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Beth Nakamura/The Oregonian  
A #TimberUnity convoy in Salem in 2020.

## Cannon Beach refines plan for former school

Redevelopment project is intended to honor tribal history

By NICOLE BALES  
*The Astorian*

CANNON BEACH — Plans to redevelop the former elementary school and NeCus' Park site into a tourist destination honoring tribal history have begun to take shape.

Over the past two months, the city and its Portland-based design architect, CIDA Inc., have conducted a series of community outreach events and surveys with stakeholders on how to rejuvenate the city-owned property on Beaver Street.

The property is envisioned as a destination that honors the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes, since the site was home to the tribes' ancestors. The budget for the project is currently \$5.5 million. In February, the City Council authorized the city to borrow an initial \$4.6 million for the project to prevent overborrowing. Lodging taxes will be used to pay off the loan.

During a work session Thursday, City Councilors gave CIDA the green light to move into the design phase after the firm presented a report outlining possibilities.

Dustin Johnson, the principal architect with CIDA, said he is expecting lengthy discussions during the schematic design phase.

"As we start putting pen to paper and really defining what these spaces are ... we start picking things apart at that point," Johnson said. "And it starts to trigger ideas from everyone."

There are three buildings on the property, including a 7,000 square-foot gymnasium and 4,500 square-foot one-story building with four classrooms and office space.

A 3,300 square-foot building is used by the food bank and is not currently part of the project. The other two buildings have been vacant since 2013 and are in fair to poor condition, according to the architecture firm.

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Redevelopment plans are moving forward at the former Cannon Beach Elementary School.

## After initial success, #TIMBERUNITY has splintered

### Several original leaders have left advocacy group

By NICOLE BALES  
*The Astorian*

Jeff Leavy never thought he would help launch a political movement.

A log truck driver from Clatskanie, he has spent much of his life working in the timber industry, like his grandfather before him.

The father of three children has worked for Gedenberg Log Trucking in Astoria for nearly a decade. Before that, he struggled with drug addiction that led to felony convictions for property crimes. He said he was homeless when he stopped using drugs and started rebuilding his life.

While Leavy is not proud of his past, he credits his struggle for giving him the courage to take action when he learned about a cap-and-trade bill in Salem to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He was convinced the legislation would trigger sizable increases in fuel prices and have a disproportionate



Lydia Ely/The Astorian

Jeff Leavy throws a cable to secure logs on a truck near Clatskanie in June.

impact on logging and trucking.

Leavy did not have any political experience, but his organizing helped launch #TimberUnity.

The movement, inspired by loggers, truck drivers and farmers, quickly became a political force, providing the grassroots energy that helped corporate timber, manufacturing and utility inter-

ests fend off cap and trade.

Through convoys and demonstrations, #TimberUnity helped create the political climate that drove Republican walkouts and doomed cap-and-trade bills in 2019 and 2020. #TimberUnity stickers were popular across the North

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## Maritime Museum looks to improve accessibility

A task force works to augment the experience

By ALEXIS WEISEND  
*The Astorian*

The Columbia River Maritime Museum has taken initiatives to make the museum more accessible.

Since the creation of a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility and Belonging Task Force in May 2021, the Astoria museum has completed several projects.

Early steps were geared toward visitors with anxiety or autism. A Social Story is a project that creates a preview of what visitors can expect when they arrive, like what times are busiest and which

exhibits are loudest.

Sensory backpacks filled with noise-reducing headphones and small self-soothing toys are available to help visitors cope with stressful situations. They also come with verbal communication cards with desires and emotions for people who are nonverbal.

A sensory map shows visitors accessible parking, bathrooms and the different lighting and sound levels in rooms.

Julia Triezenberg, an education supervisor for the museum who serves on the task force, said the projects benefit everyone.

"It was initially a move to make the museum more accessible and a little bit less intimidating for people who might feel overwhelmed by the galleries," she said. "And



Columbia River Maritime Museum  
The Columbia River Maritime Museum has sought to make the museum more accessible.

then it evolved into something where it's really just a nice kind of walk-through of the museum experience."

Other services include a virtual verbal description tour and a self-guided audio and tactile tour for people with visual impairments. Visitors can touch objects like a survival suit and a torpedo.

Caroline Wuebben, the museum's communications and

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## Summer outreach hopes to empower teenage girls

The Harbor will host the group in Seaside

By ALEXIS WEISEND  
*The Astorian*

A summer empowerment group in Seaside for teenage girls will encourage discussions about relationships, body image and boundaries while dating.

Like other youth summer outreach, girls 13 to 17 can make arts and crafts, write poetry and put on performances. But The Harbor, an advocacy center in Astoria for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, which is hosting the group starting July 25, also hopes to fill gaps in social, emotional and consent education.

"Having grown up in Clatsop County, it hasn't been there for the general population of adolescents," Shey Lionheart, an advo-

cate with The Harbor, said.

Topics that teenagers might not feel comfortable asking their parents about, like relationships or potential signs of abuse, will be on the table.

The group can be a place where girls can talk through their experiences in a safe environment with their peers. Staff at The Harbor are not mandatory reporters, meaning they are not required to report cases of abuse.

Knowing that sharing what happened to them can get parents, law enforcement and child protective services involved can make it harder for teenagers to come forward, Julia Aikman, The Harbor's prevention program coordinator,

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