear to athletic programs and resource contributions for foster children.

“Overall, the (Assistance League) has been a critical and crucial part of our community and many of our families and students have benefited from the resources provided by them,” said Josh Jannusch, the principal at

Warrenton Middle School.

Davies, who has been with the nonprofit since 2008, said she was drawn by the organization’s values and commitment to working with and helping children.

In addition to assisting teachers, the book donation program also aligns with another mission of the group — improving literacy among students.

“We are really excited ... we are always trying to find new ways to help,” Davies said.

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