

Coast Invitational swings into amateur golf action

By KATY KAWASOE
For The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The 105th annual Oregon Coast Invitational is in full swing. Participants have traveled to Astoria from as far as Arizona, Illinois, Boston and Florida for the biggest week of the year, representing 81 different country clubs and counting.

For some, the week is consumed of many games of fascination at the arcade in Seaside, building sandcastles at the beach, and getting stomach aches from giant bags of saltwater taffy.

For others, it is about winning each match to advance to Saturday's finals, eventually running down the hill to claim the crystal.

But above all, the week is all about family reunions. In a combination of blistered hands from golf grips, and sandy toes from the beach, the week of the Oregon Coast Invitational is the highlight of the summer to many families who use the week to finally spend quality time together.

While brothers and sisters for one another, the rest of the family plays in the match behind, or follows along in the gallery. Who would have thought that in 1910 the Oregon Coast Invitational would turn in to what it is today — where generations compete in the match-play event.

For more than 40 years the tournament has been restricted to those 21 years of age and over. However,



Junior-Senior medalist James Folk had a tough shot from under a tree, on the ninth hole in Monday's golf round.

last year was the first year the field was open to 18-year-olds.

A fourth-generation golfer, Taylor Swingle, qualified this year for the Championship Flight of the Grand Champions Division. His grandmother, Mary Swingle, also

played in the Oregon Coast Invitational when she was 18.

The door opened for other young players such as 2015 Seaside High School graduate Sam Hinton and Riley Elmes, who followed in the footsteps of their family members to play

at the age of 18.

Today, second-generation golfer Anthony Arvidson continues to dominate the field, following his impressive round that gave him Grand Champions medalist honors Saturday. Arvidson defeated David Berlant



Gary Henley/The Daily Astorian
Returning Junior-Senior champion Steve Hval opened defense of his 2015 championship with a win Monday at the Astoria Golf & Country Club.

in Monday's first round of the Grand Champions division, while Hinton got past Frank Nau, and will face Ilwaco's Jack Whealdon in a Wednesday match.

Whealdon's brother Patrick also won Monday, and will face Mike Swingle in a second-round match Wednesday.

In the Junior/Senior division, a battle of the locals will take place Wednesday as Medalist James Folk takes on past Junior/Senior Champion Jack Cartwright.

The Women's, Seniors and Super Seniors begin their first rounds of match play today.

Katy Kawasoe is a four-time Cowapa League golf champion from Seaside High School, and the daughter of Astoria golf pro John Kawasoe. She competed in last year's Oregon Coast Invitational for the first time, and recently completed her first year of college at Syracuse University.

Square: Project could include a public library and housing

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wondered whether, after the contaminated soil is removed, the hole would still sit empty for another two to three years while the City Council decides on a redevelopment plan.

The City Council is looking at a mixed-use project that could include a new public library and housing.

City Manager Brett Estes said once the council agrees on a redevelopment plan, the city might be able to start to fill the hole in anticipation of a project.

"Maybe it's not two to three years, but perhaps some time a little bit sooner than that," he said.

The city acquired the former Safeway lot more than a decade ago and has sought to remedy the contamination. A printing press, auto repair shops and a dry cleaner used the property before the supermarket.

The store's foundation



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

The Heritage Square has been home to a printing press, a auto repair shop, dry cleaners, and most recently a Safeway before the city acquired the property.

collapsed after heavy rains in 2010, leaving the hole. The soil stockpiled in the hole is from construction of the Garden of Surging Waves.

City Councilor Zetty Nemlowill called the collapse, which was during the recession, "kind of the pit of despair, at that point."

She said "as long as we

continue to really actively engage and talk about this site, and make it a priority, and the public knows that we're working on it, and the public is a part of it.

"It's going to be an interesting, positive place."

Price, meanwhile, dropped an idea to cover the fence around the hole with bamboo

screens after a test last week was unsuccessful. The city is considering other types of screens that could be used to shield the hole from public view.

In other items Monday night:

- The City Council appeared ready to move ahead with a two-year pilot program on parklets.

The city would likely allow two parklets downtown in the experiment. The mini-parks would be on side streets, not on main thoroughfares, and would be limited to roughly the size of parking spaces.

Councilor Price asked city staff to clarify the private and public uses of parklets, which would likely be tied to downtown businesses.

Price also recommended application and permit fees, smoking bans and the use of local materials in construction.

City Councilor Russ Warr asked Dulcye Taylor,

the president of the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association, which supports parklets, whether she was serious about potentially giving up parking spaces downtown.

Taylor, the owner of Old Town Framing Co., said her idea is to use former loading zones for parklets.

City Manager Estes said the owners of Astoria Coffee House and Bistro and Cargo on 11th Street and Downtown Coffee Shop on 10th Street have shown interest.

- City Councilor Drew Herzig cautioned fellow councilors about "microaggression," a term used to describe quick, often subtle insults or slights.

Herzig said he is "hoping that the council will start to examine itself as far as the use

of microaggressions at council meetings and knock it off."

Warr, who presided over the meeting Monday in Mayor Arline LaMear's absence, presumed Herzig was talking about him. Warr acknowledged he had been "impatient" with Herzig at the meeting.

"Our meetings would be a lot shorter if you would find a way to confine the time that you spend talking into the microphone," he told Herzig. "You use an inordinate — I mean inordinate — amount of council's time in meetings. So as long you're doing that, I'm going to do this."

"But I don't mean to be mean. I just mean to let you know how I feel about it."

Herzig told Warr he believes "democracy is worth all the time we need to give to it."

Goonies: Visitors crowd the area to Goonies house

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Goonies anniversary with a combined potential reach of 395 million people.

"And we didn't pay a dime. Not one penny did we pay for any of that," Hauke said of the media coverage.

The chamber, however, has not disclosed how much it cost to stage the four-day celebration.

'Goonies enterprise zone'

Not everyone in Astoria appreciates the Goonies phenomenon.

Roger Warren, who lives on 37th Street in Uppertown, a neighborhood some locals wryly refer to as the "Goonie enterprise zone," pleaded with the city to come up with solutions to the disruption.

Visitors routinely crowd the neighborhood on trips to the Goonies house on 38th Street. Signs that direct parking toward Astor Elementary School have only shifted congestion to other parts of the community.

"I've seen the impact of what's torn my community apart," Warren said.

Warren would prefer to shut down the privately owned Goonies house as a tourist attraction.

City Councilor Drew Herzig said he was in the neighborhood on Saturday and described what he saw as "kind of frightening." He said the problem seems to be getting worse.

"Steven Spielberg has a

lot to answer for," he said of the famous producer and director, who came up with the story for "The Goonies."

Hauke doubts Goonies fans would stay away even if the Goonies house was off-limits.

"I swear that if we shut down the Goonie house tomorrow, there'd be just as many people there," he said. "They'll view it from the bottom of the hill."

Derrick DePledge contributed to this report.

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