

Bronze age

Work shown at local gallery as part of Spring Unveiling



R.J. MARX PHOTO

Visitors at the Bronze Coast Gallery, Saturday May 2, view work at one of the many "Spring Unveiling" events throughout town.

Grocery store planned for Tolovana

Jon, Tim and James Welsh hope to open fresh foods outlet

By Erick Bengel
Cannon Beach Gazette

The owners of Manzanita Fresh Foods plan to open a grocery store in Tolovana within one year.

Jon Welsh, his brother, Tim Welsh, and their father, James Welsh, purchased a vacant lot of 0.56 acres at 3401 South Hemlock St. on April 17, according to Cole Horsely, of Kamali Southeby's International Real Estate. The site is across the street from the Tolovana Inn and near the on-ramp to U.S. Highway 101.

The Welshes, who have been planning the new outlet for about eight months, recently tore down an old abandoned building on the site that housed a Mexican

restaurant years ago, they said.

As early as January 2016 and as late as March 2016, the Welshes hope to build a 9,000-square-foot full-service grocery store that offers conventional food yet specializes in products classified as natural, organic and gluten-free à la New Seasons, they said.

The Welsh brothers said they came to recognize that natural food is where the grocery industry is headed.

They plan to have a meat department, produce department, a dairy section, a whole foods section, a health and beauty section, a section for "quality wines and craft beer," a deli that sells soups and sandwiches, a juice bar with a coffee kiosk and an inside seated area for eating, they said.

The second floor will consist of a 1,000-square foot mezzanine for offices, said Vito Cerelli, the building designer from O'Brien & Company.

For the moment, their working business name is

"Fresh Foods," the Welshes said.

Cerelli is scheduled to bring the grocery store's design plans before Cannon Beach's Design Review Board on May 21.

The design plans place the rectangular store on the north side of the side, the parking lot on the south side. The store's exterior will consist of metal siding and vertical and horizontal cedar siding, Cerelli said.

Over in Manzanita

Meanwhile, Manzanita Fresh Foods continues to show good growth, they said. The Welshes' introduction of natural and organic product lines last year is "really paying dividends," Tim Welsh said. "Customers are happy, sales are growing," which has allowed them to pursue the opportunity in Cannon Beach, he said.

Last summer, the Welshes dissolved their relationship with the Independent Grocers Alliance (IGA), a trade orga-

nization that, the family felt, was not acting progressively enough in the industry.

"We feel the direction we've decided to go has struck a chord with customers," Jon Welsh said.

James Welsh said they anticipate employing 20 to 25 employees at the store, "which I believe will be something that's beneficial to the economy of Cannon Beach."

He added that they will also be looking to hire people prior to opening "Fresh Foods" to work at the Manzanita store, "so that, when we open the doors in Cannon Beach, we will have a crew of employees that can just pick right up from Day 1 in the operation of the new store."

One of the things the Welshes pride themselves on, Tim Welsh said, is that "we feel we treat our employees pretty good. We ask a lot, to be honest. We don't feel we're unreasonable in our expectations, but we feel we compensate pretty well."

Brush fire likely 'caused by humans'

Cannon Beach Fire and Rescue extinguished a brush fire approximately 8 feet wide by 50 yards long in the woods east of Haystack Heights at about 3 p.m. May 2, Fire Chief Mike Balzer said.

Because the area is within the Oregon Department of Forestry's jurisdiction, ODF crews showed up, but the eight crew members of CBFRR who responded had already put the fire out, he said.

Though the cause is unknown, CBFRR is "pretty sure it was caused by humans," he said. Because of the dry weather conditions, "people have to pay attention when they're out there." No injuries were reported.

Author Don Waters to speak at Cannon Beach Library

Don Waters, author of "Sunland," will be the May speaker at the Cannon Beach Library's Northwest Author series, Saturday, May 9 at 2 p.m., at the library. There is no charge and the public is welcome.

"Sunland" is the story of a mid-30s man between jobs and short on funds, who moves back to Tucson to take care of his beloved grandmother. Finding his grandmother's pharmacy drugs much cheaper across the border, he becomes a prescription drug mule, and in doing so, this book takes us across all kinds of borders between Mexico and the USA, youth and age, faith and betrayal, legal and outlaw, sober and stoned. Reviewers comment that the writing is gorgeous, the characters

ring true on every page, and the story hurtles along with many a hairpin twist and turn. Waters, also author of a story collection, "Desert Gothic," sneaks some serious issues into what is most often a light-hearted, sometimes zany account of a compassionate man who cares about his elderly clients, keeps meticulous records of the meds he supplies them, and genuinely enjoys their company.

Waters won the Iowa Short Fiction Award for his story collection, Desert Gothic, and has spent years living in the Southwest desert, which is evident through his beautiful description of the harsh, unforgiving and often gorgeous landscape. His eye for detail is honed. One re-

viewer notes that "reading the passages set in the borderlands makes one feel parched."

The real achievement of the novel "Sunland," however, is the way Waters develops fully is main characters, as several reviewers note. Don Waters has been anthologized in the Pushcart Prize, "Best of the West," and "New Stories from the Southwest." A frequent contributor to the San Francisco Chronicle, he has also written for The New York Times Book Review, Outside, The Believer, and Slate, among other publications. He is a graduate of Skidmore College and the Iowa Writers' Workshop. Originally from Reno, Nevada, he now lives in Portland.

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