



Cannon Beach fire execs stand pat

Special recall vote set for April

By R.J. Marx
Cannon Beach Gazette

A special election will be held in April on the recall of three Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District directors behind the firing of Mike Balzer as fire chief last October.

President Sharon Clyde and directors Linda Beck-Sweeney and Garry Smith chose to fight the recall rather than resign by Wednesday's deadline.

Beck-Sweeney and Smith is-

sued identical statements as Clyde — who announced her intention Tuesday — citing the board's "fiduciary responsibility to those who elected them to provide a high level of oversight, particularly in matters of management and administration."

Balzer was dismissed "when the majority of the directors, elect-



Sharon Clyde

ed by district voters, became concerned about his ability to perform the administrative skills required of the head of a public agency," according to the statements delivered to Clatsop County Clerk Valerie Crafard.

Clyde said the recall drive had a "chilling effect" on public awareness of the events prior to the termination.

Cannon Beach resident Susan Neuwirth, who initiated the recall, called the challenges "for the best."

"Hopefully, it will settle this issue once and for all, either way," Neuwirth said Wednesday. "If the townfolk want to reinstall them,

then so be it. If they would like a fresh start after many years of the same guard, then so be it. At least there has been a lot of healthy conversation regarding the importance of sitting on any board and the decisions they make. I believe this is particularly true when it involves life and property."

The special election is scheduled for April 5. If directors are recalled, the remaining board members would appoint new directors.

There are several residents who have expressed interest in serving, Neuwirth said.

"But since they weren't certain of the outcome, nobody has officially

thrown their hat in the ring," Neuwirth said.

Neuwirth said she would be proud to serve "if people would like me to."

"I'll wait and see what kind of comments are made by the public and Fire Department," Neuwirth added. "I do know this: The volunteers are very appreciative that all of this has come to light and the town has stood behind them. They will definitely have a much stronger voice in their department in the future."

Bob Cerelli and Mark Mekenas also serve on the board of directors.

Lyra Fontaine contributed to this report.



LYRA FONTAINE/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Doing a stretch at the Cannon Beach Yoga Festival.

YOGA FESTIVAL CONNECTING MIND AND BODY

Going beyond physical postures to lead a yoga lifestyle

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

It seemed fitting that sunshine lit up Cannon Beach Chamber Hall during a Saturday class on the fiery yellow solar plexus chakra, considered a spiritual point of the body.

Forty people flowed through postures focusing on the core — including spinal twists, bridge pose and cobra pose — to tap into the solar plexus, located by the stomach.

"The solar plexus is the center of our energy and confidence. It helps us find that fire to carry out our purpose to be our authentic selves," said the instructor, California yoga teacher Ericka Anntoinette, engaging the class in breath exercises called pranayama. "When we judge and criticize ourselves, it depletes this chakra."

Anntoinette encouraged students to repeat positive affirmations, such as "I am enough, I am worthy, I accept myself completely, I am confident, I am capable, I am strong, I am alive, I am beautiful and I love myself."

"Our thoughts create our reality," she said.

Jennifer Van Zeipel, who considered the festival an opportuni-



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ty to both practice yoga and network, took the class. "Yoga is my medicine," she said. "It keeps me stable."

Another student, Jane Cline, said she values yoga for its importance in the aging process. "It helps with balance and flexibility."

About 175 people — not including the 35 volunteers, teachers and assistants — attended the sixth annual Cannon Beach Yoga Festival from Feb. 26 to 29.

A grant for the Cannon Beach Tourism and Arts Fund made the festival possible. Courses focused on going beyond physical postures to tackle mind habits, learn Sanskrit, heal with gemstones, cultivate a positive "inner voice," foster anatomy awareness in asana, and lead a purpose-filled life.

One difference from last year's schedule was the addition of a Bollywood dance party. On Saturday night, yogis donned bright,

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City Council to decide city's need for weed

Whether it's on the ballot or not, ordinances must be in place

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

The Cannon Beach City Council will vote in April on whether to ask voters if they want to opt out of allowing marijuana shops.

The opt-out option could be on the November ballot.

If the City Council does not put the opt-out option on the ballot, the council can move forward with creating local time, place and manner restrictions on marijuana shops, such as location and hours of operation. If the November vote occurs and voters choose to not opt out, the time, place and manner restrictions must also be ready.

