

# Council hopeful about downtown pedestrian mall

## City may brainstorm with chamber, piggyback on existing event at first

By Erick Bengel  
Cannon Beach Gazette

The city of Cannon Beach is toying with the idea of establishing a downtown "pedestrian mall."

Every so often, perhaps one or two evenings a month, the city would close off a section of Hemlock Street to vehicular traffic, opening it up to pedestrians, restaurants that want to set up tables in the street, and other businesses and organizations that would hold family-friendly functions. Music and entertainment may also become regular features of the mall.

The City Council listed a pedestrian mall as one of its goals during the group's January goal-setting retreat. City Manager Brant Kucera raised the issue at the April 14 work session to get the planning underway and give the city enough time to "try it out this year."

"I've seen this (done) in many communities," Kucera said. "There is no doubt that they are very successful events. I've never heard of this being an unpopular thing to do anywhere."

Kennett Square, Pennsylvania created something similar while Kucera

worked there. One thing he learned was that people were already familiar with the concept. "It's not like we just invented something," he said. "We're just doing what a lot of other places were doing."

It would need to happen on evenings that are busy but not *too* busy; Thursdays work best in Kucera's experience, he said. The event could be modeled on well-known First Thursday events held in Portland and other towns with robust arts scenes.

Mayor Sam Steidel suggested that, at first, the pedestrian mall could be adapted to an existing event, like the Gallery Group's Spring Unveiling or Plein Air & More arts

festivals. Eventually, though, it could evolve into an event unto itself, bringing more locals and tourists into town, stimulating the retail and restaurant industries, and raising the profile of downtown Cannon Beach.

### Business community

Rather than simply spring the pedestrian mall on downtown businesses, the city should give them an opportunity to "buy in" to the concept, Kucera said.

Councilor Mike Benefield proposed that the city work with the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce, perhaps by putting together an ad hoc group to brainstorm the event.

Courtland Carrier, the

chamber's executive director who was seated in the audience, said that he had already spoken to a number of people in the community about the pedestrian mall idea, and "there's a lot of people interested in it."

He mentioned, however, that some research would need to be done to anticipate the possible downsides.

"Traffic control is going to be the big issue that we need to address, obviously," Kucera said, noting that the public works and police departments will need to be "heavily involved."

In addition, the city will have to ensure that the event doesn't conflict with its restrictions on outdoor merchandising and, if

restaurants serve alcohol outdoors, that it complies with Oregon Liquor Control Commission rules.

Benefield encouraged people who have been to pedestrian-mall-type events before to share their ideas with Kucera and/or Carrier.

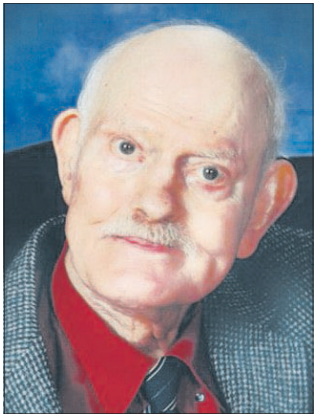
"It'll evolve and grow," Benefield said, adding that he has enjoyed pedestrian malls elsewhere. "They are fun, and they bring life to the city."

"I'm so happy that this is being discussed, because this is something I feel Cannon Beach was ripe for 20 years ago," Councilor George Vetter said. "We need to do it at least once, if we never do it again, because we'll learn something."

## OBITUARIES

### David O'Brien

Dec. 27, 1933 — April 1, 2015



David O'Brien



teered at the Cannon Beach Conference Center, and was the founder of Tryad Ministries.

David was born in his parent's home in Portland, Ore., on Dec. 27, 1933. He attended Grout Elementary School in SE Portland. One of the photographs shows David driving the family tractor when he was about 13 years old, with his younger sister, Ellen Clibbon, and his younger brother, the late Shaun O'Brien.

