

Striking up the band at Seaside High School

Dahlgren lets students 'cut loose a bit'

By Rebecca Herren
Cannon Beach Gazette

It is the beginning of the school year at Seaside High School, and with that, there will be another musically exciting adventure for the bands. The Symphonic Band will welcome new students into its band program.

Without last year's seniors, the first order of business, according to Terry Dahlgren, the high school's band director, will be to get everyone used to playing together. "Quite a bit of time goes into rebuilding fundamentals of playing and sight-reading the first few weeks of school," Dahlgren said. "Working up the music for pep band is also a fun priority that needs to be accomplished." For many of the students, this is their favorite part of band, he noted.

Dahlgren has a busy year planned for his band students. After they have settled into the new school year, their attention will be focused on the fall concert in November that will



REBECCA HERREN/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Seaside High School band director Terry Dahlgren works on rebuilding fundamentals of playing and sight-reading for returning and new band students.

include patriotic, holiday and Halloween pieces. Then in January, they will begin building their contest music. One of the pieces Dahlgren has planned for the contest is a medieval piece that conjures images of knights and majestic royalty.

The district and league contest performances will de-

pend on the performance level the students achieve while practicing their musical skill building. All the while working on music for basketball pep band and supporting the school where they can.

But it doesn't end with all work and no play. Dahlgren will let the students "cut loose

a bit" to play some movie music for their spring concert. "The students have made some great suggestions for pieces to play for pep band and the spring concert, so we'll see how many of these we can accomplish." In the meantime, he will try to put together a jazz band for this year.

Concerts and contests don't come without a price and Dahlgren acknowledges the support from the community. "We have been extremely fortunate in the bands to have had great financial support from our community that helps us avoid spending valuable classroom time and energy on fundraising." He recognizes the support through organizations such as the Lighthouse Jazz Society, Seaside Boosters and Broadway PTO among the community members who have made generous donations.

The bands in Seaside continue to be one of the largest 4A programs in the state. There are approximately 230 students from grades 6 through 12. The Symphonic Band, which is the main band for the high school, continues to be strong at the 80- to 90-member range. Both the pep band and jazz ensemble are assembled from the membership of the symphonic band.

Dahlgren notes that the band program is fortunate to have some of the best academic kids in school and there are several opportunities for students to shine. Ten students from Broadway Middle School and Seaside High School will be selected for the district honor band in January.

Two students who stand out from last year are Kendy Lin, who traveled with the Oregon Ambassadors of Music to Europe this summer; and Gretchen Hoekstre, who was a member of the Music in May honor band at the end of the last school year, and who, Dahlgren said, will be an integral member to the bands' success this year. "We have many great kids like Kendy and Gretchen, but it's a team effort. Everyone is important to our success. That's just not a platitude in our case, it's the key to everything."

Dahlgren's philosophy speaks volumes. The competitions are one of the learning opportunities used to increase performance skills and he's upfront about the purpose of the competitions. As for beating other bands, he's no longer interested in providing that experience to students. What he is interested in giving them is the opportunity to play in a real auditorium and receive real feedback from leading music educators. "The key for me is that the kids are showing growth and that the feedback is valuable. If musical growth occurs, then it's 'mission accomplished' in my book."

Archaeology Day festivities at Cannon Beach Museum

On Saturday, Oct. 21, join the Cannon Beach History Center & Museum as they partner with the Archaeology Institute of America for International Archaeology Day. In celebration of this day, the museum will have a pop-up exhibit on the history of archaeology in Egypt. Dr. Sarah Sterling will end the day with a presentation on her work and research on pyramids in Egypt. Time to be announced.

International Archaeology Day is a worldwide event that has nearly 200 historical societies, schools, and museum participating.

The purpose of this event is to bring archaeology and history to communities throughout the world. This will be the Cannon Beach History Center & Museum's third year participating. Dr. Sterling is an assistant professor at Portland State University. Sterling has overseen excavations around the world and spent many years at digs in Egypt. She will talk about her time and work there.



Sarah Sterling

Halloween Happenin's in Seaside

The Seaside Downtown Development Association presents Halloween Happenin's, Saturday, Oct. 28 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This event will be held in various locations throughout Downtown Seaside. All activities are free.

