



A Lost Art

Local museum celebrates the 'lost art' of nursing

Every corner and surface in the home's first floor contains a nursing memento

By Nancy McCarthy
For Cannon Beach Gazette

The artwork in Melodie Chenevert's home doesn't reflect the sea or the forests surrounding Cannon Beach. She doesn't display crafts by local artisans or books by Oregon authors — except the books Chenevert herself wrote. But the home is devoted to art, nevertheless — a lost art.

The Lost Art of Nursing Museum is entirely contained in Melodie and Gary Chenevert's Tolovana Park home.

From the historic posters, magazine covers and paintings of nurses that consume nearly every inch of wall space, to the dolls and stuffed animals (including Miss Piggy) dressed in nursing outfits on every surface, Melodie's living and dining rooms and the entrance hall is, indeed, a museum.

In a corner of the dining room is an early 20th century wheelchair. In another corner of the living room is a cape worn by a former nursing school director who once lived in Arch Cape. Beneath the glass in the coffee table lies Marybel, surrounded by leg and arm casts, crutches and measles spots; she is the "doll who gets well," according to the original 60-year-old box.

"Most people who come here look at everything and try to absorb it. There's always something they've never seen before," Melodie said.

When she graduated from high school in Iowa in the late 1950s, Melodie, who really wanted to be a writer, found that more practical career opportunities for young women were limited: She could become a teacher or a nurse. Since she could "dissect things without throwing up and was good at math," she earned a nursing diploma from Methodist-Kahler School of Nursing in Rochester, Minn. She then received bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Washington, where she met Gary, a nuclear physicist.

Melodie worked as a nurse for several years as she followed her husband's career. In 1982, she was asked to create a nursing program at Clatsop Community College.

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PHOTOS BY NANCY MCCARTHY/FOR CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

A painting showing a compassionate nurse bandaging a dog also involved in medical services is among the abundant artwork found in the Lost Art of Nursing Museum on South Hemlock Street.



In addition to writing books for nurses seeking to further their careers, Melodie Chenevert also created coloring books for students interested in being nurses. The book has Spanish and French translations.



Melodie Chenevert, a former nurse, has turned the main floor of her Tolovana Home into a museum dedicated to nursing.

What makes a good city manager?

Community weighs in at public forum

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

After interviews with city councilors, staff and the community, the City of Cannon Beach has outlined what they are looking for in the next city manager.

Living in town, respecting citizen involvement and being "present" in the community were some of the top values featured in the proposed job profile, which is set of professional requirements and preferences that will be listed when the job is advertised early August. The job of the city manager is to implement policies passed by the city councilors, as well as manage the city staff.

Jensen Strategies, the recruiting firm in charge of replacing former city manager Brant Kucera, wrote the profile after holding a community forum earlier this month to learn what more than 50 community members want to see in the next city manager, as well as in-depth interviews city department heads and councilors.

"Community involvement was something we heard across the board," Erik Jensen, found of Jensen Strategies, said at a city council work session July 24.

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Downtown space may house second pot store

Cannabis retailer, other buyers pursuing Hemlock Street Location

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

The Purple Moon Boutique has plans to move out of its location on Hemlock Street, with the possibility of a marijuana dispensary taking its place.

The women's clothing store has been operating at 215 N. Hemlock Street for 14 years. Store owner Abbas Atwi said he put his business up for sale a couple of months ago and is moving with his family to Portland.

"We have been here 14 years, and like anything in life there are pros and cons to living here," Atwi said. "I think it is time for a new venture for us."

For now, Atwi does not have a solid closing date in mind, but he does have three

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Bringing brushes, brooms to the academy

Cannon Beach Academy volunteers help clean up school site for fall opening

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

About 25 volunteers from around the community came out Saturday, July 15 to help clear brush, rake leaves and trim foliage at the new site of Cannon Beach Academy expected to open this fall.

This the first work party since the charter school secured the lease to the former Preschool and Children's Center from the city earlier this month. The immediate goal was to prepare the exterior to be power washed and stained before moving into interior renovations, Executive Director Amy Moore said.

Marcia Zegar, a Cannon Beach local with a leaf-blower in hand, said she has been a longtime supporter of introducing a charter school to Cannon Beach, and that if she could help get it started by clearing leaves with the leaf-blower out of the

parking lot she would.

"I was an educator myself for many years," Zegar said. "Small towns need elementary schools. You have to maintain your young population."

Janet Patrick, also a long time educator in Portland, owns a home in Cannon Beach and decided to contribute by trimming the bushes along side the front of the building. Like Zegar, she said she values investing in early childhood education in small communities.

"I'm so glad this community is investing its talents into this project," Patrick said.

The academy has until Aug. 15 to complete necessary renovations to the interior of the building to secure an occupancy permit, according to the school's charter. If the school can secure occupancy by this time, the city has negotiated a three-year lease with the academy.

The original Cannon Beach Elementary School closed down in 2013 due to budget shortfall and tsunami inundation safety concerns. Although establishing the academy in Cannon Beach has been in the works for more than four years, securing this location at 3781 S. Hemlock St. has only been in



BRENNNA VISSER/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Volunteers help sweep up leaves at a clean up event for the new site of Cannon Beach Academy July 15.

the works since May. The new location came when the board received an estimate of \$150,000 over the \$90,000 budgeted for construction costs at the original location on Sunset Boulevard.

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