



BRENNIA VISSER/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

“Soup for the Soul” on April 14 raised \$9,000 for the Cannon Beach Food Pantry.

LADLES OF LOVE

Cannon Beach Food Pantry hosts soup cook-off to raise funds

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

An intoxicating aroma of 20 different soups filled the American Legion Post 168 hall Saturday, April 14, as part of the Cannon Beach Food Pantry’s first-ever fundraiser “Soup for the Soul.”

Five local restaurateurs and 15 home chefs cooked up their best homemade soups for more than 200 people in the community and a set of “anonymous, mystery judges” to taste and judge. Between the \$5 tasting fee and a silent auction filled with more than 100 items, the Cannon Beach Food Pantry raised more than \$9,000 that will go to buying more food and supplies – \$4,000 more than their target fundraising goal.

Inspiration for the fundraiser came in response to a need to keep up with growing demand, said board member and event organizer Krista Tye.

“This community used to feed about 30 people a week. Now it’s more like 200 people a week we feed,” Tye said.

The board decided on a soup cook-off because of how easily shareable soup is, Tye said, as well as the fact it is the perfect food to “hunker down and eat” on the cold, rainy days that often happen through the spring on the North Coast.

Chelsea Donoghue was one of the many community members who threw her soup into the competition. Donoghue, a Seaside resident, was a regular food bank customer when she first moved to Clatsop County five years ago. As an homage to that period of her life, she decided to make her lentil soup solely out of ingredients from the food pantry.

“I wanted to show how you can make excellent food from the ingredients they provide here,” she said. “It’s how I fed my family.”

For now, the need will outweigh how much the food pantry can provide. But Tye is hoping the fundraiser helps make a dent.

“If people are fed, than everything else works,” Tye said.



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Bonny Gorsuch pours Gearhart resident Jenn Whyman some soup from Bald Eagle Coffee House at the Cannon Beach Food Pantry “Soup for the Soul” fundraising event.



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Three mystery judges tasted 20 different soups in a competition featuring local chefs and home cooks.

Commission gives campus go-ahead

With approval, district readies to put shovels to the ground

By R.J. Marx
Cannon Beach Gazette

SEASIDE — The Planning Commission unanimously gave the go-ahead to the new Seaside School District campus in the Southeast Hills. The \$99.7 million campus, approved by voters in November 2016, is expected to begin construction June 1.

“It is a significant milestone for us that now we can proceed with our planning and begin the process of starting construction,” Superintendent Sheila Roley said after Tuesday’s public hearing, the district’s third after two continuances. “We were able to have some good conversation with the commissioners and resolve any concerns that came up.”

Expansion plans

The district came before the commission requesting a conditional use permit to authorize the master plan and development plan for the new campus in accordance with the city’s zoning code.

The permit allows expansion of Seaside Heights Elementary School and establishment of a new middle school and high school facility.

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Pot stores OK in mixed-use buildings

Change will affect about 30 buildings

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

Marijuana shops will now be allowed in mixed-use buildings.

In a 4-1 vote, the City Council on April 10 reversed a decision made in August that blocked marijuana retailers from moving into properties with both commercial and residential uses.

Matt Ennis, a former resident in the building that now houses Five Zero Trees, had told city councilors at a July meeting his landlord planned to evict him to rent the commercial space under him to the marijuana store. But rather than change the code, councilors argued that denying applications from pot stores seeking to operate in mixed-use buildings was a better approach.

The idea to reconsider came from the fear that landlords with mixed-use properties would continue to evict tenants to allow marijuana retailers to rent their commercial spaces for a higher price.

“We didn’t contemplate a business owner evicting residents to have a pot store,” City Councilor Mike Benefield said in March.

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Putting down roots

Cannon Beach Academy kids participate in annual tree planting

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

Students from the Cannon Beach Academy carried on a nine-year-long tradition of planting trees Thursday, April 12, in honor the Cannon Beach’s 12 Days of Earth Day celebration.

With the helps of the parks department, students helped plant baby spruce trees along the perimeter of the former Cannon Beach Elementary School. Following tradition, each student was able to name their tree. Anyone walking through NeCus Park will now see a dozen trees wooden stakes

that read names like “Bob,” “Flower” or “Bruce Jet.”

This year’s tree planting signified more than just the coming of Earth Day, however. In years past, the tree planting was always done by Cannon Beach Elementary School students along the lagoon. But since the school closed in 2014, the planting project has been carried out by any kid interested in the area. Now with the Academy in full swing, the tradition of having a Cannon Beach school participate do the planting has been reinstated.

“It feels wonderful,” said 12 Days of Earth Day coordinator Barb Knop with regards to having a new school be a part of the planting. “It’s kind of ironic that this year we’re doing (the planting) on the old school grounds. We decided there was enough planted around the lagoon trail, and that it was time to find a new spot. New school, new spot.”



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Kindergartner Valentina Rodriguez hammers in a wooden stake with the name of her tree on it with the help of community member Les Wierson at the 12 Days of Earth Day tree planting April 12.