

Fire truck funding in question

Fire district nixes operations levy

By CARA MICO
For Cannon Beach Gazette



Cara Mico

Team in front of nearly 30-year-old fire engine. Brian Smith, Cannon Beach Fire Fighters Association; Mark Mekenas, fire district board; Shaunna White, training officer; and Chief Matt Benedict.

Fire Chief Matt Benedict wants the Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District to be one of the premier districts on the Oregon Coast. To that end, a major roof repair, replacing unsafe response trucks and the 25-year-old fire engine are all on the district's wish list.

One way to bring those to Cannon Beach, Benedict said at the Monday, March 11, fire district board of directors meeting, could be an operations levy.

Adapted from a 2003 strategic plan, a new levy could bring the district's tax rate more in line with other, similar-sized districts and pay for new equipment.

Cannon Beach pays a lower rate than any district in the county, even when looking at property values, Benedict said.

District residents currently pay around \$.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

By comparison, Clatskanie Rural Fire Protection District rates are closer

to \$3 per \$1,000 with the permanent rate almost five times greater than Cannon Beach.

Benedict wants to upgrade the current fleet of incident response trucks to diesel Ford F250s over the next few years, partly to make the district fleet more uniform and partly because the district already owns a diesel fuel tank which can run the trucks in case of an emergency, reducing the strain on the single gas station in town.

With potential revenues from annexation of Cape Falcon in Tillamook County at the request of the residents still years away, Benedict said an

operations levy would meet immediate needs.

Board members asked Benedict to look at other funding sources, including billing insurance companies for traffic incidents from nondistrict visitors, or relying on the Cannon Beach Fire and Rescue Association.

The association recently purchased over \$15,000 in new equipment for the district including a new extractor and carbon monoxide detectors to replace the outdated equipment.

The association raises almost \$40,000 annually on behalf of the district through its ham dinner and other fundraisers.

OBITUARIES

Elaine Marie Strite Kiefer

Seaside

July 9, 1957 — March 13, 2019

Elaine Marie Strite Kiefer Seaside July 9, 1957 — March 13, 2019

Elaine Marie Strite Kiefer of Seaside, Oregon, passed away on Wednesday, March 13, 2019, in Portland, Oregon. She was born on July 9, 1957, in Portland, to Don and Marion Grothe.

Elaine grew up in Portland and graduated from Concordia High School. She attended the University of Portland and earned a degree in education. She spent the majority of her career at Seaside Heights Elementary School. Elaine was a devoted, caring and loving teacher. Every one of her students was valued and respected. She loved each child unconditionally.

Elaine married Bill Strite on Jan. 9, 1982, in Portland. They remained married until Bill's passing in March 2006. Through a family member, Elaine became reacquainted with Pete Kiefer, a classmate from elementary school. Pete and Elaine were married in August 2015.

Elaine and Bill had two children, Sara and Donny. Above all else, Elaine loved being a mom. She cherished the time she spent with her children. She always supported Sara and her passion to dance, and Donny and his love of basketball. In August 2014, Elaine became a grandma to Wesley, and three years later her second grandson, Will, was born. Elaine's grandchildren were the light of her life.

Elaine was strongly rooted in her faith. She was devoted to her personal worship and growth. Elaine enjoyed attending many churches throughout her life. Once again the love of children was evident in her willingness and eagerness to teach children in

Sunday school and vacation Bible school. Elaine's faith was her strength. One of her favorite bible verses was Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord."

Family and friends will never forget Elaine's sparkle and smile. Elaine found, and appreciated, the best in everyone. She went out of her way to make people happy, and if she could add a touch of glitter along the way ... she did.

Elaine was preceded in death by her first husband Bill (2006); her son Donny (2009); and her mother and father, Marion and Don Grothe.

