

CANNON BEACH GAZETTE



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Construction to begin at new Cannon Beach market

Natural produce, wide range of beer and wine among selections

By Dani Palmer
Cannon Beach Gazette

Tolovana Park will likely have a new multimillion dollar grocery, fully stocked, by next summer. With financing in place, Tim Welsh, his brother Jon Welsh and their

father James Welsh plan to begin construction and open Fresh Foods Cannon Beach in late-May or early June.

In April, the Welsh family members purchased a vacant lot at 3401 S. Hemlock St., across the street from the Tolovana Inn, near

the on-ramp to U.S. Highway 101. Site plans for the 10,000-square-foot market were approved by the Design Review Board at its May meeting. There will be 29 off-street parking spaces at the site, and a sidewalk will be added on the west side of the property.

On the shelves, product will lean heavily toward natural choices, Tim Welsh

said, but a “broad spectrum” of options will be available.

A full-service market, Fresh Foods Cannon Beach will offer a health and beauty section, “an incredible beer and wine selection,” a produce department, a meat and dairy section and a deli with soups and sandwiches along with a coffee bar.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Rendering of the new Cannon Beach Fresh Foods.

MIMOSA MADNESS!



DANI PALMER/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Lori Hill, of Portland, checks out the selection at the Wine Shack with her Pomeranian Jasmine during Mimosa Madness in Cannon Beach.

Cannon Beach does Black Friday its own way

The right speed for the holidays

By Dani Palmer
Cannon Beach Gazette

For those who didn't feel like battling large crowds to get sales items, Cannon Beach offered an alternative to the traditional Black Friday madness.

Cannon Beach held Mimosa Madness on Friday. Shops opened early and offered the best deals in the morning, along with free mimosas at select locations, in a more laid-back atmosphere. Gift wrapping was also available by donation in Sandpiper Square.

Part-time Cannon Beach resident Kathy Linderman is a fan of those mimosas, and books. It's what led her to the Cannon Beach Book Company.

Her first time at Mimosa Madness, Linderman said the shopping event was great.

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DANI PALMER/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Shoppers near the Driftwood Restaurant & Lounge check out their surroundings in Cannon Beach on Black Friday.

Cannon Beach to 'go its own way' on flood plain mapping

Residents may see big insurance savings

By Dani Palmer
Cannon Beach Gazette

New maps could offer flood insurance savings to Cannon Beach residents. But because of problems with North County mapping, it looked like South County's savings would be delayed. Cannon Beach was ready to make a request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency to adopt the maps, encouraged by business owners and citizens who said changes would lower costs. City Planner Mark Barnes had begun writing a draft.

FEMA acted first.

During a City Council Work Session Nov. 10, Barnes said FEMA decided to accelerate its adoption of Cannon Beach and Seaside maps, removing the need to send a letter. In an email exchange shared with Barnes, Stephen Lucker, mapping specialist with the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, asked FEMA engineer David Ratte if the agency was “preparing to separate out the Warrenton and Columbia Estuary work and move forward with the rest of the country.” Ratte answered yes.

'Tremendous' cost savings

Accuracy concerns in flood-prone areas affected by the Columbia River, near Warrenton and Astoria had stalled adoption of all mapping work throughout Clatsop County, when FEMA originally planned to approve the southern and northern portions of the county together.

North County agencies are now working together to complete an in-depth analysis and technical review of the draft flood maps.

“It is important for insurance payers throughout the county to get this right, and that's what we're determined to do,” Warrenton Mayor Mark Kujala told The Daily Astorian in August.

Flood plain maps have two significant uses: to set flood insurance rates and to provide cities with guidelines for regulation. In Cannon Beach, new construction in the flood plain is required to be above reach of the 100-year flood level.

Flood insurance rates rose significantly two years ago and subsidies were phased out last year.

Under the new maps, Cannon Beach's downtown comes out of the flood plain. Barnes has said “the cost savings there are tremendous.”

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The 'Blob' is no laughing matter as sea life suffers

Fishing, clamming seasons are slammed

By Dani Palmer
Cannon Beach Gazette

This year's fishing and clamming seasons have been poor or nonexistent with anomalies striking the Pacific Ocean.

Bill Peterson, a senior scientist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, spoke to a group of roughly 25 about the impact “the Blob” and a record setting algae bloom have had on the salmon and crab fisheries, along with other animals, during a Haystack Rock Awareness Program talk at the Cannon Beach Library on Nov. 18. The Blob is a large mass of warm water sitting off the coast of our continent, with potential long-term consequences to marine life.

Peterson has been live sampling off the coast of Newport every two weeks for the

last 20 years and has learned that events far from the Oregon Coast, such as El Niño from the equator and currents traveling from Alaska and California, have the most impact.

A good or bad fishing season depends on the current. Cold currents produce fat copepods — small crustaceans — that have hibernated to survive while warm currents produce skinner ones that are not as nutritious for salmon.

The Blob

In 2013, the Aleutian Low, a low pressure center located near the Aleutian Islands in Alaska, failed to develop and the upwelling season that helps replace warmer waters was among the shortest on record, Peterson said. There were no winter storms, so the water didn't mix, resulting in warmer temperatures and what scientists call the Blob.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Thresher sharks were among the species associated with warmer waters that turned up in research surveys in the Gulf of Alaska this summer.

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