

CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
2018



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BRENNA VISSER/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Community members watch as a class is held at the grand opening of the Cannon Beach Academy.

Looking back on 2017 in Cannon Beach

Academy gets a start after volunteer efforts

By Brenna Visser and R.J. Marx
Cannon Beach Gazette

THE YEAR 2017 BROUGHT CHANGE to Cannon Beach and a look into the future. At long last the Cannon Beach Academy opened its door to students. Down the road, the city's first cannabis retail store opened. One city manager — Brant Kucera — left and a new manager arrived to take on the city's key issues for the future. Here is a

look at some of the top issues ahead in 2018.

Water rates

Water rates — who should pay and how much — was among the city's top stories of 2017. After years of being kicked down the road and seeing shortfalls made up by transfers to the general fund, councilors have begun to absorb staff advice and recognize the need for hikes water and stormwater.

The urgency is reflected in recent reports from the public works committee showing deteriorating systems that will likely require costly repairs in the not-so-distant future. Distributing the cost burden fairly is of top concern — and it all depends on who you talk to.

At a Dec. 12 work session, the committee recommended to fund 50 percent of all projects detailed in the water master plan and 75 percent in the wastewater plan with

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Festivities ring in the holidays at History Center and Museum

Christmas in Cannon Beach



COLIN MURPHEY/EO MEDIA GROUP

Kayla Bakker and Quinn Scalabrin prepare to make decorations at the holiday celebration event at the Cannon Beach History Center and Museum.

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

Kids and parents alike come out to ring in Christmas cheer at the Cannon Beach History Center and Museum holiday party Saturday, Dec. 23.

Adorned with a fully-stocked cider and hot cocoa bar, the holiday open house featured craft making stations to make glittery Christmas trees or reindeers out of candy canes, as well as a yuletide-themed photo booth.

"It's our way of giving back to everyone who supported us throughout the year," outreach coordinator Liz Johnson said.

While the museum has had a holiday open house for years, this year museum staff decided to include new activities like face-painting and a Christmas story time for both kids and adults.

"We wanted to make this event more family friendly," Johnson said. "Last year we had a story time, but only adults showed up for it. So we decided this year to do something for both kids and adults."

Children at the event were read stories like "Pete the Cat Saves Christmas" and "Bad Kitty Christmas," while Executive Director Elaine Trucke recounted the tale of

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Blueprint for the future

School district releases schematics for new Seaside campus

By R.J. Marx
Cannon Beach Gazette

"A work in progress," is how Seaside School District Superintendent Sheila Roley referred to campus design plans delivered by BRIC Architecture Inc. last week. The project's first schematics and drawings include interior renderings of the elementary, middle and high school campuses and maps of playing fields and outdoor spaces.

"Everything is still a work in progress," Roley said. "We are in rapid fine-tuning."

The building footprint is unlikely to change, but "tweaks" are likely to be delivered periodically, Roley added. "We have a challenging building site, so we are maximizing the areas with the least slope. Most of the work now is focused on refining the interior configuration of the building to meet instructional needs."

The high school features a main gym that can be divided into two full size courts, an auxiliary gym room and a wrestling and exercise room. The middle school has one main gym. Additional middle school gym space will be added as revenues allow, Roley said.

Shared program areas support both the middle school and the high school, and are located in the building between the two schools. Included in these are mechanical and heating systems and the cooking facilities.

The school administration offices also have some shared spaces such as reception, but where the students would access the middle school or high school offices during the day will be through separate entrances from the classroom wings, Roley said.

The classrooms that are shared are music and band. The teachers in these programs currently travel between Seaside High School and Broadway, but now each program will have its own space. Middle school and high school bands and choirs will still be independent. The one area that will serve all students during the day is the library.

Both east and west entry plazas include concrete paving with accent scores and

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DOG RESCUED OFF CLIFF NEAR INDIAN BEACH

Felix went missing on Christmas Day hike

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

In a dramatic rescue, a dog stranded overnight on a cliff north of Indian Beach was brought to safety Tuesday morning.

Felix, a 2-year-old border collie, was rescued unharmed from a precipice 60 feet from the crest of the Clatsop Loop trail by the Seaside rope and rescue team.

He had gone missing around 3 p.m. Monday during a Christmas Day hike.

"He doesn't just leave, it's not like how he is," said Sarah Stremming, Felix's owner. "He does like water, so I figured he went over the cliff. He would have come back to me when I called if he hadn't."

For the rest of the evening, Seattle resident Stremming and a group of friends searched the cliffside to no avail.

"We thought we knew where he was, we just couldn't see him and he couldn't hear us due to the tides," she said.

Stremming posted a call to action on her Facebook page Monday night in an effort to reach out to what she called "an extensive network of dog lovers." By Tuesday morning, Cannon Beach Fire Chief Matt Benedict had a flood of messages waiting on the Cannon Beach Fire and Rescue Facebook page from Stremming's concerned friends.

Shortly after 8 a.m., Hamlet Fire Chief Matt Verley used his private drone to locate Felix. It was determined the only way to reach him was by scaling the cliff face with ropes.

Search and rescue missions aren't uncommon in and around Ecola State Park. On average, the rope and rescue team retrieves about six to 12 hikers each year, Benedict said.

But most happen in the summer, and this was the first high-angle rescue this year, Benedict said — a type of rescue that is steeper and



COLIN MURPHEY/EO MEDIA GROUP

Felix the dog is reunited with his owner Sarah Stremming after he was rescued Tuesday at Ecola State Park by members of the Seaside rope and rescue team after falling over a cliff Monday afternoon.

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