



Residents concerned over traffic plan near school campus

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Is congestion the best traffic control?

Reaction to a proposed traffic safety plan to prohibit parking on the north side of Spruce Drive brought safety concerns to the fore last Monday night. The proposal would allow buses to pass without slowing or stopping back and forth to the new Seaside School District campus.

Sidewalks measuring 5 feet wide on the north side of the street will be completed to ensure accessibility to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The school district hopes to open for in-person learning Oct. 26.

“My concern is that you guys are going to open that street up and the speed at

which people go is going to increase 10-fold,” Patrick Major, a Spruce Drive resident, said. “You’ll kill someone with this idea.”

Construction is almost complete on the high school and middle school campus, approved by voters to move schools out of the tsunami zone.

Residents on the road that leads to the schools have already survived what planners estimated in 2018 would be the equivalent of 75 million passenger car trips on Spruce Drive during the 14-month period of heavy construction.

In a proposal developed by the Transportation Advisory Commission, Seaside’s public works director Dale McDowell offered the plan to restrict parking to the south side.

A proposed crosswalk
See Parking, Page A5



R.J. Marx

Gearhart firefighters on their return from fighting state wildfires. From left, Ron Britton, Randy Como, Josh Lair, Lindsey Wolfe, Josh Lair with Larkyn Lair, Stephanie Jaworski, Josh Como, James Hutchinson, Angels Vargas and James Schneider.

Firefighters describe a ‘humbling experience’ on their return

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Communities on the North Coast welcomed firefighters returning from state wildfires. As of last Saturday, all Clatsop County returned home safely.

“I want to thank everyone again for sending apparatus out and also covering the county,” Joey Daniels, Seaside fire and

Clatsop County defense board chief, said.

A water tender from Warrenton and an engine from Seaside remain in Lane County, Daniels added, both possibly coming home this weekend.

In Gearhart, balloons outside the Pacific Way fire station celebrated the return of three trucks and personnel from the Powerline fire by Hagg Lake and the Riverside fire near Estacada.

Chief Bill Eddy and firefighters worked outside cleaning and getting equipment ready to return to service.

Among them, firefighter Josh Lair described his team’s experience at the Beachie Creek fire.

“We were there the day after it exploded,” Lair said. “We were one of the first task forces on scene and we got to do some pretty heavy work. The first cou-

ple of days we saw was a lot of devastation. A lot of fire. A lot of people lost homes. We were put on some rescue operations to clear trees so they could get out. It was a pretty intense experience.” Along with Lair, Angels Vargas, James Hutchinson and Stephanie Jaworski were among Gearhart firefighters joining efforts at the Power-

See Firefighters, Page A5



Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District

Batting facility receives \$50,000 donation

Opening expected by mid-October

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Batter up!

The Sunset Park and Recreation Foundation, in partnership with Seaside Kids Inc. last week received a \$50,000 donation from the Herche family for the indoor training facility project.

The donation will also allow completion of work to outfit the concession stand that was not originally budgeted for the \$244,000 project.

The donation will help

complete construction, pay for the nets and turf, as well as equipment to outfit the facility to have it ready for athletes, Scott White of Seaside Kids Inc. said.

The facility is expected to be completed in mid-October, with a grand opening in early November.

Mary Herche delivered the check to White, Skyler Archibald, executive director of the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District, and project manager Chris Corder.

“This donation will ensure that we are able to complete the building construction and outfit the

See Batting, Page A5

Schools face the unknown as year begins

Spike in local virus cases

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

School’s officially in session in Seaside, although the campuses sit mostly empty while students participate in their education from a distance because of the coronavirus.

“We entered this week with a tremendous amount of anxiety and trepidation and fear of the unknown,” Seaside High School and Middle School Principal Jeff Roberts said during the virtual school board meeting last Tuesday. “Kudos to our community and to our staff and to everybody that

has just been so patient, graceful and, frankly, pretty amazing.”

According to data shared by Superintendent Susan Penrod, there are 1,545 students enrolled in Seaside School District for the 2020-21 school year.

Cannon Beach Academy has 47 students enrolled. Pacific Ridge Elementary has 648 enrolled, with roughly 20%, or 130 children, signed up for the Online Thrive option and the rest participating in comprehensive distance learning, which will even-

tually morph into a hybrid model of in-classroom and online education.

At the middle- and high-school level, about 20% of students also opted for Online Thrive, although Roberts said with school

underway, they are seeing a trend of students wanting to transition to comprehensive distance learning in order to have some interaction — even virtually — with their teachers and peers.

“I’ve been pleasantly surprised and very happy

to consistently move those students into our CDL program as requested,” he said.

Overall, 372 children are enrolled at Seaside Middle School and 478 enrolled at Seaside High School.

“We are down a little bit from last year,” Penrod said, adding, “these numbers, of course, will see a little movement as continue to experience some additional enrollment or students who drop.”

The school district is still eyeing late October to potentially reopen the campus for hybrid learning. In order to do so, they must meet certain metrics established by the state for the

See Schools, Page A5

ENROLLMENT NUMBERS

372 children are enrolled at Seaside Middle School and 478 at Seaside High School.

U.S. 26 designated POW/MIA memorial highway

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

“He was a pretty fair scrapper himself when he attended Washington State college, but Darwin passes his admirations to the Marines who were stationed at Wake Island,” read a newspaper report in the days prior to World War II.

The son of a Pullman, Washington, drug store owner, Darwin Meiners was a civilian contractor working with the U.S. Marines

on Wake Island when the Japanese struck the island, hours after the Pearl Harbor attack on Dec. 7, 1941.

Forty-nine Americans and islanders were killed, and many more rounded up and captured, including Meiners. Meiners served 44 months in a Japanese prison camp in Shanghai, China, before his release and return.

His nephews, John Meiners, of Astoria, and Darwin Meiners, of Lewis and Clark, were among the notables at Seaside American Legion Post 99 to designate U.S. Highway 26 as the POW/MIA Highway.

See Highway, Page A5



District commander Lou Neubecker of Legion Post 99, John Meiners, Darwin Meiners and Veterans of Foreign Wars District Commander Albert Little.

R.J. Marx

