

A rebel salute

Civil War re-enactment draws about 1,500 visitors

The Daily Astorian

During Labor Day weekend, the Northwest Civil War Council's annual Civil War re-enactment drew about 1,500 visitors both Saturday and Sunday, exceeding last year's turnout, according to early estimates from Jim Munson, the event coordinator.

However, the number of re-enactors dropped about 40 percent, down to between 350 and 400, because of the now-discontinued county ban on open flames.

The Clatsop County Fire Defense Board lifted the ban Thursday, thanks to

the recent rains and cooler weather, but many re-enactors had already canceled their appearances. Had the ban remained, it would have precluded battle re-enactments and campfires, two signature features of the living history event.

But the battles carried on as usual, as did the other mainstays, including the battalion dress parades, the artillery demonstration, the medical demonstrations, the Sunday morning church service and, of course, the stirring history lesson by Abraham Lincoln impersonator Steve Holgate.



Erick Bengel/The Daily Astorian

While galloping away, a group of Confederate soldiers salutes a Union army on the battlefield at Fort Stevens State Park — a mighty friendly greeting, considering that the Yankees had just licked those Rebels in battle, and in full view of the public, Sunday afternoon.

Milestone: A century mark for Seaside High School

Staff, students hope to highlight special occasion throughout the year

By KATHERINE LACAZE
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — All impending school years carry some sense of trepidation, excitement or anticipation for incoming students, teachers, administrators and staff. For Seaside High School, the 2015-16 school year is a milestone, Principal Sheila Roley said.

The class of 2016 will be the 100th class to graduate.

Throughout the school year, students and staff look forward to making a big deal out of the "100th class" celebration, Roley said.

"In general, students are the ones with the really good ideas," she said.

She designated Associated Student Body President Alie Zagata to lead a team in putting together a history of the school and planning activities and events throughout the year,



Katherine Lacaze/EO Media Group

A photo at the Seaside Museum depicts the Union High School built in 1916 that served students from Gearhart, Seaside and Cannon Beach.

including a community event next spring. Students are considering a time capsule to store memorabilia and messages to future generations. They are in the early stages of planning, but

"it's going to be a big project," Roley said.

Regional high school

About 100 years ago, Seaside, Gearhart and Cannon

Beach each had their own district for elementary students, but educators and community members determined it would be best to start a high school run by a separate unified school district with its own board of directors. In November 1916, after several delays, the communities dedicated a recently finished \$35,000 Union High School in Seaside.

"Seaside can well feel proud of this excellent educational building, and those instrumental in the building of this valuable adjunct to this great resort can feel highly elated at the result of their labors," the Seaside Signal wrote Nov. 16, 1916.

Another Signal article described the new school as "bigger in its enrollment" and "better in its equipment, broadened till it stands second to none in the county."

J.W. Branstator was the principal at the time. Under his direction, the district planned

to expand its curriculum so the caliber of Union High School would equal that of Astoria High School.

Union High School was located directly west of the current facility, along what is now North Holladay Drive. Some time in the 1950s, the district constructed a new building that became the core of the current high school.

That facility was expanded in 1962, increasing the capacity of the school to 600 students. A gymnasium large enough for two basketball courts and folding bleachers was a highlight of the upgrade.

Fast forward to today

Fast forward to now, as the school prepares for its 100th year of serving high school students in South County.

Roley, Assistant Principal Jeff Roberts and other staff members and teachers are preparing for the arrival of approximately 450 students for the 2015-16 school year.

Freshmen and new students will come Tuesday for a program called Link Crew. Junior and senior crew leaders will show the new students around the school and put on several team-building exercises to help them get acclimated before the remaining students arrive Wednesday.

"It's a great transition program," Roley said. Incorporated about 20 years ago, she added, it is "one of the most significant changes for setting a positive school climate we've ever made."

Personally, Roley is entering her 30th year as an educator, and she said the "excitement and anticipation has never diminished one bit for me."

"I anxiously await the arrival of the staff and kids each year," she said.

Each year, she anticipates leading the high school into the future. Educators are never satisfied, she said, because "they know there is growth we can continue to make."

Putting the maps in order in Seaside

By KATHERINE LACAZE
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — Seaside City Council is considering a limited expansion to the city's Downtown Maintenance District boundary. During a work session Aug. 31, council members reviewed businesses and organizations within the district and their assessments. While they stopped short of an overhaul of boundary lines, councilors could "clean up" the district's northern border straight across Oceanway.

Any change would not go into effect until fiscal year 2016-17.

Established in 1983, the district has not changed since then. The boundaries are uneven, but in general, include businesses in the downtown core from Roosevelt Drive to the Promenade located along Broadway and portions of Avenue A, Avenue B, Columbia Street, Oceanway and Franklin Street. Businesses are charged based on the number of frontage feet.

For 2015-16, nearly 170 tax lots within the boundaries were assessed at a rate of about \$8.84 per front foot to generate more than \$92,000. After the assessment is completed, it is sent to Clatsop County, which adds the fees to the property owners' county taxes for the year.

