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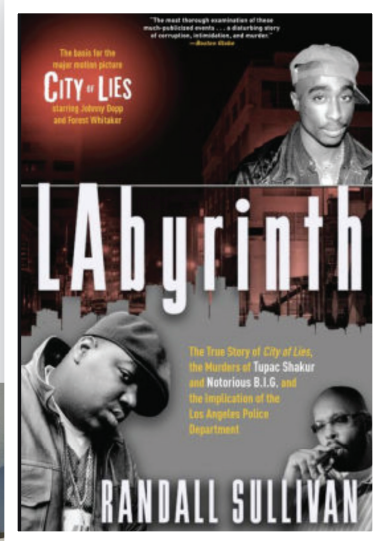
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CORONAVIRUS

Gearhart journalist dives deep into the deaths of rap legends



R.J. Marx/The Astorian

ABOVE: Randall Sullivan stands next to a table of his books at By the Way in Gearhart. TOP: Sullivan's book, 'Labyrinth,' served as the basis for the film 'City of Lies.'

Film based on Sullivan's book debuts this month

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

GEARHART — In 2001, Rolling Stone magazine assigned journalist Randall Sullivan a story about corruption in the anti-gang unit of the Rampart Division of the Los Angeles Police Department.

Sullivan worked his source, Detective Russell Poole, who had evidence officers moonlighted as security for the hip-hop label Death Row Records and arranged the 1997 killing of rapper Notorious B.I.G. No one has ever been charged.

Sullivan's reporting culminated in the book, "Labyrinth: The True Story of City of Lies, the Murders of Tupac Shakur and Notorious B.I.G. and the Implication of the Los Angeles Police Department." The book has been made into the movie, "City of Lies," starring Johnny Depp and Forest Whitaker and hits theaters this month.

"City of Lies" is about a corrupt chief of police and a group of gangster cops," Sullivan told The Astorian. "The bad guys were Black but the victims were Black, too."

"It's as if Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra had been whacked by the mob



Suzanne Tenner/Saban Films

Johnny Depp stars as Detective Russell Poole in the movie 'City of Lies.'

in Las Vegas in the '50s," he said. "Do you think that murder would go unsolved for 20 years?"

A privileged position

Sullivan considers himself an Oregonian. He and his wife, Delores, moved to Gearhart in 2018. Locals sometimes recognize him for his roles on the popular Oprah Winfrey Network show "Miracle Detectives," or "The Curse of Oak Island: The Story of the World's Longest Treasure Hunt" on the History Channel.

He was born in Los Angeles but moved to Coos Bay before he was a

year old. The family spent 12 years there before a move to Portland. "My dad was a walking boss," he said. "It's like a longshore foreman. He was a rugged man, rough and very bright."

Sullivan attended the University of Oregon and then went to Columbia University in New York City on a writing fellowship. He was hired at the New York Daily News, then the United States' largest circulation newspaper. He worked there for a year when the 1978 New York newspaper strike brought his job to a temporary halt.

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Seaside takes new path on special ed

School district to leave regional consortium

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

SEASIDE — The Seaside School District will leave a long-standing consortium that provides options for special education services to North Coast students across the region's five school districts.

Seaside instead plans to develop its own programs in an effort to better provide services to students close to home beginning in the fall. It is a conversation that has been going on for some time, said Superintendent Susan Penrod. As a five-year commitment to the consortium came up for review, "we really started to evaluate: Are we serving every student?" she said.

For the school districts that remain in the consortium, Seaside's decision takes away one option for younger students and means a change in what the program costs.

Because of the support and resources these students often require, the consortium classes can be expensive for districts to run. For Astoria, a slot for a single student has cost just over \$29,000 a year. Without Seaside in the mix, that cost could jump to \$35,000 per student.

'WE'LL AGREE TO THIS ONE YEAR AT A TIME UNTIL WE FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH IT. BUT FOR RIGHT NOW, I THINK IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO.'

Astoria Superintendent Craig Hoppes

The Astoria School District and the Warrenton-Hammond School District, which supply the remaining consortium classrooms to their own students, as well as those from Knappa and Jewell, plan to continue with the consortium for now but will need to evaluate their involvement going forward.

"We'll agree to this one year at a time until we feel comfortable with it," Astoria Superintendent Craig Hoppes told the school board at a recent meeting. "But for right now, I think it's the right thing to do."

Students enrolled in consortium programs move around between the school districts that offer these classrooms. Under the agreement, Seaside, for instance, provided room to North Coast students in kindergarten-through-second grade. If what is offered with the

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MORE INSIDE

County reports new virus cases • A6

Georgia transplant has passion for books

Newsome joins Seaside library

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

SEASIDE — Micah Newsome, his girlfriend and two Boston terriers drove from Augusta, Georgia, to Seaside in the midst of the pandemic last summer.

"It was a joint decision. She has family in Washington County and



we both like the area," said Newsome, Seaside's assistant library director. "We both applied for jobs before moving, and was planned to move if either of us was offered a position. We were fortunate enough to both be offered positions. We're living with family in Washington County right now, so that was our deciding factor."

Newsome's hometown of Harlem, Georgia, is famed as the birth-

place of Oliver Hardy, the more rotund half of the classic comedians Laurel and Hardy.

His parents were teachers and Newsome can't remember a time before he went to the library.

He nursed his passions for science fiction and survival tales before he discovered J.R.R. Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings" in high school. "I tend to read fantasy to this day," he said.

Inspired by his sister and brother, who both worked in libraries, Newsome studied library science at Valdosta State University. Since graduation, he's worked as a young adult

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R.J. Marx/The Astorian

Micah Newsome is the assistant library director in Seaside.



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