

# Academy fails to make the grade

Academy from Page 1A

Sixteen first-graders were enrolled as of March 1.

The academy did not provide information on how many prospective kindergarten students were planning to attend.

Dougherty and Roley said without enough students, the district would be unable to make necessary adjustments in programs, class size and staffing.

Cannon Beach Academy met the condition of providing a Common Core instructional plan. However, it lacked a state-approved English language learners program, the letter read. The program the school proposed to use was outdated. All charter schools are required to use programs approved by the state.

## The vision

Cannon Beach Elementary closed in 2013 for fi-

nancial reasons and fears for student safety. The building, now shuttered, lies in the tsunami inundation zone.

In 2013, community residents sought to bring a charter school to Cannon Beach, with the goal of hosting kindergartners through fifth-graders.

The school planned to open in fall at a temporary location at 171 Sunset Blvd., in a vacated space that once housed the Cannon Beach Athletic Club.

Last week, the Cannon Beach Design Review Board approved the academy's application for "major modifications" to the existing building, to convert the space into a charter school.

The school seeks to eventually settle into a permanent site south of town and east of U.S. Highway 101.



EO MEDIA GROUP/FILE PHOTO

**The temporary location of the Cannon Beach Academy at 171 Sunset Blvd.**

The district has denied the academy's proposal several times, citing lack of an adequate location and not enough startup funds.

In October, the Seaside School District board of directors unanimously approved a three-year contract with Cannon Beach Academy. Under the district's conditions, the charter school

would serve at least 44 kindergarten and first-grade students its first year. More grades could be added over time.

Hull declined to comment. In October, Hull said none of the conditions were unreasonable.

"I think we can achieve every condition imposed," he said at the time.



LYRA FONTAINE/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

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

## Record numbers attend food and wine festival

Savor from Page 1A

The festival had a record-breaking number of about 700 to 800 people attending, Savor Cannon Beach founder and director Gary Hayes said.

Lois Oliver-Miesbach from Portland and Vicki Golden-Roberts from Cannon Beach celebrated their birthdays — they fall about a week apart — at Savor Cannon Beach for the second year in a row. They hope to make it an annual tradition.

"We're seeing many of the same faces," volunteer Tracy Abel said.

To accommodate the festival's popularity, organizers added more events, increased the number of tickets and relocated crowded events from Chamber Hall into larger spaces like the Tolovana Inn.

Prominent event

The Wine Walk is the festival's most prominent event, with about 40 Northwest wineries offering tastings in galleries, shops, restaurants and hotels.

The event raised more than \$13,000 for the children's center, meeting the fundraising goal, Hayes said.

The festival received a Tourism and Arts Fund grant of \$37,667 this year, about 42 percent of the event's overall budget, with most funds designated for marketing.

The economic impact of this

year's event is likely more than last year, which was more than \$300,000, Hayes said.

Wine walk and more

The Wine Walk served as an opportunity to sample pinots and merlots while exploring local shops.

"We are seeing more of the city and galleries that we never would have gone to," said Kirstie Munson, from Vancouver, Washington.

Rick and Dawn Owens of McMinnville said they would be coming back next year.

"It's going to be on our calendar forever," Rick Owens said. "It's a good cause."

Savor Cannon Beach selected acclaimed or award-winning wines, Hayes said.

One new event, the Winemaker's Table, featured a tasting of 15 special wines from five winemakers.

The Thursday Night Throw-down, a tasting of 12 Northwest wines paired with appetizers by local chef Jonathan Hoffman, resulted in a 3-3 tie between Oregon and Washington wines.

Battle of the Blends featured four white blends and four red blends. Favorites were Cliff Creek Cellars 2014 MRV for white wine and Skylite Cellars 2012 Soirée for red wine. Chef Bob Neroni of EVOO Cannon Beach Cooking School won Friday night's Battle of the Bites with his savory sweet brie cheesecake.

## Center's location contributed to enrollment decline

Center from Page 1A

He added, "It's fiscally inappropriate for the city to do anything more than we've done at this point. We have this money budgeted and this would be a good reason to spend that money, to at least give people who have children in there some time."

The city budgeted a subsidy of \$63,000 for the children's center for this fiscal year. April's payment was delivered in March. The city's remaining portion of \$10,500 is for May and June.

The requested amount did not include \$13,500 raised for the children's center this year by the Savor Cannon Beach Wine Walk, which could come as late as June and will pay for debts on monthly expenses and parent refunds, Bisping said.

City Councilor Wendy Higgins asked why the situ-

ation was not brought to the city earlier.

"My hands were tied," Bisping said. She said she hadn't had access to financial records before it was too late.

