

Cannon Beach fire chief to retire

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

CANNON BEACH — After three years as the fire chief for the Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District, Matt Benedict announced he will retire at the end of the year.

Benedict will help the fire district's board with the recruitment of a new chief.

"I've been in the fire service for 30 years and it takes its toll on you physically and mentally," he said. "I've put in 30 years and it is time for me to give this body a rest."

Every day the fire department is called to a scene, they are getting called to somebody's worst day, he said. Experiencing people's

worst days with them builds up and leaves firefighters learning to cope, he said.

Prior to Cannon Beach, Benedict served as assistant fire chief for the Pendleton Fire Department, where he climbed the ranks over 20 years.

The Cannon Beach fire district hired Benedict in 2016 to replace Mike Balzer, who was fired in 2015. Balzer filed a civil rights lawsuit against the fire district that was eventually settled by a \$55,000 payout.

"I'm comfortable leaving this organization the way I have developed it over the past three years," Benedict said. "Now I get to revitalize some of those things that kind of got lost during my career."



Colin Murphy

Cannon Beach Fire Chief Matt Benedict will retire.

Benedict is not planning on staying in the area. He said his wife intends to work as a traveling nurse.

Benedict is looking forward to spending more time with his family, traveling

and enjoying the outdoors.

Although he will not miss all the rain, Benedict said he will miss the community, the beautiful days and listening to the ocean and campfire in the evenings.

Ballot initiative on immigrant driver's licenses rejected

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — An attempt to repeal a new state law allowing undocumented immigrants to get Oregon driver's licenses has hit a snag.

Oregon Secretary of State Bev Clarno on Tuesday halted a proposed ballot initiative to walk back House Bill 2015, saying it doesn't comply with requirements stated in the Oregon Constitution.

The bill, passed earlier this year, allows Oregonians to present forms of ID that don't prove a person's legal immigration status in order to get a driver's license. The licenses will not be available until Jan. 1, 2021.

Undocumented immigrants — or others without documents proving U.S. citizenship or that they are in the country legally — have been barred from getting driver's licenses in Oregon since 2007.

Supporters of the petition want to prevent people who are here illegally from getting state driver's licenses.

The campaign to repeal the law, which calls itself "Stop Illegal Drivers," is led by Mark Callahan, a frequent candidate for political office in Oregon.

Callahan, reached for comment Tuesday, said that the campaign was "definitely going to fight" the ruling, and pointed to several previous cases that he believes support his interpretation that the petition



Sarah Zimmerman/Associated Press

Immigrant rights advocates rally in March outside the Oregon state Capitol in favor of a measure that would expand driver's license access to undocumented immigrants in Salem.

passes muster.

The Secretary of State's Office believes the constitution requires the petitioners to present the changes the petition would make to state statutes. Instead, the ballot title just says that a "Yes" vote on the petition "Demands" repeal of the bill.

In a post on the "Stop Illegal Drivers" website, the campaign said the reason Elections Director Steve Trout gave — the constitutional requirement cited by Clarno — was "not valid."

The campaign also posted on the website a message from Callahan addressed to Trout. Callahan called the reason for the rejection "flawed in logic and reasoning." He maintained that the petition was not trying to pass a new law.

"How can we submit the full text of a law that we are NOT 'Proposing?'" Callahan wrote. "It doesn't make

any sense. If we are NOT 'Proposing' a law, there is no full text of a law to submit."

Oregon's constitution includes several ways that Oregonians can have a direct say on a policy at the ballot box.

Lawmakers can refer a measure to the ballot; citizens can ask for a referendum on a particular law; or citizens can file an initiative petition to change state laws.

A referendum, which simply asks voters to reject or keep a law state legislators pass, differs from an initiative petition.

In the case of House Bill 2015, petitioners could not submit a referendum. That's because of a few words in the bill that amount to an "emergency clause."

That clause says the bill takes effect as soon as lawmakers pass it. The state constitution doesn't allow bills that go into effect that soon to get referred.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Planning Commission applicants sought in Gearhart

Gearhart is taking applications for the Planning Commission. The commission consists of seven volunteer, voting members to be appointed by the mayor with a majority of the City Council.

The term of office for a member shall be four years with terms expiring on Nov. 30 of the fourth year after appointment. Planning commission meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. Occasionally the planning commission will hold an additional work session.

