

SAVE OUR CANNON!

Local cultural icon gets a makeover

Cannon from Page 1A

The restoration cost \$50,000 between the conservation process and shipping. Coaster Construction had to tear down a wall to get the one-ton cannon out of the museum for repair. The Shark’s capstan, used to raise and lower the anchor of a ship, had not been treated well, either, Trucke said.

Leading the way in marine conservation, staff and students at Texas A&M gave the cannon a special chemical bath to remove rust. They used dental tools on the capstan because it was so delicate, Trucke added.

The cannon and capstan were both later dipped into wax, which soaks into the objects and creates a protective seal, she noted. It was returned to Cannon Beach in fall 2014. “When they got here and we opened up the crates, the cannon and capstan looked like they were brand new off the ship,” Trucke said.

But the museum did not have the facilities for properly storing or displaying the cannon. Trucke said the cannon and capstan need a humidity level of 40 percent or lower. The museum has a humidity level of about 60 percent.

While planning began for a future exhibit, scheduled for January 2016, the cannon and capstan were shipped to the Maritime Museum in 2014. They now await a return to Cannon Beach.

A GoFundMe account called “Save Our Cannon” seeks to help pay for the design, construction and installation of the new exhibit, estimated at a cost of \$30,000. The museum plans to hire Formations, a design company in Portland, to construct the microenvironment. The Braemar Trust recently awarded the museum \$10,000 for the project. Remaining funds are being



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A photo taken at Cannon View Park near the site of the first post office in Arch Cape, where the cannon was found.

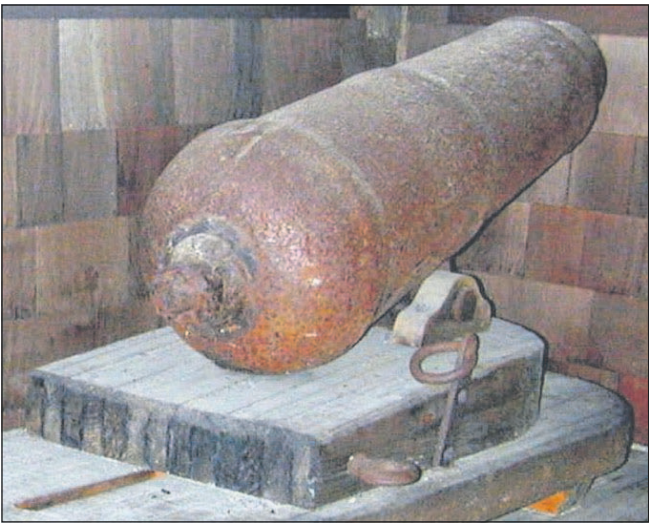
sought through contributions. “What a great cause for something so important to our history,” wrote Kelly Mauer, who made a donation on GoFundMe.

The cannon, Trucke said, has become a part of the city’s cultural identity and international tourist attraction. “It’s almost as iconic of an image as Haystack Rock,” she said.

It even has a cocktail named after it.

If the funds are raised and the exhibit moves ahead as planned, it will be a celebration for not just Cannon Beach, but for Arch Cape and South County.

“It’s the community’s,” Trucke said, “it’s not the museum’s.”



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Cannon Beach’s USS Shark cannon was red, rusted from years in the elements, before being sent off to Texas A&M.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Model of the USS Shark, now on display at the Cannon Beach History Center and Museum, was hand-made by Warren Ulrich after he became intrigued by the skills it took to live and work on a masted vessel.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A crew from Coaster Construction works to get the USS Shark cannon out of the Cannon Beach History Center and Museum.

Corgis take the stage



DANI PALMER/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Two-year-old Gus, right, may look fierce, but he’s just having fun with his new friend, Butters, 1. Gus, from Bremerton, Washington, and Butters, from Seattle, joined more than 100 corgis in Cannon Beach for 2015’s Corgi Day at the Beach event on Saturday, Aug. 1.

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