The Tolovana Park building will become city property.

### Dropping enrollment

The children's center can hold up to 36 children but its current enrollment is 19, with six full time. Preschool enrollment is lower than usual.

"Either people are leaving for one reason or another or they're dropping their enrollment to part-time," Bisping said, citing efforts made to raise enrollment in her eight months as director. "Through the short time that I've been here, it has steadily decreased. That was a problem before I came."

The location contributed to the enrollment problem, she said, and families likely switched to more convenient locations, such as Seaside.

"These children could find additional care closer to them," she said. "There are not a lot of families in Cannon Beach looking for child care."

"There's a point of closing graciously," board secretary Jennifer Barrett said. "We looked at numbers and it's hard to forecast what's going to happen in the future. ... You're going to lose parents; you're going to lose teachers."

"At some point we're going to have a baby boom and we're going to need (the children's center) again," Mayor Sam Steidel said. "Thank you for all your efforts." Councilors agreed city demographics were not advantageous for a child care center, and discussed possible long-term solutions, such as attracting younger families with affordable housing.

Benefield said the citizen survey results could help identify solutions.

"Even if we can attract families, they have to be able to afford to live here," Higgins said, adding that many Cannon Beach low-income families get child care from family.

### Almost closed in 2011

The children's center almost closed its doors in 2011, board president Barb Knop said after the meeting, but the board cut expenses and worked together to keep it open.

"I am very emotional about the closing. I have spent five years of hard work volunteering to keep the center open," Knop said in an email. "I feel it is a huge loss for Cannon Beach. I hope to be able to open a center again in Cannon Beach when possible. I would like to thank the city and our many businesses and individuals who supported the center throughout the years."

## Playing safe at the beach

### Be beach smart. Even though the beach is fun, you need to play safe.

The Oregon Coast is a great place to visit. Whether you are looking for seashells, building sand castles or exploring tide pools, the beach can be a lot of fun.

Remember, the ocean has dangerous waves, logs, rocks and cliffs. Talk to your family and friends about how to play safe on the beach.

### Beware of rip currents.

Rip currents are strong currents of water that rush out to sea. They can form on any beach that has breaking waves. If you look closely, you can see a rip current. It will have dark muddy water and be very choppy. You might see foam and other debris floating out to sea. If you see a rip current, stay away! They are very dangerous.

If you are ever caught in a rip current, don't panic. Try to relax and swim parallel to the beach. Don't try to fight the current. If you have trouble swimming, tread water and call for help.

Parents: Be sure always to watch your children closely when they are playing in and around water.

### Don't climb on drift logs.

Logs on wet sand or in the water are especially dangerous. The ocean is strong enough to pick up even the biggest log and drop it on top of you. If you see a log on wet sand, stay off of it.

### Be aware of incoming tides.

Tide pools can be so interesting that you might lose track of time. Make sure you know when the tide is coming in so that you don't get stranded. Free tide tables, available at state park offices, information centers and many shops and motels, list the times of high and low tides.

### Be careful on cliffs and rocks.

Ocean spray and heavy rains can make rocks and trails slippery and unsafe. Stay on marked trails and behind all fences. They are there for your safety. When hiking, make sure you wear the right type of shoes. Stay away from cliff edges. Don't stand under overhanging cliffs, which can be dangerous.

### Beware of sneaker waves.

Watch out for "sneaker waves." These are waves that appear suddenly and are unusually large. They rush up on the shore with enough force to knock you down and drag you out to sea. Keep your eyes on the ocean.

### Understand tsunamis.

There are two types of tsunami warnings that you need to be aware of: a distant event and a local event.

With a distant event, you will be alerted by sirens located throughout the city. Proceed by foot and follow the posted evacuation route signs to higher ground.

With a local event, you will feel a powerful earthquake. Take immediate cover until the earthquake subsides, then go immediately to higher ground on foot, following the posted evacuation routes.



### Know who to call when you need help. In an emergency, call 911.

- **Providence Seaside Hospital**  
725 S. Wahanna Road, Seaside, OR 97138  
503-717-7000
- **Providence Medical Group-Seaside**  
with walk-in availability  
727 S. Wahanna Road, Seaside, OR 97138  
503-717-7060
- **Providence Medical Group-Cannon Beach**  
with walk-in availability  
171 N. Larch, Suite 16, Cannon Beach, OR 97110  
503-717-7400
- **Providence Medical Group-Warrenton**  
with walk-in availability  
171 S. Highway 101, Warrenton, OR 97146  
503-861-6500

**For Providence Medical Group appointments or to check walk-in availability, call the nearest north coast clinic listed above.**

Providence.org/northcoast