"I want to know if people in Cannon Beach actually want us to have a dispensary," City Councilor Wendy Higgins said at a March work session.

Councilor George Vetter said marijuana will soon "be accepted and used like alcohol."

He said he is reluctant to spend time and money to

"stop something that may not make any difference down the road."

Most councilors agreed on needing to have ordinances in place in case marijuana shops would be allowed.

Councilors Melissa Cadwallader and Mike Benefield agreed on restricting marijuana retail shops from being downtown, and Mayor Sam Steidel discussed creating time restrictions on shops.

Higgins said she would recommend adding restrictions for a marijuana shop near the preschool in Tolovana.

State law prohibits medical marijuana dispensaries and recreational marijuana retailers and wholesalers within 1,000 feet of a school. The prohibition does not apply to day care facilities or institutions like the Christian Conference Center.

Citizens can also put the opt-out choice on the ballot by initiative.

Steidel said he is concerned about citizens being able to take it to the voters, since "the initiative process is very difficult" and citizens may struggle with legal issues like not having the right signatures.

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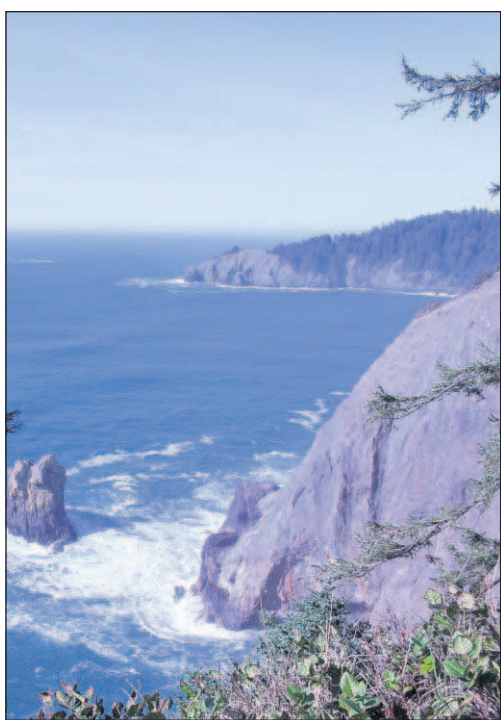
If it goes to the ballot

If the council approves sending it to the voters, residents would have the option to reject six activities:

- a medical marijuana processing site
- a medical marijuana dispensary

- retail marijuana producers
- retail marijuana processors
- retail marijuana wholesalers
- retail marijuana retailers.

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LYRA FONTAINE/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Oswald West State Park overlooks the adjacent Cape Falcon Marine Reserve.

Cape Falcon plays host to statewide summit

Marine reserve experts weigh in on changing ocean habitat

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

Where better to begin the conservation conversation than Cannon Beach? With designation of the new Cape Falcon Marine Reserve, the city and its neighbors are at the forefront of environmental protections.

"Locally, the marine reserve is a great opportunity to talk about ocean conservation," said Chrissy Smith, Friends of Cape Falcon coordinator.

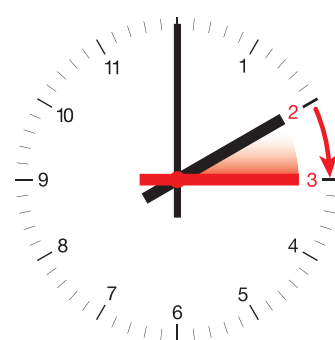
"The marine reserve gives us a place to come together and take a big, vast, nebulous ocean and give it a boundary."

"A Tide Change: Inspiring Engagement in Oregon's Marine Reserves," held by the Oregon Marine Reserves Partnership, included speakers from Oregon State University and researchers throughout Oregon. The event ended with a field trip to the recently designated Cape Falcon Marine Reserve.

More than 80 people — including state agencies, wildlife and conservation groups, professors, volunteers, city councilors, county commissioners, and other interested citizens —

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SPRING FORWARD



Daylight Saving Time starts on **Sunday at 2 a.m.** when clocks are turned to **3 a.m.** Sunrise and sunset will be about one hour later than the day before, which means there will be more light in the evening.