Elaine is survived by her husband, Pete, of Portland, Oregon;

her daughter, Sara Weber, son-in-law Mike and grandsons Wesley and William of Warrenton, Oregon; her sister, Anne Grothe of Portland, Oregon; her brother, Don (Carole) Grothe of Portland; her sister, Mary Grothe of Texas; as well as nieces, nephews and cousins. Elaine is also survived by three stepchildren, Jessie (Oli) Kiefer-Layman of Detroit, Oregon, Natalie Kiefer of Portland, and Paul (Erin Gilbert) Kiefer of Portland.

A memorial service will be held at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 320 First Ave., Seaside, Oregon, at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 30, 2019. Following the service, a reception will be held in the church fellowship hall. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to the Donny Strite Memorial Scholarship Fund, in care of Seaside High School, 1901 N. Holladay Drive, Seaside, OR 97138.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Crown Memorial Mortuary of Portland, Oregon.



Elaine Strite Kiefer

CANNON BEACH POLICE LOG

Feb. 28
15:57 p.m., N. Hemlock: A found cell phone is turned in.

March 1
2:01 a.m., 2400 block S. Hemlock: Police assist fire and medics with an intoxicated male fall subject. Subject refused transport to hospital.

March 2
12:42 a.m., Holladay Drive: Cannon Beach police assist Seaside police.

4:47 a.m., 2500 block S. Roosevelt: Cannon Beach police assist Seaside police with a suspicious male subject reported walking around in an assisted living facility. Subject was unable to be located.

16:05 p.m., E. Washington and Hemlock: Police respond to a report of a person said to be

missing; caller said subject had not returned to a bus tour on time. Contact was later made that subject was safely returned home.

March 3
14:14 p.m., 200 block N. Hemlock: Criminal mischief in the third degree is reported at the Christian Conference Center. Graffiti is reported.

22:30 p.m., Hemlock and E. Jefferson: Police respond to a report of a possible runaway in the area. It is determined the person is not in the area.

23:35 p.m., 100 block Broadway: Cannon Beach police assist Seaside police searching for a male subject. Unable to be located.

March 4
1:02 a.m., 1300 block Park

Lane: Cannon Beach police assist Gearhart police.

14:43 p.m., Beach: A dog bite is reported.

March 5
10:07 a.m., N. Elm: A person is assisted with a lock out.

March 7
13:14 p.m., 1300 block S. Hemlock: A code violation is reported.

March 8
8:07 a.m., 1100 Spruce Court: The owner of a dog being complained about is given options.

8:47 p.m., Highway 101: Police assist Seaside police in pursuit of a suspect vehicle that ended in a single vehicle motor vehicle accident in Hamlet; suspect was transported to OHSU by medics.

March 9
8:23 a.m., 300 Elk Creek Road: A fugitive is taken into custody.

3:08 p.m., Second Street Parking: A cat that escaped from a car was wrangled and safely returned to its owner.

March 10
3:26 p.m., Beach: A dog bite is reported.

March 12
11:43 p.m., Sunset: A person is cited and released for driving with a suspended misdemeanor.

March 13
5:52 a.m., 7900 Ocean Point Road: Police assist other agency with an elderly woman fall patient yelling for help. She was transported to Seaside Providence Hospital by Medix.

3:11 p.m., E. Monroe: Police remove a sprung, found trap uncovered by a homeowner while raking. Homeowner did not know who set the trap and was concerned for pets and grandchildren

6:23 p.m., Christian Conference Center: Police respond

to a report of a belligerent male who refused to leave. The subject was gone on police arrival. He was later located in Seaside and informed he was trespassing from the Center.

March 14
1:10 p.m., Police headquarters: A woman came to the station to report a civil issue arising from work commissioned but not completed by a contractor. She requested additional patrols at the site of a house she is building and her own residence.



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Check out our website and Facebook page for 2019 events!
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37th Annual Crab, Seafood & Wine Festival
April 26th - 28th

The Clatsop County Fair
July 30th - Aug 3rd

MidLand coming to the Clatsop County Fair August 2nd!

