

# New Cannon Beach police officer set on serving the community

*Astoria native brings military and academic experience to department*

By Lyra Fontaine  
Cannon Beach Gazette

Astoria native Matthew Nunnally, 27, recently returned to the Oregon Coast after about 10 years of serving in the U.S. Marine Corps and attending college in California.

He is now about four weeks into his job as Cannon Beach's newest police officer.

"I'm very grateful for this opportunity and humbled to be here," he said. "I love this community, always have. I'm just excited to make my career here and my family's really excited."

Nunnally served in the U.S. Marine Corps for four active years and eight years total, conducting military operations in eight countries, including Afghanistan. During his time as a Marine, he also went to countries like Singapore, Germany, Ireland, Bahrain, Kuwait and Djibouti.

Growing up, the Astoria High School graduate had the goal of joining the military, then becoming a police officer. He has worked with the Astoria Fire Department.

"I've always stood for justice and standing up for others," he said. "I grew up wanting to serve the country and then the community."

At his new job, he is learning "a whole new set of skills," including various legal aspects, violations and policies, and a different radio alphabet, since the codes used on the police department's radio differs from those he used in the military.

"Out of everything I've done, police training is the most pressure I've felt to do it right and succeed," he said.

While military training was separate from operations and more extensive, with an emphasis on "mind over matter," Nunnally said law enforcement training must be picked up quickly and on the job.

"There's a lot more pressure to make sure you're actually doing it right a lot sooner than you were in the military, because of the immediacy and reality of the situation," Nunnally said. "You're basically on deployment every time you go to work, versus in the military you do a bunch of training and then you go deploy and do the real thing."

Being proficient on the radio is just one important aspect of his training. "You don't want to tie up air space so other offices and personnel can have that for what they need."

Police officers not only search and assess threats but also evaluate code violations and ordinances, he said.

"There's so much multitasking. I love it. It's a really neat experience."



Police Officer Matthew Nunnally and his wife Lisa, with Chief Jason Schermerhorn sworn in at the Cannon Beach City Council meeting April 5.

Nunnally is no stranger to multitasking. While going to college in California, he ran a small fugitive recovery business with five employees, contracting through various bail bondsmen to find people who skipped bail.

"That was my first time tangibly working with civilian law enforcement," he said.

He received an associate's degree from Saddleback College and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Asuza Pacific University. While juggling academics and a small business, he played football, track and field, and rugby.

"All of my previous experiences are absolutely helping me," he said, "everything from education to my real-world experience."

In California, Nunnally felt a pull to move back to his hometown.

"I missed the coast so much," he said. "I was grateful and excited to move back home."

Nunnally now lives in Astoria again, with his wife, Lisa, 7-year-old daughter, Macie, and 2-year-old son, Talon. He said his family is "amazing."

"My son just loves sword fights and battles all day. I call him 'my little Viking,'" he said. "My daughter is a sweetheart. She's into mermaids and unicorns right now. It's a lot of fun. We do everything from hiking and going up in the woods to going to the arcade and the beach."

After coming back to Clatsop County after ten years of living elsewhere, Nunnally noticed an increase in drug problems, one issue he wants to hone in on during his time as officer. He remembers businesses being open later and having "more access to things to do" when he was a teenager.

"I absolutely want to get drugs off the street and enforce that because that's something that is very impactful on the community and families," he said.

The problem is personal for him.

"It seems like a lot of people I went to school with are really struggling (with drugs) and that is really unfortunate. I've noticed that it's impacted a lot of really good families."

Fittingly, Nunnally has begun field training with Officer Josh Gregory who, along with K-9 dog Gunner, is involved in drug enforcement.

"It's been awesome getting to work with him and Gunner," Nunnally said.

In between his five weeks with Officer Gregory and training with other officers, Nunnally will go to the police academy in May for 16 weeks, where he will receive his certificate.

"I'm excited to be working for Jason (Schermerhorn)," he said of the department's police chief. "He's really done a lot of amazing things not just for the department here but the whole community and is very involved." Though he hopes to further his education to eventually obtain a master's degree in marriage and family therapy, Nunnally said he is committed to having "a long career" at the department. "I want to focus on first and foremost being a proficient police officer here and serving the community well."

Nunnally was chosen out of 30 applicants.

"This is the department I thought I was going to have to work somewhere else for five to 10 years, get experience and then make a lateral move over here," he said. "Now I get to actually start where I wanted to end up."