Members of the planning commission will be chosen from the residents or the property owners within the city and urban growth boundary.

The commission studies the subdivision of land and make recommendations to the city council, to public officials and to individuals regarding land use, location of thoroughfares, public buildings, parks and other public facilities. The planning commission also studies any other matter relating to the planning and development of the city and surrounding areas.

Applications and questionnaires for the commission may be picked up at Gearhart City Hall at the city's website. Applications must be returned by Wednesday, Nov. 27. Interviews take place at the Dec. 4 City Council meeting at 7 p.m.

County 'ePermitting' now available

Online permit purchasing and tracking system called ePermitting is now available from The Clatsop County Building Codes Division

Contractors are now able to apply for and purchase all building permits online, submit plans electronically and schedule inspections 24/7 by phone, computer or smartphone via www.BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov.

Building codes is sponsoring ePermitting training to contractors on Oct. 29 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at 800 Exchange St., Astoria.

Contractors and their staff are encouraged to attend in person.

Staff from the Oregon Building Codes Division will be available after the training to answer questions and help contractors set up and use the system.

For more information contact building official David Kloss at 503-338-3697.

Tax surplus leads to \$1.5B 'kicker'

The Oregon Department of Revenue will provide \$1.5 billion tax surplus credit, or "kicker," for the 2018 tax year.

According to the department, instead of kicker checks, the surplus will be returned to taxpayers through a credit on their 2019 state personal income tax returns filed in 2020.

Visit www.oregon.gov/dor or call 800-356-4222. For TTY (hearing or speech impaired), call 800-886-7204.

MEMORIALS

Jane P. Tarr Sunday, Oct. 27

TARR, Janice P. — Memorial during the 9:30 a.m. regular service, St. Catherine's Episcopal Church, 36355 U.S. Highway 101 in Nehalem. All are welcome.

PUBLIC SAFETY LOGS



Oct. 11
12:26 a.m., 1500 block N. Prom: A subject is arrested on a warrant.

11:52 p.m., 1000 block S. Downing: Suspicious circumstances are reported.

Oct. 13
12:53 a.m., Turnaround: An assault is reported.

1:43 p.m., 900 block Ocean-Way: A disturbance is reported.

3:17 p.m., Cedar and Hilltop: A transient couple reported looking for cans and rifling private cans is reported as suspicious; officers are unable to locate.

3:59 p.m., East End Avenue B: Transients are warned not to set up camp.

Oct. 14
8:50 a.m., Wahanna Baseball field: A dog reported wandering at large is recognized by police officers who return it home and leash it inside its own yard.

Oct. 15
8:26 a.m., Police headquarters: A person came in to register as a sex offender.

9:52 a.m., Avenue E and Ocean Shore: A person reported to be digging large holes on the beach and harassing sea birds is advised to fill in a hole they dug. No further action was taken.

1:51 p.m., Avenue E and Irvine: A person is arrested on a warrant.

Oct. 16
7:18 p.m., 2100 block S. Franklin: A disturbance is reported.

8:41 p.m., 2100 block Lewis and Clark Road: A disturbance is reported.

Oct. 17
10:21 a.m., Holladay and Indian Way: A disturbance is reported.

3:16 p.m., Library: Police make contact with two males who were asked to move along by library personnel.

6:24 p.m., 800 block 12th Avenue: Property crimes are reported.

7:20 p.m., Parking area by Thai Me Up: A person is given a citation for driving without insurance.

9:30 p.m., 3400 block Highway 101: Police assist another agency with a subject in Gearhart.



Oct. 11
6:47 a.m., 1900 block Beach Drive: Emergency medical response

11:51 a.m., 400 block S. Holladay: After responding to a report of a disturbance, police advise the person causing the disturbance be transported to Seaside Providence Hospital for evaluation.

6:52 p.m., Southeast Seaside: Fire investigation.

Oct. 13
2:40 a.m., 1000 block S. Downing: Emergency medical response.

Oct. 14
2:41 p.m., 2200 block Skyline Drive: Emergency medical response.

Oct. 15
2:53 p.m., 200 block 16th Avenue: Fire investigation.

5:22 p.m., 1200 block S. Wahnana: Fire investigation.

9:14 p.m., 1000 block S. Downing: Emergency medical response.

Oct. 16
10:05 a.m., 500 block Beach Drive: Emergency medical response.

