

# Rescued sea turtle 'hanging in there'

By Dani Palmer  
Cannon Beach Gazette

A hypothermic sea turtle rescued in Cannon Beach and taken to the Seattle Aquarium for treatment is doing better, but isn't in the clear yet, according to aquarium staff.

"The turtle has shown slight improvement in the last 24 hours but is still in critical condition," said Tim Kuniholm, Seattle Aquarium director of public affairs. It is under the care of Dr. Lesanna Lahner, Seattle Aquarium's veterinarian.

As of late December, the turtle was still alive.

"It's not doing great, but it's still hanging in there," said Keith Chandler, general manager of the Seaside Aquarium. He uses the term "guardedly optimistic" when talking about the turtle's outlook.

Staff at the Seaside Aquarium rescued the male olive ridley sea turtle after it washed ashore south of Tolovana the morning of Dec. 14, likely pushed into colder waters by recent strong winds, aquarium Administrative Assistant Tiffany Boothe said. Juvenile olive ridleys sometimes travel in warm currents offshore.



DANI PALMER/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

An olive ridley sea turtle rescued by staff at the Seaside Aquarium lies in a kiddie pool covered with blankets.

"With the weather patterns, we weren't surprised to find one," Boothe said.

Seaside Aquarium staff wrapped turtle in blankets and slowly warmed it to avoid shock while awaiting U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pickup.

Live turtles are normally taken to the Oregon Coast Aquarium in Newport, but aquarium staff are already rehabilitating one found in Pacific City earlier this month. Newport and Seat-

le's aquariums are the only Pacific Northwest rehabilitation facilities authorized to provide the care sea turtles need.

Chandler said the survival chances for Tolovana's turtle are slim. At this stage, hypothermic and often injured in the surf, there's a 75 to 90 percent mortality rate for the turtles.

But if the Tolovana turtle survives, it will also be released into Californian waters. The reptiles often

hitch a ride with an agency such as the U.S. Coast Guard during a training trip, said Laura Todd, Newport Field supervisor for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

She noted that Cannon Beach's turtle was at 50 degrees when it arrived in Seattle. The turtle's normal temperature is in the low 70s.

Sea life rescuers expect to see more of the endangered turtles beached along

the coast with this year's El Niño. Todd said the turtles normally remain south of San Diego. However, she added, they do sometimes travel farther north in warm currents searching for food.

"When the conditions are right for one, they're right for several," Chandler said.

Last year, five sea turtles were found off the coast. Three were dead upon arrival and one died in transit. The fifth was successfully transported to San Diego.

On Monday, Dec. 21, two more olive ridley turtles arrived in the area, one in Seaview, Wash., and the other near Del Rey Beach, bringing the total to four for this year. Both were transported to the Oregon Coast Aquarium.

The one from Seaview had a head injury and died a few days after arriving at the aquarium. The one from Del Rey, who was found shortly after being washed ashore, Chandler said, was still alive and "doing OK" as of Dec. 30.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service urges anyone who finds a sea turtle on the beach to contact the Oregon State Police Wildlife Hotline at 800-452-7888.

## MEETINGS

**Tuesday, Jan. 5**  
Cannon Beach City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

**Monday, Jan. 11**  
Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District Board of Directors Meeting, 6 p.m., 188 W. 2nd St.

**Tuesday, Jan. 12**  
Cannon Beach City Council, work session, 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St. Tuesday, Jan. 5  
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**Tuesday, Jan. 19**  
Cannon Beach Public Works, 9 a.m., City Hall 163 E. Gower St.

Seaside School District, 6 p.m., 1801 S. Franklin St.

**Thursday, Jan. 21**  
Cannon Beach Design Review Board, 6 p.m., City Hall 163 E. Gower St.

**Thursday, Jan. 28**  
Cannon Beach Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

**Friday, Jan. 29**  
Cannon Beach Emergency Preparedness Committee, 10 a.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

# 'Welcoming pole' proposed for entrance of NeCus' Park

## Design is 10-foot-tall Clatsop tribesman greeting visitors

By Nancy McCarthy  
The Daily Astorian

For centuries, the area known now as Cannon Beach was a welcome place for members of the Clatsop, Nehalem and Tillamook tribes that fished and traded in a local village called NeCus.

Next year, a wooden statue of a young Clatsop man may beckon visitors coming to the village. The statue also

would be accompanied by two interpretive signs.

The Palette Group, a subcommittee of the city parks committee, is proposing that a 10-foot tall cedar "welcoming pole" be erected along the bank of Ecola Creek at the edge of NeCus' park. The statue of the young man, which would be seen from the Fir Street Bridge, will face the ocean, as tribal members once did when they greeted their guests.

The Palette Group submitted the proposal to the city's public arts committee Dec. 17 and requested that

the committee recommend it for a \$10,000 city grant.

If the statue is approved, it would be carved by master carver Guy Capoeman, of Quinalt, Wash. Some of Capoeman's family members are members of the Clatsop, Nehalem and Tillamook tribes, according to Dick Basch, vice chairman of the Clatsop-Nehalem Tribe.

During the Palette Group's presentation to the arts committee, Basch said that NeCus, Nehalem Bay and Point Adams at the mouth of the Columbia River were major fishing and trading destina-

tions for the tribes.

"They were traveling in the ocean in canoes, and they were so glad to get to a village," Basch said.

NeCus' Park is named after the former Indian village on the banks of Ecola Creek on the north side of Cannon Beach. It is located on what once was the playground at Cannon Beach Elementary School.

Members of the arts committee asked to see more of Capoeman's previous carvings. They also wanted to know what colors would be used, and they questioned

where the welcoming pole would be placed. But they need to have those answers this week because the grant, which funds one public art installment per year, won't be available after Dec. 31.

Basch said Capoeman, his sons and brothers are carvers. He learned his craft from his father.

If travelers entering Cannon Beach see the back of the pole, which will be carved out of a half of a cedar log, they will be intrigued and want to learn more, Basch said.

"That's part of the education of it," Basch said.

Arts committee member Hank Johnson noted that the proposed statue would have to be reviewed by the city's design review board.

"This is a lot more than we had talked about," said Johnson, looking at sketches of the design. "I like it a lot."

Palette Group Chairwoman Barbara Linnett said the proposed 10-foot pole is much different than the interpretive sign the group had originally sought.

"This is really a statement," Linnett said. "Especially seeing it as you come into town would be interesting."

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