



COLIN MURPHEY/THE DAILY ASTORIAN

The site of the proposed school is overgrown and has limited access.

After five years, South Wind still a blueprint

Site in Cannon Beach could be school, shelter

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

Almost five years after being purchased by Cannon Beach, the 55-acre lot commonly called South Wind remains vacant.

The land, bought with the intention of relocating the elementary school and other essential services out of the tsunami inundation zone, is now inundat-

ed with Scotch broom and fraught with community confusion. Little money has been set aside in the city's budget for development. Master plans, which outline where essential city services would go, sit on the shelf, leaving residents wondering: What progress has been made?

"Progress? Well, considering it hasn't gone forward at all, that's easy to answer," Mayor Sam Steidel said.

Practical roadblocks, such as high cost estimates for utilities and highway improvements, are still giving the city sticker shock. With the Seaside School

District focusing on a campus relocation project in Seaside, receiving any type of district funding for a building for the Cannon Beach Academy, a new charter school, is a long shot.

But the real stalemate is derived from disagreements on the City Council about what should be built at South Wind, and how financially involved the city should be with building anything related to the school — disagreements that make development of anything in the near future unlikely.

See South Wind, Page 6A



BRENNA VISSER/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

A group of Fire Mountain School students blow ink onto paper as a part of a communal art project called "Seeing the Coastal Edge through Children's Eyes" on Tuesday.



COLIN MURPHEY/THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Bowls are set up at a location at Cannon Beach City Hall to collect water dripping from the ceiling.

Cannon Beach explores options for a new city hall

Tsunami inundation, structural worries

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

Poor conditions at Cannon Beach City Hall are a long-running joke.

In the back room, small bowls are lined up on a counter to catch water leaking from a roof that is 70 years old. A cheeky note is taped to a jar, asking for donations to replace the roof.

Because much of the building is built on sand and sawdust, the front lobby floor is at a slant, distorting Finance Director Laurie Sawrey's door frame so much she can't close her door. Her ceiling bends from the weight of storage upstairs, making her office one of the most vulnerable in an earthquake.

"I used to laugh along, but honestly, it's pretty serious," Sawrey said.

The joke could be coming to an end.

The City Council is looking at a bond within the next few years to replace the building, and directed city staff Wednesday, April 18, to consider money to conduct surveys and cost estimates in next year's budget.

Issues surrounding City Hall have been documented for more than a decade. In many ways, the building — with no fire safety system or smoke detection — doesn't meet city code.

In 2009, a tsunami-resistant building design was created, but never implemented. Multiple remodeling plans to fix perpetual issues like air ventilation and structural defects have been drawn up and shelved due to high costs and lack of feasibility.

A report by Tolovana Architects found the building — a former lumber yard — was never intended for this amount of use and is "simply not able to be remodeled in an economic manner as compared to constructing a new facility."

Conversations about replacing City Hall resurfaced at the urging of City Manager Bruce St. Denis, who has concerns about the building in a tsunami or earthquake. As it stands, the building would be vulnerable to a minor seismic event or a medium-to-large sized tsunami.

"I'm looking at this from an emergency management perspective. If we want to have this building if something happens, I don't know that we can rely on it," St. Denis said.

In late April, St. Denis asked city councilors to consider going out for a bond as early as November. Preliminary estimates suggest replacing the building would cost roughly \$5 million.

While city councilors unanimously agreed City Hall should be replaced, they shied away from an immediate bond option.

"We need to have more organically grown public opinion," City Councilor Nancy McCarthy said.

See City Hall, Page 6A

ON THE COASTAL EDGE

Fire Mountain School students inspired by conservation effort

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

ARCH CAPE — Students at Fire Mountain School will make their debut at the Cannon Beach Arts Association this month with art inspired by the environment around them.

With straws in hand, students on Tuesday collaborated on an ink portrait of a tree. Nicole Poole, a supporter of Fire Mountain School and artist, would drop a splash off ink on the page, which the students would then blow on to create a tendril-like design resembling branches of a tree. Others sat at different stations, drawing portraits of their

favorite Pacific Northwest animals and plants. The students, ranging in age from preschool to fifth grade, have also been creating temporary artwork in the forest and on the beach, inspired by the site-specific work of British sculptor Andy Goldsworthy.

The multiday art project was inspired by the idea of "seeing the coastal edge through children's eyes," said North Coast Land Conservancy Executive Director and Fire Mountain School parent Katie Voelke. Part of the goal of this project is raise awareness of the conservancy's fundraising effort to conserve the 3,500-acre Rainforest Reserve and Coastal Edge area near Arch Cape.

"NCLC asked the students at Fire Mountain School if they would be willing to share their artwork with the community to inspire them to conserve the Coastal Edge, and they said they would," said Voelke.

Fire Mountain School administrator Faith Deur said the project fits into the school's larger vision of encouraging place-based learning, a philosophy that encourages the work children do in school to have real world applications.

"You're not going from worksheet to worksheet. If you're able to do something real, something for the community, then it promotes a kind of civic-mindedness," Deur said.

About 30 different art pieces should be produced inspired by the coastal edge by the time the project is over. Deur said she hopes those who come see the work on display will have a chance to see the property "through the eyes of the children, and to find value in it."

The exhibition will be at the Cannon Beach Arts Association gallery on Friday, May 18 and Saturday, May 19. A reception will be held Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon.

'IF YOU'RE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING REAL, SOMETHING FOR THE COMMUNITY, THEN IT PROMOTES A KIND OF CIVIC-MINDEDNESS.'

— Faith Deur, Fire Mountain School administrator

Groups celebrate 12 days for our planet

Aquarium, conservancy among those helping to raise environmental awareness

By R.J. Marx
Cannon Beach Gazette

As the annual Earth Day Parade made its way down Hemlock, nearby downtown, Nancy Holmes and Betsy Ayres of the North Coast Land Conservancy, Lisa Habecker of the Haystack Rock Awareness Program and Keith Chandler, Tiffany Boothe and Daphne Hoth of the Seaside Aquarium hosted booths and distributed literature. The event was part of the April 11 to April 22 celebration of Earth Day.

The aquarium drew crowds with treasures garnered after a recent "upwelling," what they call an ocean burp.

Prize among them were live squid egg capsules, floating in water and holding between 180 and 300 eggs each, with six to eight weeks before they hatch.

The casings must remain in water or they'll dry out "pretty quickly," Boothe said.



R.J. MARX/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Tiffany Boothe and Daphne Hoth of the Seaside Aquarium brought live sea samples to Cannon Beach.

If you see them and throw them back, take them out a little deeper or they'll wash back in to shore. Can you eat them?

"I know of one person who ate one capsule," Boothe said. "He seemed to enjoy it. He lived."

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