

Views from the Rock

College president shares vision for South County

In May 2016, Chris Breitmeyer was named president of Clatsop Community College. Breitmeyer, who previously served as vice president for academic and student affairs at Saint Charles Community College in Missouri, is now a year and a half in. Among his goals is a five-year strategic plan for the college, with the goal of determining how it can serve the community and region more effectively. We met with Breitmeyer in the Seaside extension of the campus.

♦ ♦ ♦

Q: Do you get to the South County campus often?

Breitmeyer: Not as much as I would like. That's why I am making an effort now. At least a couple times of months I am going to spend mornings here. I have meetings that here, but I'm trying to make a special effort. Especially in Cannon Beach. Interacting with those folks is something I haven't done much of.

Q: What is the rationale for the South County campus?

Breitmeyer: Right now it is focused on the SBDC (Small Business Development Center) and the CEDR (Clatsop Economic Development Resources).

I know we do have some classes here, but I'd really like it to be more of an extension of the main campus.

In the future, we would have the option of lower division transfer courses classes down here or be able to start a CTE (career technical education) program.

A good example is our business program. We have two tracks: one where you can transfer to get a four-year degree and a certificate degree where you can start working. We are limited a little bit by the number of classrooms we have. But, for example, today I am the only person in this room. We could have a class in here. The problem we have run into in the past is that enrollment numbers have never been that strong in the South County. We have to crack that nut.

Q: Given that history, are you considering new programs here?

Breitmeyer: One of the things we are doing with the strategic plan is looking at new programs. That includes new things, and also more niche and focused kind of programs.

We are looking for something under the hospitality, brewing and management umbrella. That has come up several times. That is something I want to move forward on. I don't know if we have the facilities to do it all down here, but we could at least get it started. Within the next year or so we really have to look at how we are going to do that.

There are other programs in the state that we can model that program after. The curriculum is out there, so it's not like we have to start from ground zero. That could be this campus's identity; it's tailored for that. The South County campus could be for the hospitality sector what the main campus is for the maritime and automotive community.

Q: Who is your audience? Young



R.J. MARX/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

South County campus of Clatsop Community College.

CANNON SHOTS

R.J. MARX



people? Life learners?

Breitmeyer: There is a large population of folks who are highly educated, have been successful in their careers, but are still eager to learn. I do see an opportunity for those lifelong learners throughout the area. We are looking for returning learners or people who want to be retrained or retool for a new career.

Q: How would you measure a program's success? By the number of attendees?

Breitmeyer: Yes, that's the basic metric. We have a minimum. If there are only two people interested in a birdwatching class, I want to figure out how to be able to make that go. But I also have my administrator saying, it's going to cost "X" amount of dollars, is it worth it?

Additionally if we start to expand here, we are going to have to take some losses upfront. In order to build the momentum, it's just like any business — you are not going to get profitable for a while.

Q: Do you recruit students?

Breitmeyer: Troy Henry is our recruiter and he goes out to the high schools. We just had 300 high school seniors on our campus last week. They were from all the local schools: Seaside, Warrenton, Knappa, Astoria, and Jewell. We had others from as far away as Portland and Canby. Each took a little mini-class they could select out of three.

Q: I saw a shocking statistic about the number of homeless students in the state of Oregon.

Breitmeyer: I personally know a couple of students in Astoria who shared their stories with me. They are couch-surfing for a while and then they live in their car. It's pretty incredible.

I thought I had it tough when I had to work in the cafeteria as an under-



R.J. MARX/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Chris Breitmeyer at the Seaside campus of Clatsop Community College.

grad. What they're doing is incredible.

Q: Does Clatsop Community College have any dorm facilities?

Breitmeyer: Like everybody else here, we are struggling with housing. We may look in the future to some kind of public-private partnership where a private entity builds and manages a space and we enter into an agreement to supply them with students as residents.

Q: How do you like living here?

Breitmeyer: I love it. I am from the Midwest originally. I love the weather here.

Q: Do you want people to be involved in the school here, maybe not as students but as leaders or volunteers?

Breitmeyer: Our foundation is one way people can get involved if they are interested. That's the fundraising arm. They do a lot of good work raising scholarships for students.

One of our board members just stepped down. He's from Astoria, so they have to be from Astoria. People can put their hat in the ring and the board will do an interview process.

We talked about community education classes. If someone has an interest in photography and they would like to teach a class, they could certainly do that.



EVE MARX/FOR CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Delectable mushroom tart at Harding Trading Co.

Eating while standing up

After days of rain and very little to do on weekends save for catching up on sleep, this past weekend was a whirlwind of activity, most of it involving eating and drinking.

It all began Friday at the Community Hall in Cannon Beach at the North Coast Land Conservancy thank-you party for their volunteers. The turnout was terrific and in addition to a Native American blessing of the land and some high quality mingling, there was a lot to eat.

My spouse has a thing about eating at parties, in particular eating while standing up. He claims to have never mastered holding a wine glass and a paper plate. Having no such inhibitions, I assembled myself an open-faced sandwich of prosciutto and Brie and devoured two really good oatmeal raisin cookies when he announced he was ready to leave.

