



## FIRE BOARD RECALL ELECTION

# Fire directors win a vote of confidence

### Cannon Beach fire directors will stay on board

By Lyra Fontaine  
Cannon Beach Gazette

Three directors of the Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District targeted for recall for firing Mike Balzer as fire chief pre-

vailed in Tuesday night's election. Sharon Clyde, Garry Smith and Linda Beck-Sweeney will remain in office. Two other directors, Mark Mekenas and Bob Cerelli, were not subject to the recall.

Clyde said she was "extremely happy" with the vote. "I would like to thank all the members of our district that supported all three of us that were subject to this recall attempt," she said in a state-

ment. "We won't let you down." Interim Fire Chief Jim Stearns congratulated the directors. "I am happy that folks who are willing to give up their time and serve on a volunteer basis can continue doing that," he said.

The vote was a strong validation of the board's decision to fire Balzer in October.

Voters opposed recalling Clyde by a 55 percent to 45 percent margin, according to the

Clatsop County Clerk's Office, while voters were behind Smith and Beck-Sweeney 57 percent to 43 percent.

### The history

Cannon Beach resident Susan Neuwirth organized the recall drive after Neuwirth and others criticized the board's handling of Balzer's firing.



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Election workers count ballots in the Judge Guy Boyington Building on Tuesday.

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## STARTING A CULINARY CAREER CONFIDENTLY



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Christian Culinary Academy director and chef-instructor Ira Krizo (center) cooking with this year's students at the Christian Culinary Academy: Jordan Neahring, Anna Strand, Morgan Georgioff and Christopher Keller.

### Christian Culinary Academy aims to be a 'light' in the industry

By Lyra Fontaine  
Cannon Beach Gazette

"Hell's Kitchen" may just be a reality television show, but Ira Krizo said the culinary industry can be cutthroat. "I've seen knives thrown," joked Krizo, the president of Christian Chefs International and the Christian Culinary Academy.

The academy, located in a downtown Cannon Beach building overlooking the ocean, offers a one-year intensive program for Christians to enter the food-service industry "with confidence" and re-

ceive a Certificate in Culinary Arts. Just last month, the school was the site of the seventh annual Christian Chefs International conference.

"We focus on how to be a light in the culinary industry," Krizo said. "This is a foundation of who we are, and this is how you can cope and do very well in the industry."

Combining hands-on kitchen training, classroom learning and mini-internships with several weekly hours of devotions and Bible study, Christian Culinary Academy aims to help students manage the profession's demands while being "effective witnesses."

Courses include topics like culinary

fundamentals, culinary math, nutrition, regional cookery and food-service management.

Students are trained to be cooking professionals with a Christian mindset, such as living with "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." It's the only school of its kind, Krizo said.

### A vision for a culinary school

A West Coast native, Krizo has been in the culinary industry since 1995. While

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## City says no to ban on cannabis

### Council to develop time, place, manner guidelines

By R.J. Marx  
Cannon Beach Gazette

The path was cleared for licensing the sale of cannabis in Cannon Beach, one of the last cities in the South County to do so.

By voting down a ban, the city opened the door to dispensaries and recreational sales.

Despite the success of state Measure 91 allowing recreational sale and possession of small amounts of marijuana — approved by 63 percent of Cannon Beach voters in November 2014 — the city only licenses businesses which abide by local, state and federal law, which excludes pot. After hearing opinions from both sides of the issue, councilors considered an array of options, including to opt out of state law and maintain a ban on marijuana sales.

Voters "can override our proposed ban, or they can override our acceptance," Councilor Mike Benefield said before joining Mayor Sam Steidel and councilors George Vetter, Mike Benefield and Melissa Cadwallader in voting to overturn the prohibition.

Wendy Higgins was the sole councilor to vote to renew the ban.

### Limitations, tax ahead

In coming months, the council will consider time, place and manner rules regarding where marijuana may be sold within the city.

Benefield indicated he opposed its sale in the downtown commercial area.

There are already limitations in place, Herdener said at previous meetings. Dispensaries must be located more than 1,000 feet from schools. The prohibition does not apply to day care facilities or institutions like the Christian Conference Center.

Marijuana will be on the ballot in November in any case, as councilors also voted 4-1 to approve a 3 percent tax on its sale, a tax that must be endorsed by voters.

"Because we can tax doesn't mean we should tax," Vetter said in opposing the levy.

Vetter, the sole dissenter, said it was unfair to single out or "burden a potential business even more" with an additional tax.

"We're not doing it to fatten our budget," Cadwallader said. "The council would look for the 3 percent to be used for treatment and enforcement."

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## Authors and readers to gather for fifth annual Get Lit

### A stellar lineup at annual festival

By Lyra Fontaine  
Cannon Beach Gazette

Get Lit at the Beach returns to Cannon Beach from April 8-10, offering book lovers the chance to spend time with best-selling and award-winning authors. Fans can attend author discussions, signings and a keynote dinner presentation.

This year, acclaimed writers with either a movie or television show offer based on one of their books headline the fifth annual Tolovana Arts Colony literary event.

A committee, which includes Brooks, chooses authors

to present at Get Lit each year. Authors' books will be available for purchase at the event.

Event organizer Tracy Abel first became involved with Get Lit as an attendee.

"I went to see an author of one of my favorite books, but left the event with many more favorite books and authors," she said.

New York Times best-selling fantasy author Terry Brooks, the master of ceremonies for previous Get Lit events, is a featured author this year. He has written 35 books, but may be best known for his 25-book "Shannara" series, recently made into an MTV television series, "The Shannara Chronicles."

This isn't Brooks' first brush with screen adaptations. He was personally asked by George Lucas to write a novel-



SUBMITTED PHOTO/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Author Elizabeth Engstrom, one of the authors presenting at "Get Lit."

ization of "Star Wars Episode 1: The Phantom Menace."

With about 100 expected attendees, the "intimate" event offers the unique experience of meeting and talking to prominent authors for more than just a book signing, which is why



SUBMITTED PHOTO/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Author Jess Walter, from Spokane, Wash., will speak on the craft of writing.

many return year after year, Abel said. Each attendee has several opportunities to meet the presenting writers.

The gathering opens with an authors' reception Friday evening at the Cannon Beach Chamber Hall. On Saturday,



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Author Terry Brooks, formerly a master of ceremonies at the event, is a featured author.

Brooks, Elizabeth Engstrom and Jonathan Evison will give individual talks on their lives and craft, answer questions and sign books at the Surfsand Resort Ballroom. Keynote speaker

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