



COWAPA TEAMS GATHER FOR SEASIDE INVITATIONAL
SPORTS • 4A

GULLS' JANUIK IS 4A PLAYER OF THE YEAR
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TREASURE HUNTER HITS PAY DIRT

Local prospector finds rare gold coin in Seaside

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Some people don't see below the surface. That can't be said of Gearhart's Ryan Wolslagel.

Wolslagel is a hunter, treasure hunter, that is, wielding a metal detector and swinging it for whatever he might find.

Last week he hit pay dirt.

When Seaside's historic North Holladay Drive was opened by bulldozers for the first time in almost a century, he collected his gear and hit the streets.

He hit the jackpot: an 1857 \$5 Liberty head half eagle in very fine condition, San Francisco mint.

For the tight-knit club of treasure hunters, gold coins are rare. Very rare. Pre-Civil War coins are even rarer.

Wolslagel's prospecting friend Tim Sillett, who came up to Portland from Arizona for the Portland Gold Show and detoured to Seaside, was openly envious.

"That's the No. 1 thing on everybody's list, a gold coin," Sillett sniffed. "He's in the gold coin club and he's only been hunting for how long?"

"Four years," Wolslagel admitted.

"Four stinking years!" Sillett snorted. "I've been doing this 25 years and never found a gold coin. He's been doing it four years and he finds one."

The coin could be worth between \$350 and \$1,000 "to the right person," Wolslagel said.

A passion begins

Wolslagel, who at 38 is considered "very young" in the world of diggers, began his hobby in Southern California.

When he moved to Oregon about four years ago, his interest became more serious as he explored the state's many beaches and parks and emerged with Native American artifacts, beads and treasures washed ashore.

On a neighboring property in Gearhart — at the homeowner's request — Wolslagel found an assortment of items: an old St. Patrick's pendant, wheat pennies (featuring amber waves of grain) and a Tootsie car, produced by the historic Tootsie-Toy Co..

On Gearhart beach, he found a glass buoy that floated from Japan, similar to others



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

Ryan Wolslagel holds a gold coin he found along North Holladay Drive.



Submitted Photo
An 1857 \$5 Liberty head half eagle



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

Tim Sillett and Ryan Wolslagel prepare to explore North Holladay Drive.

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Forrester to retire from Astorian after 28 years

Will remain as president, CEO of family-owned media company

The Daily Astorian

Steve Forrester has announced his plan to retire as editor and publisher of The Daily Astorian.

"While I am retiring from this job, I will continue to work as president and CEO of our family's company, EO Media Group," Forrester told his managers Monday afternoon.

The company is recruiting for a group publisher to oversee the Astorian and four other EO Media Group publications on the coast.

They include the Seaside Signal, Cannon Beach Gazette, Coast River Business Journal and Chinook Observer.

John S. Perry, chief operating officer for EO Media Group, said retiring from the Astorian allows Forrester to focus more on the company's growing business.

"When Steve arrived at the Astorian in 1987, the family owned only two other newspapers: the East Oregonian in Pendleton and the Blue Mountain Eagle in John Day. Today, EO Media Group owns and operates 11 newspapers in Oregon and Washington," Perry said.

EO Media Group also has invested in digital services, including websites, mobile communications



Steve Forrester

and social media. The company publishes books and magazines as well. It employs nearly 200 people in four states.

Forrester, 69, said he will conclude his 28 years at the Astorian at the end of August. He and his wife, Brenda, will continue to live in Astoria.

Family history

Forrester is the third member of his family to serve as publisher of the Astorian. His brother Mike was editor there from 1971 to 1973, before moving to the East Oregonian. Their father, J.W. "Bud" Forrester was editor in Astoria from 1973 until 1988.

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'Buyer beware' of water and sewer coverage

Proceed with caution before purchasing plan

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

Property owners receiving mailers from companies offering coverage for water and sewer line protection should consider a few things before purchasing a plan:

The coverage is legitimate and optional, but it isn't insurance, and the products aren't affiliated with, or officially endorsed by, regional utility providers.

At least two outfits — American Water Resources of Oregon and HomeServe USA — have started sending unsolicited advertisements and enrollment forms to local residents.

"They kind of blanket the city a couple times a year and try to get people to sign up," Jo Johnson, water-sewer clerk at the Astoria Water Department, said.

Homeowners might easily assume they're buying an insurance policy; both companies offer "peace of mind" with external water-sewer line protection for \$5.49 per month and \$65.88 per year.

However, what they're selling doesn't qualify in Oregon as insurance or service contracts. Rather, the product falls under

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Stranded dolphin a rare sight

Northern right whale dolphins are more common in California

By NATALIE ST. JOHN
EO Media Group

SEAVIEW, Wash. — A type of dolphin rarely seen in this area died on the beach south of Seaview Sunday evening.

Police received a report of a stranded dolphin that was injured, but still alive, around 8 p.m., Sgt. Tony Leonetti of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife said in an email.

The male northern right whale dolphin "appeared to have a large laceration on its fin and along its side," Leonetti said. Responders attempted to put it back into surf, but the "dolphin appeared to be exhausted and was unable to swim."

Wildlife officers notified marine mammal experts at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Seaside Aquarium, but no one was immediately available to respond to the animal, and experts believed it was already too late to save him.

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Tiffany Boothe/Seaside Aquarium

A northern right whale dolphin, a species normally found in warmer waters, beached in Seaview, Wash., Sunday night.

