

North Coast Land Conservancy acquires Boneyard Ridge property



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Conservationists have acquired Boneyard Ridge on Tillamook Head.

By Lyra Fontaine
EO Media Group

North Coast Land Conservancy will permanently conserve Boneyard Ridge, a former commercial tree farm on Tillamook Head, with the goal of helping the property mature into a high-functioning temperate rainforest.

The nonprofit organization finalized the \$1.3 million acquisition of the 340-acre parcel July 27.

The land is adjacent to Elmer Feldenheimer State Natural Area and Ecola State Park and west of the land conservancy's Circle Creek Habitat Reserve in the Necanicum River floodplain west of U.S. Highway 101.

"The whole ecosystem gets to flourish when you have that scale and connectivity," North Coast Land Conservancy Executive Director Katie Voelke



Katie Voelke

By linking 3,500 acres of conserved areas, Boneyard Ridge — which encompasses an entire watershed — creates a habitat corridor, connecting wildlife populations separated by human activities.

"The way we will manage it, the trees will get bigger and older and there will be a greater diversity within the forest understory," Voelke said.

After decades of commercial logging, the property's current forest has trees from 10 to 60 years old, Voelke said. The land conservancy plans to take "stewardship actions that lead to an old, complex rainforest" where native

said. "It's one of those spots in the world where a small purchase makes a huge difference."

plants and animals can thrive. Boneyard Ridge is home to 2 miles of salmon-bearing streams, amphibians such as red-legged frogs and Columbia torrent salamanders, and mammals that include black bears and elk. About 90 bird species — including pileated woodpeckers, olive-sided flycatchers, bald eagles and rufous hummingbirds — live or make a migration stopover at Boneyard Ridge.

Wildlife species at Ecola State Park, including black bears and flying squirrels, could use the Boneyard Ridge habitat as well.

The purchase was funded with a \$524,000 grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, \$500,000 from an anonymous donor, and contributions from more than 120 additional donors.

North Coast Land Conservancy has worked to conserve

Boneyard Ridge in partnership with Lewis and Clark Timberlands since 2011.

In March, North Coast Land Conservancy signed a purchase and sales agreement with GreenWood Resources and had raised \$1.1 million.

Since then, they have raised the last \$200,000 needed to make the purchase.

Voelke emphasized the land's accessibility — one can see it driving on Highway 101.

Within the next few years, the land conservancy will work to create a system of trails.

"We're really excited about being able to provide trails and recreation so close to town for residents," Voelke said. "We feel like this can be a new, super special place for people who call it home ... This is something we all get to have now forever."

New college president mingles, talks priorities

Breitmeyer's focus is on enrollment

By Edward Stratton
EO Media Group



Christopher Breitmeyer, the new president of Clatsop Community College, chats with community members during a public meet-and-greet in July.

Christopher Breitmeyer stood on the second floor of Fort George Brewery recently, sometimes a pint in hand, and talked with the elected officials, business leaders, educators and other luminaries who had come to meet the new president of Clatsop Community College.

Breitmeyer, after less than a month since moving from St. Louis, said he is still learning the college and community, but already enamored.

"That's one of the things that attracted me, is that I can get to be a part of the community and make a difference," he said.

Breitmeyer, 49, was hired by the college's board unanimously in April. Shortly before the Fourth of July, he arrived from St. Charles Community College northwest of St. Louis, where he was vice president of academic and student affairs since 2012, and the college's dean of math, science and health since 2008.

A native of Illinois, Breitmeyer earned a bachelor's in biology education. While both his parents attended community college, his first introduction was after graduate school at Arizona State University, where he earned a master's in zoology. After graduation, he spent a decade as a science teacher at Yavapai College in central Arizona.

His wife, Alana, who helps teach other instructors to work online at St. Charles, is staying until next spring to earn a better retirement package, along with his daughter, Sophie, a junior in high school hoping to graduate early before moving to Astoria and enrolling in college in the Pacific Northwest. He described himself as a scientist, his wife as a mathematician and his daughter as an artist.

Breitmeyer, who can sometimes be seen around town walking his rescue dog Maize, said he is settling into town, exploring, house-hunt-

ing and learning the state of the college.

Getting to work

"I think the first thing we need to do is make a plan to start a strategic plan, and I can't do that without knowing what's going on ... so we can chart the next five years of the institution," he said. "Like anything else, you've got to know where you're going, or else you're just going to wander around, and we don't have the luxury of resources that allow us to not be focused and know what we're doing."

Breitmeyer said he is poring over past budgets, planning documents and other information to learn the state of the college.

His top long-term priority is increasing enrollment at the college, which recorded less than a 1 percent drop in full-time equivalent students from the last academic year. At his first college board meeting earlier this month, Breitmeyer said the college is already doing better than the national average, which is seeing 5 to 6 percent drops in enrollment.

As he learns about the college, Breitmeyer is trying to find a new second-in-command. Donna Larson, the former vice president of academic and student affairs, left for a dean's position at Clackamas Community College shortly before he arrived.

He said the college already has about 30 applicants for the position, open through the end of the month. Caught in an odd season for hiring, Breitmeyer said the college will likely offer a candidate the job in October.

Laundry Love: Contributing 'in some small way'

Laundry from Page 1A

Every second Saturday of the month, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Laundromat on South Roosevelt Drive, the group will fund two loads of laundry per household.

