



HAPPY NEW YEAR

CANNON BEACH GAZETTE



JANUARY 1, 2016 • VOL. 40, ISSUE 1

WWW.CANNONBEACHGAZETTE.COM

COMPLIMENTARY COPY

Planner deems Nicholson project 'complete'

Residents blast four-unit subdivision

By Andrew Tonry
Cannon Beach Gazette

Despite critical setbacks including decisions by City Hall and the state's Land Use Board of Appeals, the neighborhood group Friends of Cannon Beach remains opposed to Portland developer Jeff Nicholson's proposed four-

unit subdivision. Their words deserve to be heard, planning commissioners asserted Dec. 21, as they left a public hearing on the proposed developed at 532 N. Laurel St. open for further comment.

In an application process that is entering its second year, Nicholson seeks to turn a 24,800-square-foot lot with a 100-year-old cottage into four family-sized homes. Among those speaking in op-

position at the meeting was Rex Amos, who drew laughs with the assertion that Nicholson's attorney, Will Rasmussen, was "so smooth he could slide on barbed wire."

Amos added: "The applicant says he loves trees. He's been fined for illegally limbing his trees."

"I would like to make a comment about the retaining wall," resident Tommy Huntington said.

"The pictures that were submitted make it look like the Berlin Wall."

"I was there when they developed Chapman Point," Huntington added. "That was all pile driving and that damaged the majority of the homes."

Mike Capper also spoke in opposition, and of pile-driving. Some years ago he developed two houses directly abutting the proposed development at 532 N. Laurel St. Capper remembered

seeing those piles being pounded into place.

"The piles disappeared into that sand like toothpicks into whipped cream," Capper said. "I saw all 17 of those pilings disappear."

Since his own development, Capper said there are no known problems with the current structural integrity of those buildings.

See Nicholson, Page 10A



GEORGE VETTER FOR CANNON BEACH GAZETTE
Cannon Beach celebrates the holidays with lights and greenery.

Alliance urges 'collaborative' dune-grading approach

Breakers Point homeowners to 'regroup' in new year

By Dani Palmer
Cannon Beach Gazette

Cannon Beach has decided not to address foredune grading for the moment, but the battle over whether it should be permitted or not continues.

In November, Frank and Janet Patrick, along with multiple other Breakers Point homeowners, filed an application to grade 75,000 cubic yards of sand from the northwestern and southern land boundaries of the property. In their application, they stated landowners and their guests "cannot access the beach adjacent to the property due to impassable slopes created by drifting dunes artificially created through the planting of invasive European dune grass."

City Planner Mark Barnes sent the homeowners a letter stating the application was incomplete due to a number of factors. These included the need to address foredune grading in the oceanfront management overlay zone standards, comprehensive plan policies and to receive permission from other homeowners if their request was the same as a previous Breakers Point Homeowners Association request.

Cameron La Follette, executive director of the Oregon Coast Alliance, said her organization was disappointed by the latest application.

"It's important work. It should be collaborative," she said. "The new application, that's not working together."

She and others in opposition have said the city should be allowed to complete more research and update its sand management plan before any further dune-grading projects are approved.

Cannon Beach's last plan was completed in 1997 and expired in 2008. La

See Dunes, Page 10A

By Andrew Tonry
Cannon Beach Gazette

On the North Coast this time of year, the night sky can almost appear as dark as a vacuum. But for the month of December, Cannon Beach twinkled.

As a part of Cannon Beach in Lights nearly every downtown business strung up lines of colorful holiday bulbs, as well as window displays and other seasonally festive decorations.

Some really got into the spirit — it was, after all, a contest.

As decided by a public vote, the Hallmark Resort was awarded top honors amongst competing businesses. Their multi-tiered installation included a glowing snowman, piles of wrapped presents, wreathes, and an animated display featuring reindeer and a jumping frog.

"I was delighted to hear that we won," said Hallmark General Manager Kirby Blankenship. "A lot of the staff here really enjoy decorating for Christmas. We really enjoy making the place as festival as possible."



ANDREW TONRY PHOTO/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Window detail of a holiday lights and a snowman at Hallmark in Cannon Beach.

See Lights, Page 10A

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 97
ASTORIA, OR



KATHERINE LACAZE/EO MEDIA GROUP

Volunteers Don Boehm and Heidi Lent, with the Cannon Beach American Legion Post 168, unload boxes of food at the Shorewood Apartments on Dec. 23 as part of the organization's annual Christmas Basket Program.

Taking care of community

Cannon Beach American Legion Christmas Basket program delivers food, toys to serve up holiday cheer

By Katherine Lacaze
EO Media Group

Sometimes a lot of volunteers show up to help with American Legion Post 168's Community Christmas Basket Program; sometimes only a handful participate. But without fail, they get the job done, delivering several dozen boxes of food and toys to low-income households throughout Cannon Beach to brighten the holiday season.

Preparation for the annual program started Dec. 20, and during the next few days, food and other supplies were

brought to the American Legion and put into assembled boxes, or the "Christmas baskets." At the break of dawn Dec. 23, legion members gathered to distribute the boxes at the Elk Creek Terrace Apartments, the Shorewood Apartments and other households throughout town.

Don Boehm, who has participated since 1977 and oversees the program, said most volunteers "look forward to" helping with the program and come back time and again. However, planning for how many volunteers will help deliver each year "is a crapshoot," he said.

"I've learned, whoever shows up, just to make it work," he added.

In past years — the legion has done the program "for many, many years now," Post Commander Dan O'Reilly said — Cub Scout Pack 540, Cannon Beach Fire and Rescue, the Seaside Police Department, Seaside High School and other groups have sent volunteers to help on distribution day. This year, the helpers were few, but all the recipients got their boxes ahead of Christmas Eve.

See Baskets, Page 7A