



Public works, planning directors announce retirement

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

Cannon Beach Planning Director Mark Barnes and Public Works Director Jim Arndt announced their retirement at a City Council work session on Tuesday.

Arndt was hired less than a year ago to fill the vacancy left by former Public Works Director Dan Grassick. He cited personal reasons unrelated to City Hall, but said he still plans to remain in the community. His last day is March 2.

"There are just some personal things I have to take care of. I didn't think I would have to go so soon," Arndt said. "(City Hall) is a wonderful group of folks. I wish I could



Mark Barnes

Jim Arndt

have seen a few things through, but I don't think the city will miss a beat."

Arndt is leaving in the midst of an ongoing debate about water rate increases to finance failing water and sewer infrastructure — a project that has dominated the majority of his tenure since getting hired in May.

"It's been a tortuously long pro-

'Both have been excellent.... I'd keep both of them if I could.'

City Manager Bruce St. Denis

cess, but I think we moved the ball down the road. We got out the message these infrastructure needs need to be addressed, and the public is understanding that," he said. "That's the first step."

Barnes, who has been with the city for five years, plans to leave his post by the end of October.

"Everyone has to retire someday," Barnes said.

After more than 30 years serving

as a planning director and consultant around the North Coast, he said he was ready to take some time for himself. He looks forward to spending more time with his family and traveling. As for any reminiscing about his time at City Hall?

"Let's talk in October," he said.

City Manager Bruce St. Denis said while the city looks for Arndt's replacement, Assistant Public Works Director Karen La Bonte will serve as the interim. St. Denis hopes to contract with Jensen Strategies — the same firm who helped recruit St. Denis for the city manager position — to help hire for both positions.

"Luckily, we've got someone totally qualified to step in (for Arndt)," St. Denis said.

As for Barnes, St. Denis hopes to hire a new planning director by July so there is time for Barnes to train the new hire before he leaves.

With St. Denis only two months on the job as city manager, he said losing two department heads so early in his tenure could bring "some potential challenges" as he transitions into his own role.

Overall, St. Denis feels confident in the city's ability to move forward.

"Both have been excellent. Mark is amazing at answering my questions. He has such a wealth of institutional knowledge we have to pass on," St. Denis said. "And Jim is so knowledgeable in his field. He's done a great job for us. I'd keep both of them if I could."

the calm after the storm



Extreme high tides left debris and sand as far as the Ecola beach access ramp.

High tides rock the Oregon Coast

Story and photo by Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

On Thursday, Jan. 18, Cannon Beach, like the rest of the Oregon Coast, bared witness to extreme high tides that produced impressively large waves and even more impressive photo opportunities. Locals and visitors alike gathered at Tolovana State Park to watch as waves came as high as the

parking lot, with debris and foam rushing to fill the beach access ramp. Thunder and lightning cracked behind Haystack Rock as weather alternated between torrential downpour and a light breeze. The Ecola beach access ramp had debris and silt as far up as the Wayfarer hotel parking lot. Waves crested over the top of the Tillamook Head Lighthouse.

According to the National Weather Service, offshore buoys recorded ocean swell heights of up to 36 feet Thursday morning. Wave heights were still cresting at 30 feet by the afternoon and continued to be high through Friday. The high tides made

the beach unwalkable, and carried in 10-15 foot logs onto the shore as if they were twigs. No injuries or rescues were reported in Clatsop County. A man was swept out to sea during Thursday's storm swells at Depoe Bay, and a group of women were rescued from the raucous waves by Cape Kiwanda.

The railing of stairs leading down to Haystack Rock off the "S curves" will need to be repaired after logs brought in by large waves crashed into the stairwell, said Public Works Director Jim Arndt. Other than, the city will work on clearing debris throughout town.



EUAN MONAGHAN

URSULA LE GUIN

Remembering a literary giant

Author's work was rooted in Cannon Beach

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

Ursula K. Le Guin, a literary giant who made her home in Portland and Cannon Beach, died Tuesday at 88.

The world-famous author was heralded as a major female voice in science fiction, but her work transcended the genre.

Betsy Ayres, of Cannon Beach, remembered Le Guin as a friend and inspiration. "Her ability to see other societies and other worlds opened up my eyes to different ways of looking at my own life," she said. "She will be greatly missed."

She was born Ursula Kroeber in Berkeley, California, on Oct. 21, 1929, the youngest of four children and the only daughter of two anthropologists, Alfred L. Kroeber and Theodora Quinn Kroeber.

As a young writer, Le Guin acutely felt the closed society of both literary and male-dominated elites, which stymied her yet also shaped her own genre-defining path.

She graduated from Radcliffe College in Massachusetts in 1951, earned a master's degree in romance literature of the Middle Ages and Renaissance from Columbia University in New York in 1952, and won a Fulbright scholarship to study in Paris. There she met her future husband, Charles Le Guin, who survives her.

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COURTESY KATHERINE LACAZE

Katherine Lacaze accepts a grant from Charlene Larsen of the Clatsop County Cultural Coalition.

From 'Alice' to Sherlock Holmes

Katherine Lacaze wins grant to produce children's theater in Clatsop County

By Nancy McCarthy
For Cannon Beach Gazette

A mystery will unfold in Seaside this summer, and some local kids will help Sherlock Holmes solve the crime.

They will participate in a play involving the famous British detective who follows the clues to uncover the guilty party when no one else can. The play's director, Katherine Lacaze, received a \$1,250 Clatsop County Cultural Coalition grant to stage the performance in partnership with the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District.

This is the second year that Lacaze has received a cultural coalition grant to produce a children's play. Last year,

she directed 25 children in "Alice in Wonderland," complete with Alice, the Cheshire cat, the Queen of Hearts and lots of croquet players.

"I hope we will get that many again; we need at least 20 kids," said Lacaze.

Although she hasn't decided exactly which Sherlock Holmes play she will present, it will be one that is written especially for children. The younger children will be among the "Baker Street Irregulars," street-smart kids who help Sherlock ferret out clues. Older kids will play Sherlock, Mr. Watson and Mrs. Hudson.

Auditions will be this spring, and rehearsals will begin in May or June for performances in August. She is seeking kids "that have confidence in

themselves; who can follow instructions; and be able to get outside themselves, who have the intrinsic ability to be silly and goofy," she said.

Theater has long been a part of Lacaze's life. She began teaching children's theater as a high school student in Arizona and in college. Her productions included "Music Man," "The Importance of Being Earnest" and "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown."

Although she works full time at the Seaside Convention Center, is a freelance writer and takes care of her 3-year-old daughter, Juliette, Lacaze is also active at the Coaster Theatre in Cannon Beach. Last year, she played the lead in "Barefoot in the Park"

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