

# CANNON BEACH GAZETTE



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COMPLIMENTARY COPY

Longer fall sessions  
promise a tour  
of printmaking  
techniques



Kathy Carrier, of Arch Cape, and Terri Churdash, of Portland, work on their linoleum blocks while instructor Alisa Vernon provides advice.

NANCY MCCARTHY/FOR  
CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

## RV park may be headed to Arcadia Beach area

### Oregon Coast Alliance raises legal, environmental concerns

By Brenna Visser  
Cannon Beach Gazette

A proposed RV park across the highway from Arcadia Beach south of Cannon Beach is facing criticism from environmental groups for encroaching on an endangered species — the marbled murrelet — and disregard for forestry practices.

A land-use compatibility statement was submitted earlier this year by James Smejkal, the owner of the 17.6-acre parcel of forested land, requesting temporary access from Highway 101 from the Oregon Department of Transportation to conduct surveys on the property.

Smejkal thinks the property would be well-suited for an RV park, mostly because it is one of the only types of development allowed with the land's current zoning, he said.

"Because of the high volume of campers that visit the coast in the summer, I don't think there will be a problem," Smejkal said. "Planners designated it for park use because they saw it as a need."

This early on in the project, significant details — such as a site plan and geohazard surveys — will need to be completed before any site development or road construction can begin, Clatsop County Planning Manager Will Caplinger said.

The land was owned by Oregon Parks and Recreation Department before it was traded to Smejkal in 2002 in exchange for land he owned in Columbia County. In 2009, Smejkal attempted to develop the property as housing, which was ultimately denied by the Clatsop County Planning Commission.

Cameron La Follette, director of the environmental advocacy group Oregon Coast Alliance, said urbanization — whether it be houses or RVs — is not the best use for the property.

La Follette argues the development lacks the infrastructure to support an urban project in a rural area, and that ultimately, the land should be back in public hands.

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# MAKING AN IMPRESSION

### Gallery's workshops imprint artistic experience on participants

By Nancy McCarthy  
For Cannon Beach Gazette

At the Imprint Gallery in Cannon Beach, there's more to do than admire the intriguing paintings and sculptures on the main floor.

There's an opportunity to create art, and by doing that, to develop an appreciation of the artists' prints covering the walls of the gallery's second floor.

Tucked upstairs is a studio where gallery visitors can drop in on weekends or reserve time a day in advance to try their hands at linocut or drypoint printmaking. But if a 45-minute afternoon workshop isn't enough to satisfy

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NANCY MCCARTHY/FOR CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Instructor Alisa Vernon shows how to hold a blade and cut a line into a linoleum block. She cautioned to keep fingers back from the blade.

## New charter school opens its doors

### Cannon Beach Academy welcomes the community

By Brenna Visser  
Cannon Beach Gazette

Students, their families and residents gathered for an open house Thursday, Aug. 31, to celebrate the beginning of the Cannon Beach Academy's first school year, as well as the end of the four years of work it took to make it happen.

It was the first public unveiling of the school after a summer's worth of renovations. To the backdrop of a potluck and

live music, students and their families explored classrooms and met the teachers who will be welcoming on the first day of school Tuesday.

"We're really happy to see this succeed," said Dania Nolzaco, whose younger brother is enrolled in the first- and second-grade blended class.

Nolzaco still remembers the sadness she felt when she heard the news of Cannon Beach Elementary School closing, the school she attended.

Going to school in Cannon Beach was a large part of her childhood, she said, and she was happy to see with the academy opening that was an experience she could now share with her brother.

"There were a lot of ups and downs,

and we were just hoping for the best," she said. "A lot of people put a lot of hard work into making this happen."

Because of budget issues, the Cannon Beach Academy board had to change locations for the charter school in May. That left only a few months to secure the lease for the current location at 3781 S Hemlock St. from the city and finish necessary renovations before a fall opening.

Dania's father, Rafael, said he and his family have lived in Cannon Beach for about 22 years. When they first heard about the possibility of a charter school coming to town, they enrolled their son right away.

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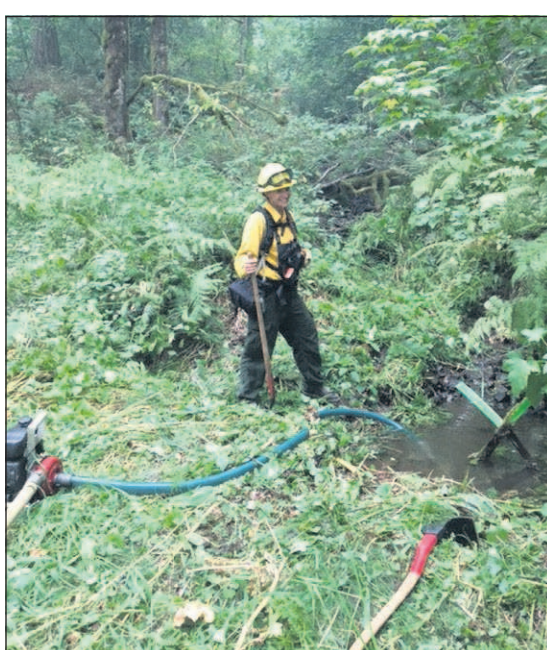


COLIN MURPHEY/EO MEDIA GROUP

Kellye Dewey and her daughter, Rian, attend the Cannon Beach Academy open house on Thursday, Aug. 31, to celebrate the start of the first school year. Dewey is the academy's board president.

## Local firefighters pitch in to battle blazes across state

By Brenna Visser  
Cannon Beach Gazette



Cannon Beach Firefighter Shaunna White helps to battle the Eagle Creek fire.

Thirteen Clatsop County firefighters are battling the Chetco Fire near Brookings and 14 are in Eagle Creek.

Knappa Fire Chief Paul Olheiser, who is coordinating Clatsop County's volunteer effort, said firefighters from Seaside, Olney, Lewis and Clark, Warrenton and Knappa fire districts have been deployed to fires throughout the state.

On Wednesday, Olheiser said the number of people sent and from which department is based on availability of personnel and resources.

"When the state gives a resource order, you go down the list of what the state is asking for and see who has it," he said.

Among local residents, Cannon Beach Fire Chief Matt Benedict deployed with the Oregon State Fire Marshal Incident Management to the Milli Fire in Sisters for one week in August.

Firefighter Shaunna White was on the Whitewater Fire near Detroit for three weeks in August with Contract Agency Inbound, LLC, and subsequently deployed to the Eagle Creek fire in the Columbia

River National Scenic Area.

White is a full-time student at Clatsop Community College studying fire science and was highlighted by Cannon Beach Fire and Rescue as Firefighter for the month of September.

As of midweek, more than a dozen wildfires burned throughout Oregon. Oregon's Office of Emergency Management activated the state Emergency Coordination Center, Monday, Sept. 5, to monitor the fires and provide support for local jurisdictions.

The Eagle Creek Fire in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area started on Sept. 2, just south of Cascade Locks. Level 3 evacuations, affecting approximately 350 people, sent area residents to Red Cross shelters at Mount Hood Community College in Gresham and at the Skamania County Fairgrounds, immediately across the Columbia River in Stevenson, Washington.

As of Wednesday, I-84 remained closed from Troutdale to Hood River due to rocks, snags and other debris the roadway. The fire is mapped at 30,929 acres.

This is the third time this summer Clatsop County has been called to provide assistance.

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