

Views from the Rock

Arts education, funds pay long-term dividends

I met Sydney Ordway when she was wearing a tiara on her head. She is an Astoria Regatta princess, representing one of the Northwest's hallowed events. This year's regatta, "Full Steam Ahead!" comes to Astoria from Aug. 9-Aug. 12.

Each princess chooses a topic to research and share with the community. Ordway, an incoming senior at Seaside High School, chose the arts.

"Art influences ideas, instills values and translates experiences across space and time," she told a group of business and civic leaders gathered by the Seaside Chamber of Commerce. "My story is about art and culture and how that impacts our region. A huge part of culture is art."

Ordway chronicled the impact of arts programs in the region, recalling times past and present. The cities we know now as Cannon Beach, Astoria, Seaside and Gearhart were once inhabited by 14 tribes. "To this day, Indian artifacts are being discovered," Ordway said.

Art can include diverse elements, from architecture to storytelling and theater.

"The Clatsop Indians worshiped the salmon," Ordway said. "They were told if they did not appreciate and honor the salmon, the salmon would not come. The stories were important to the tribe and taught right versus wrong."

Today, Ordway described Cannon Beach as "the hub of art in Clatsop County."

"On every corner you will find an art gallery," she said. "Cannon Beach holds many opportunities to express yourself and watch others express themselves in almost every way imaginable."

Connections

Seaside's Hayley Rollins provided the spark for Oregon's Art Day, with support from her mother; her father, a teacher at Seaside High School; and the rest of the staff and administration. As an eighth-grader at Broadway Middle School, Hayley conceived and promoted House Bill 3042. She was motivated by a 2013 report by the Oregon Arts Commission, based on findings that almost one-quarter of the state's schools did not offer any arts courses.

Art allows students to have fun and relax and "not have to follow as many strict rules as math and science," Rollins, an incoming junior at Seaside High School, said this week.

After her impassioned plea to the Oregon Legislature, Art Day is an annual tradition in Seaside. Heading into its third year, North Coast artists interact with kids in their chosen visual arts form. Workshops cover oil painting, cartoon portraits, printmaking, calligraphy, art therapy, pysanky egg art, culinary décor, wire sculpting, origami, photography and more.

"It's like the quote 'a picture is worth a thousand words,'" Rollins said. "We all speak different languages, but art can connect us all together despite the language barrier. Art connects us in ways words can't."

Art as a career

A new economic study by the Arts Council of Clatsop County indicates there are 93 arts jobs in the county. More than 87,000 local attendees and an additional 73,000 visitor attendees bring 161,000 people to county galleries, theaters and



R.J. MARX/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Sydney Ordway, Regatta princess and arts advocate.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Arts camp began Monday, presented by the Cannon Beach Arts Association.

music venues, driving arts expenditures of \$14 million. The state and county pull in an additional \$1.2 million in revenue combined. Every cultural visitor to Clatsop County spends an average of \$68 or meals, refreshments, souvenirs, gifts, transportation and lodging — and that's not including the ticket price.

Governments, both local and state, are also big winners, drawing in more than \$1.2 million in revenue generated from cultural events, states the report.

Cannon Beach Arts Association Program Director Cara Mico, now in her 30s, went straight to arts school

before college.

Art was "something that kept me sane," Mico said. "It kept me grounded, and I think that's true for a lot of kids. When they don't have a creative outlet they tend to find another outlet. It really touches on all parts of childhood."

Art "made me a more professional person," Mico said, helping her to build confidence and develop presentation skills. "With this age of technology and the Internet, you can start a business and be a billionaire before you're 25. Ninety percent of the Internet is graphic."

The web provides young adults the opportunity to go pursue an arts career in a realistic way, she said.

Mico said she would like to see more of a focus allowing students to explore their own interests, including arts career readiness and business skills.

Spreading wings

At Cannon Beach's Stormy Weather Arts festival, silent auction proceeds brought scholarships for children attending the Coaster Theatre Kids Camp, the Sea Ranch Children's Summer Music Camp or the Cannon Beach Arts Association's Arts Camp. The camp, for kids age 3 and up, began Monday for a five-day session.

Are the arts education programs connecting with students? "It's something we take really seriously at Seaside," Ordway said. "The arts are very important and a lot of kids in our community have made it a passion of their own."

The annual Tillamook Head Gathering, put on by a committee of current and former Seaside arts students and held at Seaside's Civic and Convention Center, supports arts enrichment for Seaside High School students. Last year's gathering helped fund an arts day at the high school, in which local artists gave workshops for the entire student body.

Rollins remains involved in Art Day. "When I graduate I'm hoping to be able to pass it on to a new student, but I'll still come and help out," she said. "Our goal is to continue spreading this event to schools across the state. We talked about going to other schools to show a presentation of our event in Seaside to inspire them."

Ordway intends to keep art in her life for years to come.

"In Clatsop County, we used art for trade and stories of our people," Ordway said. "Nowadays, we use art to express ourselves, and view the world around us. In the future, I don't know what it will hold, but I know it will be a work of art."

CANNON SHOTS

R.J. MARX



'Art connects us in ways words can't.'

— HAYLEY ROLLINS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Arts association students learn watercolors from Dorota Haber-Lehigh.



