



PELICAN'S NEST

Cannon Beach is newest home to Pelican

New brewery aims for spring 2016 opening

By Dani Palmer
Cannon Beach Gazette

The newest Pelican swooped into Cannon Beach Tuesday, Sept. 29, as residents and city officials welcomed Pelican Brewing Co. Pelican officially broke ground as chef John Newman served crab cakes and mushrooms prepared on a grill and the famed brewery poured their signature product.

"I'm excited they're bringing a business down here; to have something anchor people here," local business owner Jill Kratochvil said.

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Court

Carrier said Pelican will bring "new vitality" to an area of town that sees less foot traffic. Many visitors stay in midtown hotels, but shop downtown.

Pelican demolished the former Dooger's Seafood and Grill at 1371 South Hemlock St., vacant since 2011, to build its third location along the coast. The brewing company first opened in Pacific City in 1996, and added a site in Tillamook in 2013. Co-owner Mary Jones said they "love being on the coast" and had contemplated the new location for years.

"As we've moved through that process, it's become increasingly clear what a great choice that's been and

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Jill Kratochvil enjoys crabcakes and grilled mushrooms during Pelican Brewing Company's groundbreaking ceremony.

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Quake, tsunami threats put local bridges at risk

Weak bridges could pose serious problems

By Dani Palmer
Cannon Beach Gazette

If an earthquake were to shake the Oregon coast, the bridge over Ecola Creek likely wouldn't survive, making it even harder for people in downtown Cannon Beach to survive the following tsunami.

Because of the likelihood of a bridge collapse, the city's evacuation map guides residents and visitors south, toward midtown. It's a longer route that could eat up valuable time, Emergency Preparedness Committee Vice Chairman Les Wiererson said during a meeting Friday, Sept. 25.

The risk has prompted the committee to take a closer look at options, such as a replacement bridge, pedestrian bridge or a bridge relocation.

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Cannon Beach property owner prevails in state board decision

Jeff Nicholson wins OK for four homes on half-acre property

By R.J. Marx
Cannon Beach Gazette

An attempt to block the city's approval of a north-end development project got shut down last week with a decision by the state's Land Use Board of Appeals.

The city of Cannon Beach and Portland resident Jeff Nicholson won an OK to build and eventually sell three new homes on his 0.57-acre North Laurel St. property purchased in 2014 for \$900,000. A fourth home on the property will be rebuilt with a condition that the home's wood, beams and windows be salvaged.

"It was the decision we were hoping for," Will Rasmussen, an attorney who represented the property owner, said Monday. "The decision was, frankly, a win for Cannon Beach. LUBA decided that Cannon Beach followed all the rules they needed to follow in approving this."

After the city's Planning Commission denied Nicholson's application

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Community rallies as local kids battle leukemia

By Dani Palmer
Cannon Beach Gazette

Two local families received news no parent wants to hear, but they aren't alone in the fight. South County has pulled together to help the families of Isair Leon-Mejia, 6, and Taylor Burden, 2, both of whom were diagnosed with leukemia this summer.

On Sept. 22, Yasemin Gadelhak hosted an hour-long dance fitness class in Cannon Beach, raising \$1,500 for the families. Other events have been held to help, and Escape Lodging's Misty Kawasoe, who works with the Leon-Mejia family, said more are in the works. The community has also set up bank and GoFundMe accounts to provide medical assistance and support.

Isair's mother, Julie, said they began to notice something was wrong with her son around the Fourth of July. Isair was quiet, fatigued and had no appetite — unusual for the "food fanatic."

"We thought he was coming down with a cold," she said. "We didn't think much of it."

Julie and her husband, José, made a doctor's appointment for him, but Isair later developed a

fever and swollen glands while visiting family. They took him to the ER, where doctors initially thought he had strep throat. Then Julie questioned his symptoms.

Medical staff ran blood tests and started an IV immediately. Julie learned that Isair was anemic and possibly had leukemia, a blood cell cancer.

"Everything paused at that moment," she said. "I had to hold myself together."

Doctors gave Isair a blood transfusion and rushed him to Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland. His immune system was so weak, he was kept at the hospital for the next five days.

They ended up in a hotel until a room in the Ronald McDonald House opened. They stayed there before moving to a floor dedicated to Ronald McDonald at the Marriott.

Finally, on Sept. 8, the family got to come home.

"He really started progressing," Julie said.

When Isair blamed himself for the disease, his mother reassured him it was nothing he'd done.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Mariliz Leon-Mejia, 7, and her brother, Isair, 6, pose together at the hospital. Isair has leukemia and is undergoing treatment.

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