"This is an honor for us to contribute in some small way to those needing help," Smith-Yates said.

Each monthly event also features snacks, like hotdogs and cocoa; children's activities; books and magazines for people to take for free; and information on employment opportunities and community programs. Usually 18 to 22 families — a mixture of returning attendees and new faces — come to Laundry Love each month, Smith-Yates said.

In October last year, the group collected donations of winter clothes for a clothing drive in November, which was attended by about 30 families. Leftover clothes were donated to the South Clatsop County Food Bank.

In the future, Smith-Yates hopes to see the program continue growing and morphing to serve more of people's needs. For instance, she would like to start distributing small bags of toothpaste, soap

and other hygiene items each month. Simply paying for the laundry is an expensive endeavor, though, and the outreach is entirely funded from donations and sustained through volunteer work.

"We get financial support just from different people who give toward it, and they're from all over the country," she said.

A place for people to come when the couple started Seaside's Laundry Love chapter, they knew it was important in terms of addressing people's health and hygiene concerns and lessening at least one financial burden. What Smith-Yates didn't expect is what else would blossom from the program. She and other volunteers have built relationships with the people who come in and learned their stories.

"We find out people's names, where they're from and make ourselves available to them," she said. "It's just one of the best parts of doing Laundry Love. ... I wasn't prepared for nor did I think that would be something that was beneficial."

People's reasons for needing the service vary. One woman came in with garbage bags full of her recently deceased



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Laundry Love program puts on events each month at the Laundromat on South Roosevelt Drive. People can attend and have a couple loads of laundry done for free.

husband's clothes. She wanted to get them washed so she could donate them to Goodwill as part of her grieving and healing process. At other times, transients have brought in their clothing or bedding after it got dirty from being stored outdoors. No one is turned away.

Christy Bozarth, who moved to Seaside nine months ago and has volunteered with Laundry Love a couple times, said there is more to caring for people than just uttering the words. Saying "God

bless you" to a person who is hungry or has been wearing the same set of clothes for a month does not help them or meet their physical needs. Instead of just professing genuine empathy, Bozarth said, Laundry Love "is one way of showing it."

The next Laundry Love will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 13. To learn more about the organization, visit laundrylove.org or the Facebook page for At the Water's Gate.

FEMA to discuss revised flood hazard zones

The City of Seaside is hosting an open house Aug. 15, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Seaside Convention Center so FEMA representatives can provide information and answer questions about revisions to flood insurance rate maps.

FEMA has revised flood hazard zones within Clatsop County along Clatsop County coastlines.

These revisions reflect updated information and recent engineering studies.

Revised maps for these areas are available for public review and comment. These maps will help community officials and local residents identify flood risks and, once

adopted, will be used for flood insurance, land use and development decisions.

Property owners are encouraged to review the revised flood maps. They are available at City Offices. If you would like a custom flood map for your property, you are encouraged to contact your city planner.

Maps will be available for pickup at the open house.

The process for providing comments or requesting a map change will be discussed at the August 15th open house.

More information is available by calling the FEMA Map Information Exchange 877-336-2627 or atm.sc.fema.gov.

Seaside Art Walk kicks off Aug. 6

The Seaside First Saturday Art Walk on Aug. 6 is all about visual arts.

From 5-7 p.m. visitors can meet artists, sip wine or snag the better appetizers by favorite restaurants or personal chefs, view an artist demonstration, listen to an art lecture

or enjoy live performances in music.

The Art Walk, in its 14th year, is a walk in the historic Gilbert District located between Holladay and Broadway.

Dedicated parking is to be found on the corner of Oceanway and Holladay.

Bonamici, Cannon Beach officials meet to discuss tsunami early warning systems

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hot-button issues, including education, housing, seniors, jobs and health-care, improving emergency warning systems on the north Oregon coast was the primary focus of her visit.

Bonamici and Cannon Beach public officials met to discuss tsunami early warning systems and how to best communicate emergencies to residents.

"Cannon Beach is a great example," Bonamici said. "I really like the creative solution of having peo-

ple store their things out of the tsunami zone. I appreciate the partnership and the local, state and federal folks working together because we want people to be prepared and we don't want to discourage people from coming over to the coast."

Leland O'Driscoll, University of Oregon earthquake project manager and seismic field technician, explained the early warning system used to detect earthquakes' size and magnitude through a network of seismic sensors.

This system would be more available by 2018, O'Driscoll said.

The group also listened to the "mooring cows" emergency test warning system, spearheaded by former Cannon Beach fire board president Al Aya. "It's really fun to go downtown on a day like today," fire board director Garry Smith said.

"We turned it into a marketing tool rather than fear," Public Works Director Dan Grassick said. "Our next phase is to take a serious look at survival and where we will put

people post-tsunami."

Bonamici said she is still working to get the Tsunami Warning, Education and Research Act "over the finish line."

Currently, Cannon Beach has eight sirens, but the fire board eventually hopes to install more alarms in the southern end of Cannon Beach and Arch Cape.

"It took us a long time to convince people, don't be scared," said Cannon Beach Mayor Sam Steidel. "Be educated."



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U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici was in Cannon Beach Tuesday to learn about that community's tsunami early warning system.