

Cannon Beach welcomes a new code enforcement officer

Thompson-Kiefer lived on-and-off on the North Coast for years

By **BRENNA VISSER**
Cannon Beach Gazette

For years, Jenny Thompson-Kiefer got to know the world of vacation rentals as a house cleaner with a local property management company.

Now, Thompson-Kiefer will be returning to that world, but this time as Cannon Beach’s new code enforcement officer.

“I’ve seen the other side, and now I’m going to coming from a completely different side. I think seeing the backside of short-term rentals and knowing what it’s like will help in this job a lot,” she said. “And, I know where a lot of them are already.”

Last year, Cannon Beach decided to hire a code enforcement officer after not having the position since the 1990s. Thompson-Kiefer will be tasked with enforcing everything from design review and planning codes to vacation rentals.

Thompson-Kiefer’s journey to this job started about 20 years ago as a 18-year-old girl in the Columbia Gorge with a dream to go into law enforcement. After high school she began college but



Jenny Thompson-Kiefer joined the police department earlier this month.

By Brenna Visser/Cannon Beach Gazette

left early, eventually moving around and working a variety of jobs.

In 2004, Thompson-Kiefer made it out to the coast, where she was drawn by the natural beauty and outdoor recreation opportunities.

“I love the coast, the beach, the atmosphere,” she said. “I like the small town environment.”

Over the course of 10 years, either lived or worked in Cannon Beach in retail and the property management business. But still, Thompson-Kiefer couldn’t shake her law enforcement dream.

“I realized I could be doing more to help people and the community,” she said. “I decided to finish what I started a long time ago. It was a professional

goal, but in a lot of ways it was also a personal goal.”

So she decided to move to Grants Pass to start her education and be closer to her family. She then moved back to the coast, transferred to Portland State University and completed her criminal justice degree online.

Soon after completing her degree, Thompson-Kiefer through luck and circum-

stance saw the job posting for Cannon Beach’s code enforcement officer position pop up on her Facebook newsfeed after a mutual friend liked it.

ENFORCEMENT ROLE

Thompson-Kiefer will be tasked with enforcing everything from design review and planning codes to vacation rentals.

She sent in an application. “It just seemed like a good fit ... a good way in,” she said.

As the first code enforcement officer for the town in many years, Thompson-Kiefer hopes to use her position to educate and inform people about the city’s codes, rather than being seen as “the bad guy.”

“A lot of comments of being the most hated person — I don’t think it has to be that way,” she said. “I think people often are unaware that they are breaking rules.”

Thompson-Kiefer is excited for the challenge.

“I’m drawn to law enforcement because you never know what you are going to be dealing with in a day ... and you’re helping your community,” she said. “I like the feeling of getting involved, being in service. I’m excited to work for Cannon Beach.”

Invasive weed management

Cannon Beach Gazette

On Feb. 14, the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council hosts Troy Abercrombie for his talk “A Marginally Comprehensive Overview of Invasive Weeds Management.” Abercrombie is the Invasive Weeds Program Coordinator at the Tillamook Soil and Water Conservation District.

Drawing on a decade of work in weed management in both the public and private sector, he will introduce us to the major species of concern for Tillamook County. He will also talk about integrated pest management as a framework for weed control.

Before Abercrombie’s talk, the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council will hold its February board meeting. This is an opportunity for the public to see how the watershed council operates. Following the board meeting, there will be a short summary of council activities before Abercrombie’s talk begins.

This event will be held at the Pine Grove Community

House, 225 Laneda Ave., in Manzanita. The board meeting begins at 6 p.m. The presentation will start at 7:10 following a brief update from the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council at 7.

This event is part of the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council’s regular speaker series. The event is free and open to the public.



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MEETINGS

MONDAY, Feb. 11
Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District Board of Directors, 6 p.m., 188 E. Sunset Blvd.

TUESDAY, Feb. 12
Cannon Beach City Council, 5:30 p.m., work session, City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

THURSDAY, Feb. 14
Cannon Beach Academy Board of Directors, 5:30, 3781 S. Hemlock St., Cannon Beach

TUESDAY, Feb. 19
Cannon Beach Public Works Committee, 9 a.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Seaside School District Board of Directors, 6 p.m., 1801 S. Franklin.

Cannon Beach City Council, 5:30 p.m., work session, goal setting, City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

THURSDAY, Feb. 21
Parks and Community Services Committee, 9 a.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Cannon Beach Design Review Board Meeting, 6 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

THURSDAY, Feb. 28
Cannon Beach Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Dear TUMOR

I’m so glad I found you – and that the folks at Providence knew how to get you gone. These days, the view from here is lovely.

Darn lucky and blessed, Penny

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