

Puffins return to Haystack Rock

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fish — as possible before the volunteer with the predator eagle puppet could tag you.

The day was one of many in “12 days of Earth Day,” the eighth annual, citywide celebration of Earth Day. Each day is filled an activity or presentation that seeks to celebrate the preservation of Cannon Beach’s unique, natural gifts, HRAP program

coordinator Melissa Keyser said. Altogether the events usually attract about 1,000 people, she said.

“Cannon Beach is such a unique, stewardship based community,” Keyser said. “Earth day is about the coalescence of that, and we have 12 days leading up to it to focus on sustainability and stewardship.”

Upcoming events include a bird walk along Ecola

Creek, a marine debris art contest, where artists are tasked with creating pieces no larger than 2 cubic inches entirely out of trash found on the beach, and an environmental street fair.

Barb Knop, an integral organizer and one of the core founders of the celebration, said the goal is and always has been to educate the public.

“We want to get across

that every day is Earth Day,” Knop said.

Another goal this year is to recruit younger folks around the community to help carry on the legacy, she said.

“We have a lot of core people retiring from the Parks & Community Services Committee, so we are looking for more volunteers to keep this going,” she said. “It has become a part of the people of Cannon Beach’s lives.”



BRENNIA VISSER/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Erin Hofseth shows students barnacles on Haystack Rock during Puffin Welcome.

Bengel to edit Coast Weekend, Our Coast

Former Cannon Beach reporter takes reins

By Edward Stratton
EO Media Group



Erick Bengel

Since college, Erick Bengel has jumped back and forth between the hard news and features sections of the papers he’s worked at.

A reporter for the EO Media Group since 2013, Cannon Beach residents know Bengel as a reporter for the Gazette until 2015. Bengel was recently named the features editor of Coast Weekend, Weekend Break and Our Coast. Although learning in a trial by fire, Bengel said the transition feels natural.

“I think arts and culture is kind of my home,” he said. “Sometimes when I write news stories, straight newsy style, I feel like I’m trying to adopt an accent ... I feel like I have

to kind of throw my voice to sound like somebody I’m not.”

Bengel grew up in Albany and attended Southern Oregon University, where he studied English literature and philosophy.

“I started out as a news writer for Portland State (University’s) Vanguard” student newspaper, he said. “I was kind of going through a phase where I was just trying different activities to see if I was good at them.”

After contributing the Vanguard and Ashland Daily Tidings, Bengel joined The Daily Astorian as an intern through

the Charles Snowden Program for Excellence in Journalism, his first full-time journalism job. After his internship, Bengel returned to Portland State, where he was arts and culture editor for the Vanguard, before being named the paper’s editor in chief. In August 2013, he became a reporter at The Cannon Beach Gazette, and in 2015 transferred to The Daily Astorian, covering the cities of Astoria and Warrenton and quality of life issues.

“Every year, I said ‘This is my last year,’ whatever it was I was doing,” he said. “But somehow, I was able to parlay one job into the next, just kept going. And the arts and culture editorship is probably the most fun I’ve ever had.”

The handoff

He’s not a fully functioning editor yet, but Bengel said he’s taking over a well-oiled machine from Rebecca Sedlak, who held the position for the past 4½ years before taking a

position with the Oregon Society of Certified Public Accountants.

“She has an extraordinary sense of organization,” he said. “I think it’s going to be extremely important. Right now, I’m trying to understand how she did things organizationally, the structures that she built to keep herself and her writers on track.”

Rather than helping groom aspiring writers at the college level, Bengel said, he’ll have the advantage of working with trained professionals who already have a voice. Part of his imprint on Coast Weekend, he said, will be to increase the journalistic substance of Coast Weekend.

“We want the writing to sound less like publicist writing, less press release-y,” he said. “Obviously it’s going to be replete with press releases and all of that, but when it comes to the actual feature stories, I want there to be a bit more of an edge to it.”



BRENNIA VISSER/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Cannon Beach Police Chief Jason Schermerhorn presents a draft of a resolution to become an inclusivity city at a city council work session, April 11.

Council mulls resolution

Resolution from Page 1A

The draft resolution does specifically prohibit “the use of city funds, personnel or equipment for the enforcement of federal immigration law,” reinforcing existing Oregon state law on the matter.

The council passed a motion to hear the resolution at the next city council meeting, which was met with a round of applause from audience of about 30 attendees.

Mayor Sam Steidel ap-

plauded the resolution’s similarities to Astoria’s.

“I was very impressed with how Astoria’s resolution worked,” Steidel said.

While the resolution is a start, Schermerhorn still wants to address building a better connection with folks in the Latino community.

“We would lose a lot of valued people in town if our community continued to live in fear,” he said. “We want to grow this relationship.”

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cannon beach GAZETTE

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First Review: May 3, 2017

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