On our way out of Cannon Beach we saw an empty space adjacent to Harding Trading Co. on Beaver Street.

I don't know if you've been to Harding Trading Co. They don't take reservations. I feel lucky to have gotten in three times. For folks of a certain mindset, this might be the most romantic spot in Cannon Beach. We had dinner, despite my land conservancy party snack. I restricted myself to the mushroom tart, which is offered as an appetizer and comes with a scrumptious little green salad piquantly dressed in a mustard vinaigrette. My spouse had the coq au vin. As I said, I don't know if you've been to the Harding Trading Co. It's a very exciting place. The food is French and authentic. The décor is farm vintage. The restaurant is also a store. You can buy local honey and a lovely skin cream and pretty napkins. Many items in the restaurant are for sale, including some of the light fixtures.

On Saturday evening we went to a party hosted by Cannon Beach celebrities David and Cherylynn Frei. After pouring myself a glass of something alcoholic, I dove into the crowd. Another couple we're friends with were positioned near the food table. I was encouraged to try the meatballs while my husband ate a lot of crab. Before I was told it was time to leave, I also managed to scarf down a stuffed baked potato skin and a couple of Medjool dates.

Sunday morning bloomed bright and shiny so we decided to take a walk on Arcadia Beach. On the way home, we hit Sleepy Monk where we each had a latte and split a chocolate chip scone.

In Seaside I tried to work off some calories by taking one of our dogs for a walk around the Cove. The waves were modest and the sun was shining, which meant a dozen or more surfers were in the water flaunting their lack of fear of sharks. Around the parked vehicles (including a pair of white Mercedes vans) there were numerous people in various states of undress peeling themselves out of their wetsuits. I'd have to give up eating altogether before I'd even think of getting into one of those things.

I could watch other people surf all day, but we had another party to go to, this one in Gearhart. Oh my word, the food. The hostess, who relocated to the area not long ago from northern California, put out a spread. She had asparagus wrapped in prosciutto; cranberry and walnut baked Brie; prawns with cocktail sauce; and artichoke dip made with fresh artichoke. I ate three raisin-studded pumpernickel crackers heavily loaded with blue cheese and dried apricot. My husband said he ate about 20 prawns but he might have been exaggerating. Much to my dismay, he was ready to leave the party before I'd finished one glass of pinot gris. On the way home I chastised him for making me leave early.

I'm still hungry, I said. We pulled into McDonald's. I ordered a cheeseburger. Yes, I'm embarrassed. But I ate it anyway.

VIEW FROM THE PORCH

EVE MARX



Happy Holidays, from your library friends

We held our annual holiday tea on Dec. 2, and as always, it was a very warm and cozy event, complete with refreshments and good company! A special thank you to Lynn Halldorson with Kettle/Black Teahouse for catering our tea, it was delightful.

Occasionally a member of our library family is the lucky winner of our lovely quilt and the 2017 quilt drawing was one of those occasions. The winner of the quilt was our own Chara Larrance, longtime library volunteer! Congratulations, Chara!

To welcome the youngest new citizens of Cannon Beach and Arch Cape, we have begun a new program called "Books for Babies." All babies who live in Cannon Beach and Arch Cape from newborn to one year of age are eligible. Parents, please come to the library at 131 North Hemlock to receive the gift

AT THE LIBRARY

CARLA O'REILLY



of three brand new books for your little ones! We are open every day except Sunday.

Cannon Beach Reads will convene at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20, for their final book of the 2017 season. They will be discussing "In Defense of a Liberal Education," by Fareed Zakaria. To kick off the 2018 season on Wednesday, Jan. 17, they will be discussing Mark Twain's "Life on the Mississippi." The complete list of 2018 books will be available soon. New members are always welcome!

We have begun thinking about a new reading program for our entire community. We would all read a book, at

which point we would meet for a community discussion. Book most likely would deal with issues such as tourism, coastal wildlife, and other topics relevant to our community. So let's all think about this for future months. If you have any ideas to share, please call the Library at 503-436-1391. More to follow!

Lastly, keep in mind that the library will be closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Once again, we would like to wish each and every one of you a warm and joyful holiday season!



Publisher
Kari Borgen

Circulation Manager
Jeremy Feldman

Production Manager
John D. Bruijn

Advertising Sales
Holly Larkins

Classified Sales
Danielle Fisher

Staff writer
Brenna Visser

Contributing writers
Rebecca Herren
Katherine Lacaze
Eve Marx
Nancy McCarthy

CANNON BEACH GAZETTE
The Cannon Beach Gazette is published every other week by EO Media Group.
1555 N. Roosevelt, Seaside, Oregon 97138
503-738-5561 • Fax 503-738-9285

www.cannonbeachgazette.com • email: editor@cannonbeachgazette.com
SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
Annually: \$40.50 in county, \$58.00 in and out of county.
Postage Paid at: Cannon Beach, OR 97110

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to Cannon Beach Gazette, P.O. Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103
Copyright 2017 © Cannon Beach Gazette. Nothing can be reprinted or copied without consent of the owners.

THE NATIONAL AWARD-WINNING

CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