EVE MARX/FOR CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Always on the hunt for a great cup of coffee.

Turning 'Guns' into 'Bonfire'

Bonfire' just doesn't have the same ring to it as 'Guns & Gold,'" I lamented to my husband in the Insomnia Coffee Company located at the corner of Second and Larch in Cannon Beach. I discovered Insomnia a couple of years ago when a Seaside acquaintance brought me there. I already knew about Sea Level Bakery and Coffee on S. Hemlock (this is a special place), and Sleepy Monk, and was in fact already in the habit of buying Sleepy Monk's Monastery Blend to brew at home in my French press. The Seaside woman frequents Insomnia

late mornings during the rainy season in part because she enjoys the coffee, but also for the cozy seating arrangements.

Besides the excellently rendered 12-ounce Americano that is my favored beverage, Insomnia sells Dapper & Wise coffee, a Portland brand in the whole bean. The company has an amusing sense of humor bordering on the insouciant. A banner on their website homepage proclaims, "We're putting the fun back in cofunfee," a riff, obviously, on the President's now-famous tweet "covfefe," which I think is pretty clever.

Dapper & Wise are best known for their Brazilian Rodomunho and Ethiopia Kochere; they also produce a nice Stag espresso and Mexico decaf. I've never understood the purpose of decaf coffee. In my book, coffee is for wakefulness. While I try to restrict myself to no more than 12 ounces a day, I realize there are people who drink 8 or 10 cups a day. While that's good for the coffee business, I call it "wired for sound" or "never sleep," which must be the reason, I suppose, for the name, Insomnia.

My chosen whole bean blend to buy at Insomnia for a long time was Guns & Gold. (For the record, I am also a regular purchaser of Peet's Major Dickason's blend.) Guns & Gold was tough to get ahold of sometimes as it flew off the shelf. Then, one day, I noticed it was gone forever.

"Where's the Guns & Gold?" I asked the beautiful young woman working the register. That's another thing about Insomnia. I don't know if it's the tats or the hair, but the people working at Insomnia strike me as particularly attractive.

"Oh, they changed the name," she said airily.

I did a little research and indeed there has been a name change. "Formerly known as Guns & Gold," Dapper & Wise says, "Bonfire is a darker roast than many of our other offerings." They recommend serving it with cream and sugar as well as straight up. They say it tastes like Baker's chocolate, tobacco, and merlot. That's a heady mix.

While I still love the coffee, I can't say I'm in love with the new name. Bonfire sounds like what people do at night on the beach; Guns & Gold sounds like Guns and Roses, the rock band. But, hey, even I think Axl Rose should retire.

I bought the Bonfire blend and brewed up a pot in my French press. Pouring it into my favorite coffee cup, it tasted just like Guns & Gold, which means it's still fabulous.

VIEW FROM THE PORCH
EVE MARX



Experience the joy of summertime bird-watching

Welcome summer! My favorite things about this time of the year are sunshine, long days and dry binoculars! After work and chores, there is still plenty of time to go birding on the beach, in the forest and on my own back porch.

For me, each season has a special event in birding. The fall has massive migration and sometimes very rare birds. Winter has bare branches on trees and brush that make it easier to see birds. Springtime has more migration and all the birds in their finest colors and loudest songs for breeding (and easy location for birders!). But summertime has babies!

Although it's been a bit flaky this

BIRD NOTES

SUSAN PETERSON



year, I have spent hours watching the Seaside osprey camera. Betty laid three eggs in early May and one has hatch (the others were sadly lost). It's was fascinating to watch the chick eat bits of fish at just three hours old!

There is something very satisfying for me to know where birds are nesting and to hear the hungry chicks chirping for their meals as the parents visit. I have three nests

that I know about in yard this year and all of them have young ones! Two are barn swallows, between the rafters of the house, beautiful and amazing feats of building with mud and grasses. And the nest box that usually has tree swallows has house sparrows this year. It is so much fun to listen and watch the feeding process. The adults approach the nests with food in their beaks and the chicks start the soft hard begging of "feed me, feed me."

Soon these babies will fledge and spend a few precarious days on the ground gaining strength to fly. This is a very dangerous time for them as they are susceptible to attack from predators, mostly cats. That's why

I advocate keeping cats indoors for the months of June and July. This would help the bird populations very much.

Sadly, I have seen no action at my martin houses this year. After having two scouts checked it out last year, I thought for sure I would have a whole community in 2017. Maybe next year!

The beautiful Martin house at the Lagoon Trail in Cannon Beach has residents, but they are not martins. They are the smaller cousin, tree swallows. Experts think this happens because the lodging is placed to early in the season. There are plans to remedy that next year.

And remember to join us on the

First Sunday Cannon Beach Bird Walks on Aug. 6 and Sept. 3. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Lagoon Trail on Second Street. We generally walk around the lagoons and along Ecola Creek, mostly level easy walking. Bring binoculars and wear appropriate clothing. Everyone is welcome!

Susan has spent her life enjoying the great outdoors from the lakes and woods of Northern Minnesota, Mount Adams in Washington and now the Oregon beach environs. After spending many pleasurable hours driving her avid birder parents around, she has taken up birding as a passion. Susan resides on Neawanna Creek in Seaside where her backyard is a birder's paradise.

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