The dollar per front foot rate, according to the city's Administrative Assistant Kim Jordan, is based on two contracts the city pays for downtown landscaping and litter removal.

Only when those contracts increase does the assessment rate go up, she said. Otherwise, the rate stays the same. The city does not make money off the assessment.

At the work session, councilors discussed in particular a spring request by the Seaside Elks Lodge, which has two large parking lots along Avenue A, to receive reduced rate or relief altogether from the assessment. Representatives of the lodge said the funds could be returned to the community through the organization's scholarship fund or various projects. The organization

pays a little more than \$1,000 for one lot's front and \$1,400 for the second, 160-foot lot.

If the organization's lots were removed from consideration, it would require an approximately 2.7 percent rate increase per lot for other property owners, according to city staff.

Councilor Randy Frank said he was open to a reduction, adding, "I don't think there's anything wrong with them chipping in here."

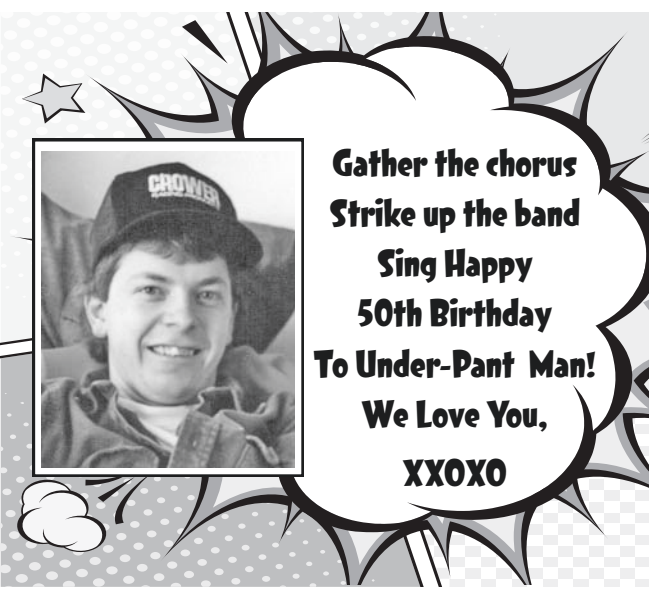
Councilor Dana Phillips did not agree since the street in front of the lodge is landscaped and maintained through the city's contracts, and the Elks benefit from it, she said.

"They're getting a service from the city, and I don't think what's being charged for that service is out of whack," she said.

If the city were to make an exception in the future, Frank said, the language should be broadened so it applies to a whole group, such as all nonprofit

organizations, rather than a singular entity. No decisions were finalized at the work session. The councilors expressed a desire to extend the district's northern border straight across Oceanway, which would incorporate a handful of new tax lots, including

those occupied by Ashore Hotel and Pizza Harbor, the parking lot next to Quatat Park owned by Beach Development and a piece of land that was owned by Donn Bauske. Charges go to property owners, not businesses, Jordan said.



Gather the chorus
Strike up the band
Sing Happy
50th Birthday
To Under-Pant Man!
We Love You,
XXOXO



CITY OF ASTORIA SERVICE FAIR

Thursday, September 10, 2015
4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

at the
Columbia River Maritime Museum's Barbey Center,
20th and Marine Drive

- Meet City officials, employees, and volunteers
- Find out what's happening in City departments through displays and demonstrations
- See big construction equipment, police cars, and fire trucks up close
- Enjoy free hot dogs!!

For online updates:
www.dailyastorian.com

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Clatsop NAMI ACC (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will meet **September 8th at 7 pm** in the Astoria Seafood Center upstairs conference room.

Guest speaker will be Joell Archibald, RN, MBA, Innovator Agent serving Columbia Pacific CCO, covering Mental Health issues and projects in Clatsop County.

Drew Herzig, Astoria City Councilman, will speak about the new Astoria Warming Center project at the October 13th meeting.

The public is invited.



National Alliance on Mental Illness

Find Help. Find Hope.

CITY OF ASTORIA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Astoria Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, September 16, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.**, in the Astoria City Hall, Council Chambers, 1095 Duane Street, Astoria. The purpose of the hearing is to consider the following request(s):

1. Wireless Communication Facilities WCF15-02 by Sharon Gretch, Lexcom for Verizon Wireless (VAW), LLC dba, Verizon Wireless to construct a 150' high wireless communication facility at 3850 Reservoir Road in the LR, Land Reserve zone.
2. Wireless Communication Facility WCF15-03 by Sharon Gretch, Lexcom for Verizon Wireless (VAW), LLC dba, Verizon Wireless to construct a 150' high wireless communication facility at 1580 Shively Park Road in the IN Institutional zone.

For information, call or write the Community Development Department, 1095 Duane St., Astoria OR 97103, phone 503-338-5183.

The location of the hearing is accessible to the handicapped. An interpreter for the hearing impaired may be requested under the terms of ORS 192.630 by contacting the Community Development Department at 503-338-5183 48 hours prior to the meeting.

The Astoria Planning Commission reserves the right to modify the proposal or to continue the hearing to another date and time. If the hearing is continued, no further public notice will be provided.