The association also presents Howl 'O Ween pet parade and costume contest. Costume contest will begin at 3 p.m. Quatat Park with the

pet parade beginning immediately after. This is a benefit event for Clatsop Animal Assistance and participants are required to donate \$5 to enter.

Other Halloween events include: "A Dance with Death" Murder Mystery Dinner located at Maggie's on the Prom beginning at Sunday, Oct. 28, at 6 p.m. and Tuesday, Oct. 31, Downtown Trick or Treating from 2 to 5 p.m.

Artisans team to boost poetry program

Seaside teacher launches artisan market fundraiser for traveling students

By Eve Marx
For Cannon Beach Gazette

Mark Mizell has been teaching English at Seaside High School for 34 years. For 20 years, every three years, he's taken 20 to 25 high school students to the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada.

The Gathering highlights special guests and programming honoring the contemporary heritage of Basques and Buckaroos. In years past, this field trip was paid for through money allocated through the school budget or education grants such as the Meyer Memorial Trust. Without those funds available, Mizell opted to take a different approach this year.

To finance the trip, Mizell and his wife Becky are sponsoring the Harvest Moon Artisan Market the weekend of Oct. 28 and Oct. 29 to take place at the Broadway Middle School gym. Featured will be vendors from the North Coast and the southwest coast of Washington.

Becky Mizell is an artist working in polymer clay who sells her work through her business, Becky Sue Creations. You may have seen her booth at the Astoria Sunday Market and the market in Ilwaco. The Mizells reached out to other vendors including Leslie McCray's "Sweater Heads," and watercolor artist Dave

Bartholet, whose work is displayed at his Gilbert Gallery in Seaside. Mizell expects 25 to 30 vendors to be involved. Each vendor pays a \$70 entry fee.

"Every penny of that money will go to offset student travel expenses to the Cowboy Poetry Gathering," Mizell said.

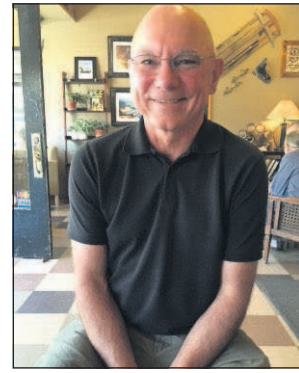
The Gathering takes place in Elko from Jan. 29 through Feb. 3. It's sponsored by the Western Folklife Center. Prior to the trip, students will put in hours distributing fliers for the Harvest Moon Market and the Tillamook Head Gathering which takes place in mid-January. Other activities include making signs, manning a food booth at the Harvest Moon Market; helping vendors and practicing for the presentation of a mini-traveling show they're calling the "Let 'er Buck Chili Feed Revue."

"They'll be performing that prior to the trip and during the trip as we travel down the tracks by train, and at the Gathering in Elko," Mizell said.

The trip to Elko is in itself quite an adventure.

"The afternoon of Wednesday, Jan. 31, we'll take a beautiful yellow school bus from the high school to the train station in Portland," Mizell said. "From there, we'll ride the train from Portland to Sacramento; switch trains, and travel through the Sierra Mountains and across the Great Basin to Elko, which is in eastern Nevada."

At the Gathering, the students will



Mark Mizell

perform their show. They may participate at the teen poetry and music slam, as well as meet with seasoned writers and poets.

On Sunday, Feb. 4, they'll catch the train to Reno where they'll next board a plane for Portland where the beautiful yellow school bus will be waiting to transport them home again.

"Along with parent and teacher chaperones, my wife and I have been taking students to the Gathering for 20 years. "The last one we attended featured the world-renowned author and activist Temple Grandin as the keynote speaker, as well as Cowboy Poetry Gathering greats such as Michael Martin Murphy, Ian Tyson, Don Edwards, Cowboy Celtic, and Paul Zarzyski."

The Harvest Moon Artisan Market promises to be an amazing event. "All the craft items are handmade by the vendor," Mizell said. "And this is a fun way to help students afford the upcoming trip to Nevada."

For more information about becoming a vendor contact Mark Mizell at 503-593-9044 or email him at mmizell@seaside.k12.or.us.

To make a donation to the students' travel fund, write a check to Seaside High School Elko Fund.

"This is the first time we've ever done a fundraising artisan fair to get the students to Elko," Mizell said. "Hopefully, it won't be the last."

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