



Lana Santos, 9, creates a poster for the fundraiser during a Pacific Ridge Elementary School PTO meeting at Broadway Park on Oct. 6.

PTO STEPS UP AT PACIFIC RIDGE

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

The Pacific Ridge Elementary PTO raised nearly \$7,000 to help purchase Chromebooks for students during the organization's first fundraiser since the PTOs from Gearhart Elementary School and The Heights Elementary School merged.

The fundraiser involved one of the community's longstanding traditions: selling school discount cards filled with special offers from local businesses. The PTO had the cards printed in March. Normally, the students sell them via their various social circles or by going door-to-door.

"The kids really like to be involved," said Amber Clyde, who serves as co-president alongside Nina Biasi. "They love to raise money for their field trips and their outdoor school and their assemblies."

The fundraiser was halted with the start of the coronavirus pandemic and subsequent closure of on-campus learning. Even this fall, the PTO realized the kids wouldn't be able to sell the cards through their normal means while following guidelines for social distancing.

Instead, the organization's leadership and volunteers took to the parking lot of the former Broadway Middle School on Oct. 9 to give community members the opportunity to drive by and pick up a discount card, along with cookie dough for \$5. Students stood on the side of U.S. Highway 101, cheering at passing cars and holding up handmade signs advertising the sale.

The PTO ran out of cookie dough during the event and made a significant dent in the discount cards, which are being sold for \$10 this year. In the past, both Gearhart and Seaside sold their

own discount cards for \$5. The cards this year merge the businesses and special offers typically featured from year to year.

"We're just trying to get them out so we can support the businesses that are on the cards," Biasi said.

Even though the cards were put together in March, the businesses are under contract to honor their offer. However, the PTO has no way of enforcing that.

"It's kind of out of our control," Biasi said, adding it even happens in non-COVID years that businesses will renege on their offer, particularly if they change ownership.

Community members who didn't get a chance to purchase a discount card during the fundraiser can do so at the Seaside School District office, the Seaside Chamber of Commerce and businesses in town.

To form the PTO for the new Pacific Ridge

Elementary School, the Gearhart PTO was dissolved and the group changed the name of the Seaside Heights PTO. They started the process of merging at the beginning of the year and made it official over the summer by combining their monies and filing as a 501(c)(3) under the new name.

"We've been able to work together to plan which events we want to keep," Biasi said.

At the beginning of the merger, they sent out a survey to teachers and families to get a sense of which were the most beloved traditions of each organization.

"It was important to us to see what they liked as our fundraisers or fun event," Clyde said.

About 90 people responded. The top two answers were the bingo night at the Heights and the family fun fair at Gearhart. The Pacific

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City sounds alarm on homelessness

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Seaside Mayor Jay Barber sounded an alarm about chronic homelessness, with people living on the wooded fringes of the city and increasing numbers of people setting up camps in local forests and woods.

"In not all of these cases but in many of these there is evidence of drug usage and concerns about the possibility of prostitution being conducted," Barber said at last Monday's City Council meeting.

Many of those who are homeless have mental health problems, substance

abuse addictions and may have fallen on difficult economic times, he said.

While organizations like Helping Hands and others proactively address the homeless situation, most of the homeless people encountered in Seaside don't want to become involved in these programs, either because of addictions or other lifestyle issues, Barber said.

Police Chief Dave Ham agreed there has been an increase in homelessness in Seaside.

"Many factors contribute to this, but what we see from our police contacts is that many of the people we

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No parking zone proposed on parts of Sunset Boulevard

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

In a move aimed to protect dog-walkers, bicyclists and pedestrians, the Seaside Transportation Advisory Commission recommended a parking reduction on the west side of Sunset Boulevard.

"When vehicles are parked along the curb, it reduces the drive lane to less than 8 feet in width," Public Works Director Dale McDowell said. "Vehicles are forced to drive into the oncoming lane to go around the parked cars. You come

around the corner and all of a sudden you are on top of somebody."

He said homeowners have been notified of the proposed change between 3000 Sunset Blvd and 3182 Sunset Blvd.

"We wanted to get as much input as we possibly could," McDowell said. "We're looking to get as much input as we can before we take any parking away anyplace."

The proposed change came before the City Council last Monday night.

A significant amount of curb line along the

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The PTO raised more than \$7,000 and will continue to sell discount cards around Seaside.

Katherine Lacaze

SEASIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Distance learning extended as virus cases persist

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

Seaside schools will not be shifting to a hybrid model with on-campus instruction by Oct. 26 because of the number of coronavirus cases in Clatsop County.

Students will continue with Comprehensive Distance Learning until the county's number of COVID-19 cases decline and meet state health

requirements for in-person learning.

"It is our highest priority to be able to bring students back in school, but when it is safe to do so," Superintendent Susan Penrod said during Tuesday's Seaside School District board meeting.

She made a recommendation to the board of directors to extend Comprehensive Distance Learning

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Halloween Happenin's brings old favorites, new events

R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Health restrictions as a result of the coronavirus pandemic have limited Halloween activities everywhere, but the Seaside Downtown Development Association is making sure no one is feeling deprived, with a full schedule of activities both new and traditional throughout the Halloween weekend.

For organizers of the association's annual Halloween Happenin's, this year is the opportunity to celebrate a carnival.

"The most prominent change is the carnival aspect," Dawn Fujiwara-Pavlik, a member of the association board and Halloween committee, said. "In the past, businesses would host different activities in their businesses. This year, we will spread out canopies out at Quatat Park. Participating businesses will host their own activity."

Activities include bean bag tosses, sand dollar

painting and a tic-tac-toe game, among others.

"This set-up allows us to social distance and keep the storefronts less congested," Fujiwara-Pavlik said.

Donations will be accepted in lieu of any fees.

The first "Witches Paddle" event takes place at Quatat Park on Nov. 1 at 2 p.m., with visitors invited to dress like a witch or warlock, bring their favorite floatable device and float the Necanicum River.

"We are encouraging participants to dress up as witches or warlocks and bring their stand-up board

or kayak or anything that floats to paddle out from the launch at Quatat Park," Fujiwara-Pavlik said.

"The Halloween committee has done a fantastic job adhering to all the guidelines for events for our COVID restrictions," executive director Laurie Mespelt added.

Events kick off next Saturday on Halloween with the pet parade at Quatat Park. Registration starts at 10 a.m. Donations of pet food or other pet goods to benefit Angels for Sara

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Courtesy Tiffany Boothe/Seaside Aquarium

Participant in a previous Halloween pet parade.