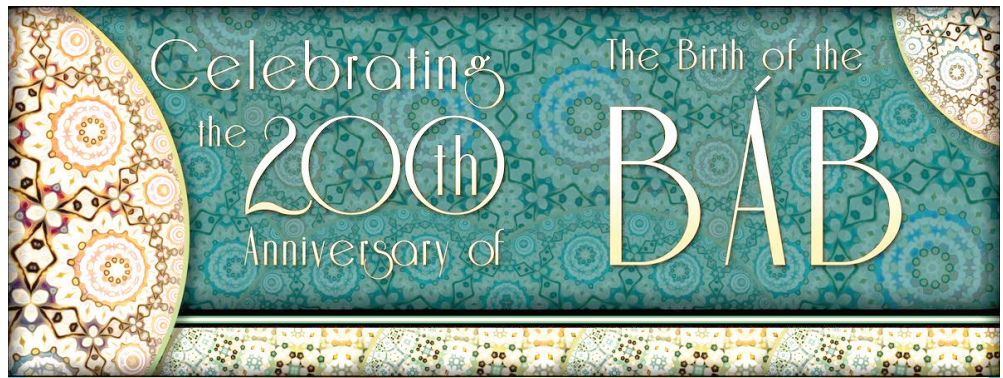
Oct. 17
1:20 p.m., 400 block Hillside Loop: Structure fire.

8:14 p.m., East Pine, Gearhart: Structure fire.



Man charged after taking elk during closed season

On Sunday, Oct. 20, at 9:13 a.m., after being pulled over for a traffic violation on Highway 26 near MP 13, Luis Fernando Vasquez, 47, from Portland, was cited for taking elk during closed season after the butchered remains of an elk were discovered in two game bags in the back of Vasquez's vehicle. Also in the back was a 7 mm rifle with a scope, which was seized, along with the meat, as evidence.



IRAN, that country in the cross hairs of our government and on the lips of pundits across the land. But what do we know about that "land of mystery"? For nearly two hundred and fifty years that land called Persia or Elam in the Old Testament, was the center of human achievement and acknowledged by historians as the cultural center of all civilization. Until Alexander and his hoards sacked the capital city of Persepolis it was the most advanced urban center in all the world.

Sadly, over the centuries Persia languished under the increasing corruption of Islamic rule, a rule that abandoned the teachings of the Prophet Mohammed in favor of materialistic expediency. Life was as difficult as any experienced in the Dark Ages of Europe. Then in the nineteenth century, a fervor spread across much of the land, a fervor associated with the Shiite Muslim prophecies that the "return" was imminent. Just as in the Christian west where Bible scholars were pouring over scripture and concluding that the "return of Christ" was soon to be realized, the "thousand years" since the disappearance of the Twelfth Imam would end in the year 1260 AH or 1844 in the solar calendar.

It was two hundred years ago this month that a child was born of the "pure lineage" that is, a descendant of the Prophet Mohammed, a very special child widely known to be precocious yet strangely pious, gentle and kind. That child three decades later would announce to a small handful of seekers that He was that promised "return" and that He brought a new message that would prepare His followers for the coming of one even greater than Himself. The tumult of this and a subsequent public declaration when challenged by the corrupt clergy, set in motion an upheaval unparalleled in religious history. Eventually martyred by a Muslim firing squad of seven hundred and fifty riflemen, His movement could not be stopped nor His mission stifled. Twenty thousand of his followers were brutally butchered by the fanatical mobs.

The prophet Jeremiah in referring to Persia recalled that the Lord promised to "set his throne in Elam" a statement that has baffled bible scholars for centuries. The story of The Bab, His brief ministry and tragic ending is not an ending at all but the beginning of a new chapter in the book of world religions.

Baha'is all over the world are gathering to celebrate the birth of that Luminous Being and the beginning of their faith in that far off land of Persia, Iran. Knowing that one day, as described in the Baha'i writings, Iran would throw off the shackles of orthodoxy and once again reclaim its role as a leader among nations.

You are warmly invited to join us in celebrating the two hundredth anniversary of the Birth of the Bab on:

*Saturday, October 26th
at 3:00 p.m.
Best Western Hotel
Astoria, Or*

"Dawn of the Light", a documentary film will be shown followed by refreshments and fellowship. All are warmly welcome.