

Cannon Beach torn over school purchase

Elementary school closed because of safety concerns

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

For sale: Former school property in a tsunami zone. To build or renovate.

City councilors are close to deciding whether or not to purchase the former elementary school that closed in 2013 due to student safety concerns.

The property, which is owned by the Seaside School District, is on the north end of town, south of Ecola Creek and about one-fourth of a mile from the ocean.

While most of the campus is unusable, the gymnasium offers promise for future community activities like concerts and other events.

"The bottom line is the building is in pretty good shape," said City Manager Brant Kucera, noting the harsh weather the gymnasium has endured. "That is good news if you're looking to save and restore that building."

An August report from Amodeo Structural Engineering on the gymnasium was delivered to the City Council earlier this week.

According to the assessment, the wood-framed gym, built in the early 1950s, appears to be in good condition.

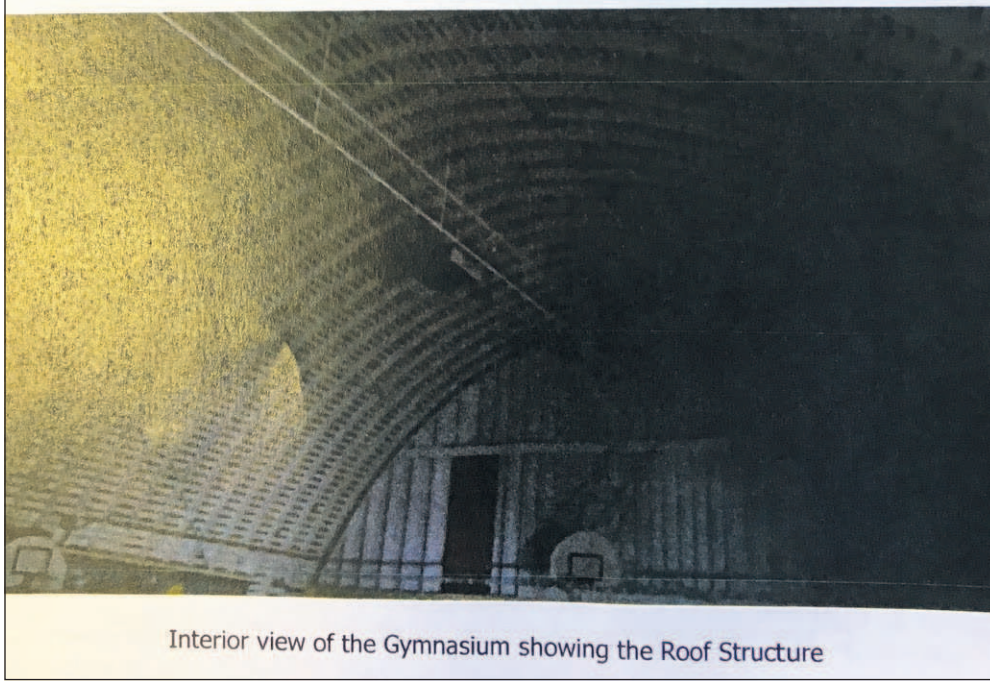
The observations "did not reveal any locations of significant damage, distress, deterioration, dry rot or excessive deflection," the engineering report stated.

Coaster Construction general contractor John Nelson quickly walked through the gymnasium on behalf of the city to roughly estimate the cost of making it habitable and up to code. The cost of interior and exterior renovations, including a 25 percent contingency, would be about \$371,000.

"We know very roughly what it would potentially



Exterior view of the Gymnasium from the Southwest



Interior view of the Gymnasium showing the Roof Structure

SUBMITTED PHOTO/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

An engineering analysis showed the former Cannon Beach Elementary School gymnasium is in good structural condition.

cost," Kucera said. "It's yet another thing for you to consider as we move forward with this."

The \$450,000 cost to purchase the property, and \$250,000 to demolish the building and restore the lawn, were included as placeholders in the city budget. Instead of demolition, restoring the gymnasium could be an option.

The estimate does not include other costs, such as

operating the building, adding restrooms and making aesthetic improvements. Operating costs could be about \$50,000 a year.

"For this project, I would envision probably spending the contingency plus," Public Works Director Dan Grassick said.

Despite costs and the building's location in the tsunami zone, Kucera said there might be value in investing in the space for the community.

