



DEDICATION TO THE SAND

Sandcastles take over Cannon Beach in 53rd contest

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

In its 53-year existence, those who participate in the Cannon Beach Sandcastle Contest have come to expect that the day's grandiose sand sculptures will be erased by the elements by the next morning's break.

While there is nothing to be done to control the Pacific Ocean's tide, event organizers tried to preserve more of what they can of these creations.

"Every year we are so exhausted that no one wants to watch the sculptures," event organizer Debbie Nelson said. "But we want to save them from kids jumping on them and vandals so people can enjoy them longer. So we got a guard to protect them overnight."

The Sandcastle Contest began in 1964 as a way to boost spirits after a tsunami. Today it attracts on average 15,000 people.

For one day every year, the beach

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Mick and Audrey Forliens make their own version of a sandcastle.

City delays timed parking

Council paves way for continuing discussion

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

Timed parking in Cannon Beach has been put on hold after complaints from the community.

The original plan approved by the City Council was to enforce a three-hour parking limit over the summer on Hemlock Street between First and Third streets, as well as on First through Third between Hemlock and Spruce streets.

The pilot area was chosen after a parking study surveyed the two busiest days of spring break, and found that Hemlock is the first to fill up. The restriction would help the city reach its goal of creating 50 new spots by the end of 2018.

While some business owners welcome the turnover, others worry that timed parking will adversely affect parking for employees and will rush customers.

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Storyteller takes on a new role

Arch Cape native
Doug Deur on state
parks commission

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

When Arch Cape native Doug Deur thinks about his life on the North Coast, time spent in Oregon State Parks seems to be a common thread between his memories.

"I grew up with state parks on the coast," Deur said. "My family has been in this area for generations. My grandparents watched these parks being built — they saved their gas rations to go to Ecola during World War II. Every time a baby was born, photos would be taken at Hug Point."

Between those personal connections and a career studying national state parks history and North Coast cultural heritage as a professor at Portland State University,

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Doug Deur



Thousands of people flocked to the beach for the annual Cannon Beach Sandcastle Contest.

PHOTOS COLIN MURPHEY/EO MEDIA GROUP

Couple undertakes mission on the home front

Former Marines put out the home fires

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

For some couples, romance is a dozen red roses and a box of chocolates.

But for Cannon Beach volunteer firefighter Shaunna White, romance looks more like driving a big, red firetruck.

"When he's sitting in the lieutenant's seat, and I'm driving the truck, I mean, that's the romance right there," Shaunna laughed.

The lieutenant next to her is her husband, TJ White, to whom she's been married for six years. The two both serve as volunteers for Cannon Beach Fire and Rescue, and have done so together for the past three years.

Though now it feels routine, waking up

in the middle of the night to respond to a car accident or house fire together wasn't exactly what the two envisioned as their life together when they started dating 11 years ago. But after both TJ and Shaunna served a tour in the U.S. Marine Corps, firefighting began to play a critical role in easing them back into the community they called home.

In fact, 11 years ago, Shaunna envisioned the exact opposite.

"I actually swore I'd never get into the fire industry," Shaunna said. Growing up, her mom worked for Medix in emergency medicine in Seaside, and she said she became irritated with her working long hours at strange times of day.

"I hated the sound of that pager going off," Shaunna said.

But this irritation wasn't enough to dissuade the crush she developed for TJ when

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COLIN MURPHEY/EO MEDIA GROUP

Shaunna and TJ White keep a close eye on a vehicle extrication exercise with the Cannon Beach Fire Department Thursday, June 22. The husband-and-wife team both have a military background and are now department volunteers.

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