



Delays, controversy hinder pot shop openings

City councilors to review rules, comprehensive plan

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

Almost a year has passed since residents narrowly voted to allow recreational marijuana sales. But as retailers apply to open stores, conversations about appropriate locations and procedure have unsettled the community.

Three marijuana retailers have submitted land use compatibility statements to operate. Each are at different stages of the permitting process. But one — Five Zero Trees at 140 S. Hemlock St. — has been inspected by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission and is expected to open within the next few weeks, pending the city's approval of a business license.

Earlier this year, controversy surrounding the Hemlock Street location led city councilors to reevaluate an ordinance that spells out where and how marijuana shops can operate. The issue came up after Matt

Ennis, a resident at 140 S. Hemlock, told the city at a July meeting that his landlord planned to evict him to rent the commercial space under him to Five Zero Trees.

Councilors voted 3-2 to maintain the ordinance, which prohibits marijuana stores in mixed-use buildings to adhere to the community's desire to keep marijuana out of residential areas. The building meets the city code for a marijuana store because the residents have since moved out and the building is no longer mixed-use.

Despite this, the Ecola Square Homeowners Association, spear-

headed by David Frei, is still urging the city to deny a business license to Five Zero Trees, citing concerns about the application process and inconsistencies with the comprehensive plan.

"By not informing the planning director of the apartments in the building, they led the planning director into saying that the property in question was in fact compatible with the city code and zoning when in reality it was not," Frei said in an email.

After hearing Frei's concerns, city councilors decided at an Octo-

ber work session they wanted to take another look at the comprehensive plan and put the marijuana ordinance back on the agenda. Interim City Manager Jason Schermerhorn said if any changes are made out of these discussions about the ordinance it would not affect Five Zero Trees.

"I'd like to hear some kind of response to the claims that this is a violation of the comprehensive plan," City Councilor Mike Benefield said. "I'd like to have a discussion to know what our options are."

See Pot, Page 6A

A hoppin' Halloween

Cannon Beach Academy kids celebrate school's first Halloween with costumes and games

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

Kids dressed as princesses, ninjas and superheroes all descended upon Tolovana Hall Monday night for Cannon Beach Academy's first Halloween party.

Inflatable pumpkins, hacky sack games, witchy crafts and ghoulish cupcakes marked the season. Community members and parents donated bags of candy and watched as the students played in the inflatable bouncy house.

The party also marked roughly two months since the charter school opened its doors.

"It's been wonderful," said Emma Molyneux, a parent of two children enrolled. "At bigger schools you have to fight for volunteer time, but in a small classroom setting it's easier to get to know all the kids."

The volunteering spirit is part of what Molyneux thinks makes the school special, working with the other parents to help serve lunch or to haul boxes of personal Halloween decorations for a party.

"I suppose I've always been a Halloween person," Molyneux laughed.

The Halloween party is one in a series of firsts for the academy. In the past two months, students have taken their school photos, participated in a mock farmers market to learn about their food and where it comes from, and completed a collaborative art project for the Lower Columbia Hispanic Council to celebrate Dia de los Muertos, Executive Director Amy Moore said.

See Party, Page 6A



Jacob Carlsen attends a Halloween celebration at the Cannon Beach Academy on Monday.

COLIN MURPHEY/EO MEDIA GROUP



AMELIA O'CONNOR

Cormorants nesting at Cape Falcon Marine Reserve.

Tracking reserve's cormorants

Volunteers help collect data on bird colonies

By Katie Frankowicz
EO Media Group

The cormorants always saw the eagles before he did.

Jeremy Sappington would be at his spotting scope above Devil's Cauldron in Oswald West State Park, watching the sea birds as they cleaned, preened and clamored. Then, suddenly, the birds would go deathly still. Out of the corner of his eye, Sappington would see an eagle cruise past the cliffs.

Sappington, who lives in Manzanita, was one of over a dozen volunteers who spent the summer observing cormorants at the Cape Falcon Marine Reserve. One day each week, they set up their scopes and honed in on the colonies, recording the number of eggs in nests and keeping track of the chicks' development from afar.

The data they collected feeds broad, aerial surveys conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service each year. While the agency can collect general information about the number of birds present in a region, community scientists are helping paint a more detailed picture of how the birds are faring.

Doing this work without volunteers would be challenging, especially for agencies like Fish and Wildlife where there is less and less funding to go around, said Joe Liebezeit, avian conservation manager for the Audubon Society of Portland.

"More and more, community science is going to be important for agencies and (organizations) like Audubon," he said.

Citizen science

The Cape Falcon Marine Reserve, located between the Falcon Cove natural area

See Birds, Page 6A

Volunteer efforts celebrated at HRAP party

Haystack Rock Awareness Program promotes education, cleanup efforts

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

Dozens of people dressed as creatures from the land and sea filled City Hall Saturday to celebrate Haystack Rock Awareness Program's end of the season.

The party, which featured an assortment of Halloween-themed treats and a silent auction, served as a way to say thank you volunteers who help educate people on the beach and in the classroom about Haystack Rock and general environmental stewardship, program coordinator Melissa Keyser said.

Some of the highlights the program saw this year was the addition of more educational programs for children, as well as the expansion of a clean up event that filters microplastics out of Cannon Beach's sand, Keyser said.

This year alone, dozens from as local as Cannon



BRENNNA VISSER/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Haystack Rock Awareness Program coordinator Melissa Keyser and education coordinator Lisa Habecker share a laugh at the program's end-of-year party last Saturday, Oct. 28.

Beach to as far away as Washington state donated 2,560 hours of volunteers hours. In those hours, they helped remind 901 people to keep their dogs on leash around the tidepools, told more than 650 people to stop climbing the rock and overall talked

with more than 87,000 people on the beach.

Each year the volunteer who contributed the most hours is recognized, and for the first time ever that award went to one of the program's junior volunteers, Jacie Gregory, who clocked in 141 hours.

"I've been volunteering for about two years ago, when my mom saw me not doing anything during the summer, she said 'Hey, HRAP looks fun,'" Gregory said. "I love doing it now."

There's lots to love in role, Gregory said — the people, the puffins, and when it happens, sunny days on the beach. While it started as a way for the Seaside local to spend her summers, being the beach has inspired a deeper interest in the marine sciences, which she hopes to pursue after high school.

While overall volunteer hours dropped this year, Keyser said this year she had the highest number of volunteers under the age of 18 in the program's history.

"Jacie was always there, ready to do whatever we needed whenever. She brought such a positive energy to the office," Keyser said. "I don't think people understand how much (volunteers) do to make all of this program work."

PRSRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 97
ASTORIA, OR