



School is out now for Cannon Beach Academy

Lack of money, student cancels district approval

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

Parents seeking an elementary school alternative were stymied as the Seaside School District revoked its conditional approval for Cannon Beach Academy.

The academy had been slated to open this fall, but failed to meet the three conditions set by the district in October: funding, adequate enrollment

and a state-approved English language learners program.

"Since Cannon Beach has failed the established conditions, the district revokes its conditional approval for (the academy) to operate as a charter school operating in the district," Superintendent Doug Dougherty and Superintendent-elect Sheila Roley said in a co-signed letter Thursday, March 17, to Cannon Beach Academy interim Executive Director Ryan Hull.

The letter stated the district was "committed" to seeing the charter school up and running and that Cannon Beach Academy could begin operating in fall 2017, if it meets the conditions.

Conditions unmet

The conditions, which were to be met by this month, were intended to ensure that the academy would be "financially, structurally and academically ready" to open in the fall.

Hull had asked the district for a time extension or to "simply remove" the three requirements.

The district refused an extension or to modify or eliminate the conditions.

One condition required the school have "all the money they need for the 2016-17 school year" in the bank, as well as a 10-percent contingency, amounting to a little more than \$450,000.

The academy had \$145,798 by March 1, falling more than \$300,000 short.

Although the district would have helped Cannon Beach Academy with operational costs, the charter school needed upfront funds because the district relies on Clatsop County property tax payments, most of which come in November, Dougherty and Roley wrote.

The charter school also fell short on enrollment. The district required a minimum of 22 enrolled students in both kindergarten and first-grade classes.

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SIPPING & SNACKING



Jennifer Gardner, of Milwaukie, tastes wine at a stop in Dogs Allowed.

PHOTOS LYRA FONTAINE/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Final push for Boneyard Ridge property purchase

Key Tillamook Head parcel headed for preservation

By R.J. Marx
Cannon Beach Gazette

A critical 360-acre land parcel on Tillamook Head will be transferred from timber property to conservation corridor.

On Monday North Coast Land Conservancy and GreenWood Resources signed a purchase and sales agreement for Boneyard Ridge on Tillamook Head for a purchase price of \$1.3 million. The purchase would create 3,500 connected acres from the summit of Tillamook Head to the Necanicum River Valley.

"This agreement as of Monday is a full purchase agreement," North Coast Land Conservancy Executive Director Katie Voelke said Wednesday. "Not only are all parties in, but we know what the cost will be, we've agreed on it, and we know what the closing date will be."

Both the land conservancy and property owner GreenWood Resources "feel Tillamook Head should be conservation land instead of timberland," Voelke said. "That way it really feels like a partnership."

Boneyard Ridge will serve as a link between Ecola State Park, which stretches along the Tillamook Head shoreline, and the land conservancy's Circle Creek Habitat Reserve in the Necanicum River floodplain west of Highway 101 at the south end of Seaside.

The site's dramatic name came from the discovery of elk bones by hunters on the property.

The conservancy's goal is to allow the land to mature into a complex rain forest of the kind that once characterized headlands all along the Oregon Coast.

The sale was stalled after ownership shifted from Campbell Global to GreenWood Resources, Voelke said.

"It had to go through a whole process again of review, approving it, looking at it against company goals," Voelke said. "That added a whole new layer to it."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Staff of North Coast Land Conservancy stands in a clearing on the Boneyard Ridge property.

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Epicurean delights at Savor Cannon Beach

Snobby? No, bring on the fun!

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

The Savor Cannon Beach Wine & Culinary Festival drew hundreds visitors from across the country and members of the Oregon Wine Brotherhood, a group of wine appreciators and winemakers.

The affair began six years ago as a wine walk benefiting the Cannon Beach Preschool & Children's Center. Competitions, gallery showings and street tours were part of this year's March 10-13 event.

Raleigh Hawthorne and Stacy Lee, from Tri-Cities, Washington, video blogged from the festival for their YouTube show, "Tri-Cities Wine Divas."

"A lot of people think wine is snobby, but we wanted to bring the fun," Hawthorne said.

"We've gone to a few wine festivals in Seattle and this is our favorite," said Amber McAlpin, from Seattle, who attended the event for the second year. "Everyone's really friendly and the winemaking happens nearby. People are close to the process."

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TOP: Julie Bottomley, of Tucson, Arizona, grabs a bite at Battle of the Blends and Bites.



BELOW: Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce executive director Court Carrier tastes wine at the Battle of the Blends and Bites.

Children's center to close after 39 years

With city help, Cannon Beach program to close 'gracefully' in April

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

The Cannon Beach Children's Center will close in April due to declining enrollment and financial troubles, a decision supported by the board and director.

The nonprofit children's center, founded in 1977, is losing about \$5,400 a month and spent down its savings, center representatives told City Manager Brant Kucera this month.

"The situation at this point is a dire need," said Christy Bisping, the children's center director. "To be able to close the program gracefully and give enough notice to our

parents, we need at least the \$10,500."

At a special meeting Wednesday, March 16, the City Council agreed to provide the children's center the remaining \$10,500 budgeted for this year to allow parents time to find alternative child care. The children's center had originally asked for more money, but the city lacks resources to provide the funds to a closing facility.

"I'm someone who has used the children's center and it's a wonderful facility, so personally I find it very tragic that it's going to go away," Kucera said.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Cannon Beach Preschool and Children's Center.

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