Mayor Sam Steidel said the city could decide what to do with the gymnasium after purchasing the property.

Councilors, who should decide by the end of the year, discussed how the building could become a viable asset for the city and the possibility of residents raising funds for a project.

"Once it becomes occupiable, then you have the potential for fundraising," Steidel said.

Seaside toddler murder trial up

Roden's death penalty trial could last up to two months

By Kyle Spurr
EO Media Group

Clatsop County's first death penalty trial in 15 years started last week in Circuit Court.

Randy Lee Roden, 28, is on trial for allegedly murdering his girlfriend's 2-year-old daughter and abusing her two sons while they all lived together in a Seaside apartment. The gruesome scene discovered in December 2014 is described as among the worst child-abuse cases in the county.

Evidence

The District Attorney's Office believes it has enough physical evidence and expert opinion to connect the crimes to Roden. The state will present evidence showing the 2-year-old, Evangelina Wing, and her brothers were tortured, burned, bitten and caged in the Seaside apartment their mother, Dorothy Wing, shared with Roden.

Evangelina Wing apparently died of battered child syndrome with blunt force trauma to her head. Blood spatter was found in almost every corner of the apartment, staining holiday decorations and the wall behind a Christmas tree.

Roden's defense is that he did not commit the

crimes. His lawyer, Conor Huseby, is adamant that someone else is to blame, possibly the children's mother.

Dorothy Wing, 26, pleaded guilty in January to first-degree manslaughter and two counts of first-degree criminal mistreatment. She was sentenced to more than 15 years in prison, contingent on her truthfully testifying at Roden's trial.

Witnesses

Roden's trial could last up to two months. Trial days will be Tuesday through Friday, with occasional time off of those days if a session finishes early or the court has an emergency hearing in another case.

Multiple witnesses for the prosecution and defense will testify. Many are traveling from Georgia, where Roden grew up.

The prosecution will call two of Roden's ex-girlfriends, who can detail a pattern of violence against women and children.

One ex-girlfriend, who dated Roden from March to July 2014, will testify that Roden was very controlling with her and the children, threatened to move out and warned he would commit suicide in order to control her behavior, according to court documents.

Roden is serving an eight-year prison sentence for violating probation from a domestic violence conviction in 2013 Roden, according to Chief Deputy District Attorney Ron Brown in a court document.

The art of Stirling Gorsuch

On Saturday, Oct. 8, at 6 p.m., Stirling Gorsuch's exhibit "Oregon Visions" debuts at the Cannon Beach History Center and Museum. Gorsuch is a Cannon Beach native. The exhibit will be on display through November.

The pieces for "Oregon Visions" span the last few

years of his work, which was inspired by the landscapes of Oregon. x

The museum is open from 1 to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Monday at 1387 South Spruce St. For more information about this exhibit visit cbhistory.org, or call 503-436-9301.

MONTHLY LECTURE SERIES

History and Hops tells saga of Seaside

The next History & Hops free local history lecture takes place Thursday, Sept. 29, at 6 p.m. at Seaside Brewing Co., 851 Broadway.

Attendees will be traveling back through the ages to 100 years ago, circa early 1900s, as the program skims the headlines from bygone days in Seaside.

The saga of Seaside, from its humble beginnings as east and west Seaside will be told through anecdotal history and headlines from the Seaside Signal and Seaside Historical Society.

One hundred years ago, the talk of the town ran the gamut from bear-hunting and trash-dumping to ladies' "social and genteel entertainment."



Esther Moberg

Lecturer Esther Moberg is the Seaside Public Library director. She grew up in Astoria and has a master's degree in library science and a bachelor's degree in organization administration.

She has accumulated more than 16 years' experience through her work in six public, school, and academic libraries. Moberg is the current vice chair of the Oregon Digital Library Consortium.

History & Hops is a monthly series of local history discussions hosted by the Seaside Museum at Seaside Brewing Co. For more information, contact Steve Wright, President, Seaside Museum, at 503-738-7065 or 503-984-5324.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Miss Clara Gilman as librarian (behind the desk), circa 1919 in the old soldiers and sailors club reading room.

If you go

WHAT: History & Hops free local history lecture

WHERE: Seaside Brewing Co., 851 Broadway

WHEN: Thursday, Sept. 29, at 6 p.m.

COST: Free

CALL: Steve Wright, President, Seaside Museum, at 503-738-7065 or 503-984-5324

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