David trusted in Christ as his savior while he was young, leading to a lifelong desire to help others learn about the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

In 1961, when David was 27, his family moved to British Columbia. While in Canada he gradually became aware that he needed to be on his own. So nine years after moving to Canada, he returned to the U.S., moving in with his brother, Mike, in Portland. David described

those days by saying, "Work was scarce, and so I worked a little in a Christmas booth and sold things door-to-door. Looking back I can see how much I needed that time to prepare for the future."

While in Portland, David became involved with Handicapped Youth For Christ, and regularly attended their leadership meetings. As he became more involved, he also wanted to further his education, both in the Bible and regular schooling. He earned his GED, but still felt he needed to learn more about the Bible. When problems with his adult foster care caseworker caused some difficulties, he felt he needed a break and he arranged to spend some time during the summer at the Cannon Beach Conference Center.

While at the Conference Center, David learned about Ecola Hall, the school now known as Ecola Bible School. He knew that was the Bible education he needed. He spoke with the dean of Ecola Hall, who thought

David would have a hard time with the class material, but he finally agreed David could give it a try. The dean recommended that David start with the spring semester, but David couldn't wait to get started, so he filled out the application for the fall semester.

A short time later he received a letter — Ecola Hall had rejected his application.

Not one to give up, David worked out an arrangement in which he could attend Ecola Hall and live off campus. David called this an important part of God's plan: "I would later see how important that rejection would be in God's overall plans for my life. Since I lived off campus, I had the opportunity to become a member of the community of Cannon Beach and didn't have to leave when school was over."

In 1975, David's pastor mentioned that he had recorded the Bible for radio. That gave David the idea to record the Bible for the handicapped, and that was the be-

ginning of Tryad Ministries. Under his leadership, Tryad Ministries became involved in bringing God's word to the handicapped in a variety of ways, and it continues today to serve the handicapped through an annual conference in Cannon Beach.

David is survived by his sister Ellen (Bob) Clibbon, brother Mike (Greta) O'Brien, Jim Haley (brother-in-law) and various other family members. Our community and his family will always remember David as an individual who loved God, and life, and had the tenacity to always deal with adversity with a smile.

In lieu of flowers, please make memorial gifts to his place of work before retirement, the Cannon Beach Conference Center, P.O. Box 398, Cannon Beach, OR 97110, or to the Cannon Beach Community Church, P.O. Box 37, Cannon Beach, OR 97110.

David's celebration of life will be held at the Cannon Beach Conference Center May 17, 2015, at 3:30 p.m.

### Judith Ann Osborne

Dec. 23, 1941 — April 14, 2015

Judith Ann Osborne passed away Tuesday, April 14, 2015. She was born in Sacramento, Calif., on Dec. 23, 1941.

After graduating from Highline High School in the Seattle area, she attended Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Wash., and became a flight attendant for United Airlines. She raised four children on her own; loved books; loved history; all things British; was a published writer and member of a local writer's group; and rescued many a cat and dog over the years.

She is survived by her brother, Donald Osborne Jr. and his wife, Donna Jean, in Wheeler, Ore.; her children, Jessica Stoller from Leavenworth, Wash., Jeffrey Stoller from Seaside, Ore., Joshua Stoller from Nehalem, Ore., and Brian Stoller from Myrtle Creek, Ore.; and two grandchildren, Zachary Robinson and Oscar Stoller. There are numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews, her beloved animals, Poppy, Dixie Brindle and Indigo, and many friends. She

was preceded in death by her parents, Donald and Louise Osborne of Cannon Beach.

There will be no formal service at Judith's request. Formal viewing was ended on Wednesday, April 15, at Waud's Funeral Home in Tillamook, Ore. The family is planning a celebration and memorial event in the near future, when the full family can participate. Information will be forthcoming.

The family asks that donations be made to the Cannon Beach Library, P.O. Box 486, 131 Hemlock St., Cannon Beach OR 97110; the Manzanita



Judith Ann Osborne

Library, P.O. Box 147, Manzanita OR 97130; and the Oregon Humane Society, 1067 N.E. Columbia Blvd., Portland, OR 97211.

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