



Tourism, arts recommendations headed to City Council

Eight nonprofits make annual pitches for slice of money pie

By Erick Bengel
Cannon Beach Gazette

The Tourism and Arts Commission, which dedicates a portion of the city's lodging taxes to arts-oriented events meant to attract overnight visitors or visitors from more than 50 miles away,

has finalized its recommendations for the upcoming fiscal year's grant amounts. With eight local nonprofits requesting a total of \$375,180.90 and only \$283,850 allocated to the Tourism and Arts Fund, the commission listened carefully as the organizations made

their annual pitches during presentations held May 19 and 20. The commission prepared its initial recommendations June 2. However, during the City Council's work session, a conflict of interest was discovered between commission member Julie

Walker and the Chamber of Commerce, one of the organizations requesting money, City Recorder Colleen Riggs said. The commission met again June 18 (after this issue went to press) to re-vote on one of the chamber's three funding requests, this

time with Walker recusing herself. The City Council is scheduled to vote on the recommendations July 7 during its regular meeting.

Arts Association

The Cannon Beach Arts Association requested funding for its Juried Show Program at Cannon Beach Gal-

lery, tentatively scheduled for November 2015, February 2016 and June 2016. Professional and amateur artists submit their work and have it judged by Pacific Northwest art professionals, who select artwork for a month-long installation at the gallery.

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Puttz fundraiser benefits the arts

'It's all about Tolovana Arts Colony'

Story and photos by Andrew Tonry
Cannon Beach Gazette

In the midst of a wet, gray week, the clouds smiled upon the Tolovana Arts Colony. Rain stopped almost the moment that the ninth annual Cannon Beach Puttz mini-golf fundraiser teed off. "I was really surprised," said Lisa Kerr, an event coordinator at the Arts Colony. "I actually expected a lot less people because it was raining in the morning and it was kind of gloomy out, and it just didn't seem like golf-party weather. But people turned out!" Tuesday, June 2, nearly 40 golfers played the 12 holes scattered throughout Cannon Beach. Each hole was sponsored, designed and operated by a local business, who donated \$100 apiece for the privilege. After the 12th hole, a Star Wars-themed shooting gallery, many players, some of them quite nattily dressed, retired to the American Legion for libations, tacos, and to press their luck in a raffle and silent auction.

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TOP: Dave Butler, who had the best score on the day, takes aim at the Star Wars shooting gallery on hole #12. ABOVE LEFT: A bid is placed at the silent auction. ABOVE RIGHT: Libby Cure shows off her themed attire.



Joe Oyala leads a group of golfers between holes.

Council seeks goal of 'strategic budgeting'

By R.J. Marx
Cannon Beach Gazette

Cannon Beach will move forward with a strategic plan to solicit input from local residents and use that input to prepare a vision statement for the city. Cost would be approximately \$10,000 for the survey and \$10,000 for the consultant. "You've already got a good start with the comprehensive plan," City Manager Brant Kucera said. "The ultimate goal is now strategic budgeting. Now my budget is completely tied to the strategic plan. That's the ultimate, most effective way of using our limited resources." At the Tuesday, June 8 City Council work session, Kucera told council members that all successful strategic planning processes include input from three stakeholder groups, citizens, council and staff. The strategic plan is "very different" from a comprehensive plan, which typically talks about transportation and land use, planning issues," he said. "The strategic plan deals with specific goals of the community," he said.

National survey, local audience

According to Kucera, the National Citizen's Survey is a nationally recognized survey instrument for finding out the people's opinion of community services, community direction. The comprehensive plan does not address specific goals or specific actions to accomplish the vision of the city. Kucera said the proposed strategic plan, prepared by the nonprofit National Citizens Survey under the auspices of the National Resource Center in Boulder, Colo., would be updated about two years, while comprehensive plans are typically updated every 10 years. Comprehensive plans are legally mandated, but the strategic plan is not, he said.

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Renowned artist Shirley Gittelsohn dies at 90

'Thick, salty air' inspired her

By R.J. Marx & Erick Bengel
Cannon Beach Gazette

Shirley Georges Gittelsohn, a painter who made Cannon Beach her second home and an obsessive focus of her art, died June 12 at age 90. Gittelsohn had been painting in Oregon for more than five decades. She was

famous for her Works Progress Administration-inspired landscapes, and her portraits are noted for their color, energy and connection to people and places in Oregon. Her son, John Gittelsohn, described her work: "She was a colorist whose canvases burst exuberantly with the cobalt blue of the Pacific, the purples and forest greens of the Coast Range, the lavender-hued hydrangeas and white roses of her garden."

"Shirley's ever-present smile, engaging eyes and laughter that always gave us a lift," said Rex Amos, a longtime Cannon Beach resident. Others throughout the community recognized Gittelsohn and her extraordinary talent. "Shirley was a wonderful artist. It was very inspiring to listen to her talk about her work and life amongst her paintings," said former Cannon Beach Gallery Director Andrea Mace. "She will most cer-

tainly be missed in this coastal enclave of Cannon Beach."

Summers on the coast

Shirley Gittelsohn was born in Portland but began summering on the coast in her infancy.

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Meet the artist behind the Cannon Beach Sandcastle Contest poster

Officer Devon Edwards patrols the streets, makes art

By Erick Bengel
Cannon Beach Gazette

Every year, the poster for Cannon Beach's Sandcastle Contest becomes a ubiquitous image, stamped on promotional clothing and displayed in storefront windows throughout town. And the poster for the 51st annual contest — held June 20 with related events scheduled for the 19th and 21st — is a memorable one. A comely, curvy mermaid, ornamented with pearls, shells, sea stars and other oceanic objects, relaxes



on the sand, her piscine tail raised in welcome. Behind the red-headed sea siren, a behind sandcastle rises from the shoreline, while, in the distance, Haystack Rock grounds the scene in Cannon Beach. Though the artist — 26-year-old Devon Edwards, of Seaside — is well known in Cannon Beach, she isn't typically known for her art but

for keeping the city safe. For nearly four years, Edwards has served as a patrol officer with the Cannon Beach Police Department. "By day, I'm an officer. By night, I'm an artist," she said. In January, the Chamber of Commerce Sandcastle Contest Committee commissioned Edwards — a mixed-media artist who specializes in the human form — after her supervisor, Police Chief Jason Schermerhorn, vice president of the chamber board, mentioned her name at a committee meeting. "When I first moved here, I actually thought, 'How cool would it be one day to actually do the poster for Sandcastle,'" she said. "I didn't actually think it would ever happen." Originally rendered on illustration board in ink, gel pens, gouache



ERICK BENDEL PHOTO
Patrol Officer Devon Edwards, 26, of Seaside, designed and created the poster for the 51st annual Sandcastle Contest. She also designed the decals for the city's police vehicles featuring the silhouette of Haystack Rock.

paints, artist markers and watercolors, the poster went through several concepts before Edwards and the sandcastle committee decided on

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