TIFFANY BOOTHE/SEASIDE AQUARIUM

A northern right whale dolphin, a species normally found in warmer waters, beached in Seaview, Washington.

## Stranded dolphin a species rarely seen on North Coast

By Natalie St. John  
EO Media Group

SEAVIEW, Wash. — A type of dolphin rarely seen in this area died on the beach south of Seaview Sunday, April 10.

Police received a report of a stranded dolphin that was injured, but still alive, around 8 p.m., Sgt. Tony Leonetti of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife said in an email.

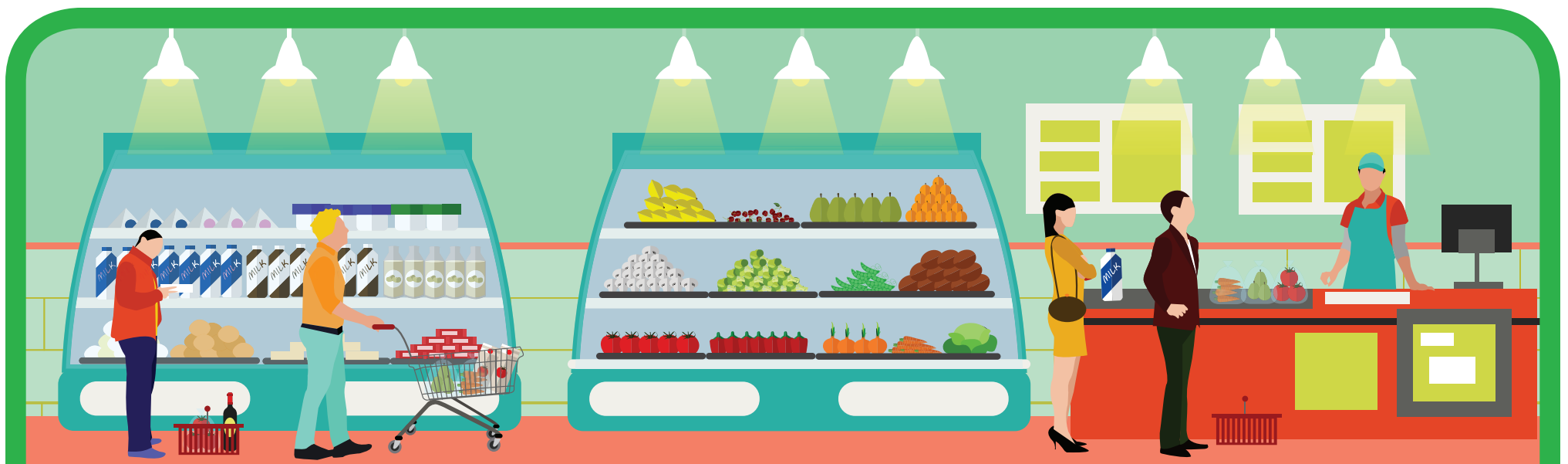
The male northern right whale dolphin "appeared to have a large laceration on its fin and along its side," Leonetti said. Responders attempted to put it back into surf, but the "dolphin appeared to be exhausted and was unable to swim."

Wildlife officers notified marine mammal experts at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Seaside Aquarium, but no one was immediately available to respond to the animal, and experts believed it was already too late to save him.

"There wasn't anything we could do for him," Tiffany Boothe of the Seaside Aquarium said. Boothe said responders don't know yet if the cut caused the dolphin's death.

"Most likely it was sick. When a cetacean is on the beach, there's usually a reason. Most of the time they're sick," she said.

Boothe is part of the Oregon Marine Mammal Stranding Network, a coalition of scientists and volunteers who help with rescue and recovery of stranded ocean mammals and research the causes of strandings. She and her aquarium colleague Keith Chandler coordinate responses to beached whales, dolphins, sea lions, seals and other marine mammals on the northern Oregon and southern Washington coasts.



## FRESH FOODS CANNON BEACH

**We are looking for about a total of 30 employees!**

**Full and part time positions to come on board between now and June 1st:**

- 3 full time produce clerks
- 3 barista positions
- 3 deli clerk/baristas
- Numerous grocery clerks and cashiers

**COMPENSATION PACKAGE:**

- \$12-\$20 hr
- AFLAC Accident Policy (full paid)
- Paid vacation
- Paid sick time
- Matching 401k
- Flexible spending account program
- Employee discount
- Medical insurance (full time)
- Bonus program (certain positions)

**Cannon Beach and Manzanita locations**



**WORK IN A BRAND NEW BUILDING!**

