

The life he saves may be your own

Find that all the news that’s fit to print, at least a lot of it, can be found at the meetings of the Seaside Downtown Development Association. Last Thursday’s event featured some exciting news about the city’s lifeguards and improvements in the semaphore system, an international signal system designed to save lives.

Semaphores are a visual system of flag warning signs that allow for communication along the shore. This year, the fire department upgraded the system, with new, large neon-painted signs posted at 10 city locations, in front of avenues G, K, N, S, U, and 3rd, 6th, 9th, 12th and 16th avenues

“We use it as a beach warning system for information,” said Captain Dave Rankin of the Seaside Fire Department told the group. “We tried to put them in the biggest areas where people might see them. It’s a simple system. The sign says, ‘For emergency, dial 9-1-1 and pull rope.’ There’s a weight, it falls down and the ball goes up.”

Rankin, a Navy veteran, was hired by the city in 2012 and served as a beach lifeguard now manages the lifeguard program. According to Rankin, lifeguards act as first responders from the water up to the Prom, Rankin said. They are all trained in first aid and CPR, and more than half are volunteers with the fire department, including several EMTs and a paramedic.

There are two types of lifeguarding, he said, proactive and reactive. Proactive involves communication with beachgoers at the water and surf-line before an accident happens about potential hazards they could face. “Reac-

SEEN FROM SEASIDE

By
R.J.
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Let’s take a moment to honor our veterans on the anniversary of D-Day, Saturday, June 6, as we did on Memorial Day and do throughout the year.

tive lifeguarding means going into the water and hopefully, making the save,” Rankin said.

Swimmers, surfers and beach enthusiasts have no first line of defense against the many hazards that could await in Oregon’s waters: riptides, and the notorious “sneaker waves,” something of an Oregon phenomenon. “As a wave comes, it builds and builds,” Rankin said. “Waves come in sets, and the sneaker wave is just an extra wave that goes up a little further, with a little bit more power. They call it a sneaker wave because people have a false sense of security, it just comes up on them.”

Last year, Seaside lifeguards made 10 water rescues; this year, so far, there have been two water rescues.

It is hard to believe that Seaside and Cannon Beach are the only towns along the Oregon Coast with lifeguards. Granted that cold

temps and cloudy skies may keep down the number of swimmers, but that hasn’t stopped generations of surfers, waders and lazy back-floaters from taking advantage of the Pacific waters.

The SDDA’s Executive Director Tita Montero commented that the presence of lifeguards is a real draw for the city of Seaside.

We agree — without question, anything that can be used to protect the lives and safety of visitors is a plus for everybody. Be aware of potential dangers, and in an emergency, pull the rope and call 9-1-1.

Legion Post honors fallen veterans

American Legion liaison Lou Neubecker of Seaside’s Post 99 led the Memorial Day observance at the Legion Post on Broadway. Former First Vice Commander Gary Lee Heller was the honoree at the Seaside American Legion Post 99’s Memorial Day service. He served in the U.S. National Guard from 1961 to 1969 and died July 3, 2014, at age 70, after being a member of the Seaside American Legion for 12 years. At the Memorial Day ceremony Monday, his brother Duane Heller, sister Jeannette Klefstad and lifetime friend Jon Marsh were escorted by Second Vice Commander Chuck Godwin to the bridge over the Neawanna Creek to lay a commemorative wreath in Heller’s name.

What we really took away from the event was the measure of brotherhood shared by members of the Legion and their ongoing support for veterans and their families. Clatsop County Service officer Luke Thomas issued an im-



R.J. MARX PHOTO

An emergency warning sign in Seaside near Third Street, one of several such signs to alert lifeguards in the case of an emergency.

passioned plea to veterans to seek help when it is needed, not when it may be too late. The Legion Riders were a welcome presence and a symbol of respect and remembrance, “in memory of those transferred to Post Everlasting.”

At a meeting of the SDDA in mid-May, Commander Neubecker invited the public to spe-

cial events including the Lobster Feed, bingo nights, line dancing, dinners and more. The Legion is at 1315 Broadway St.; (503) 738-5111.

So let’s take a moment to honor our veterans on the anniversary of D-Day, Saturday, June 6, as we did on Memorial Day and do throughout the year.

Between the Covers

ESTHER MOBERG

It’s time to gear up for first-ever summer reading event

The Seaside Public Library is gearing up for our biggest event of the year, summer reading! Summer rading is actually many events over the summer to keep kids and teens engaged in reading all summer long with lots of great events, all free, and all at the library! Every week during the summer, something exciting and fun will be going on at the Seaside Public Library.

Registration for summer reading starts on June 2. Some of the countywide summer reading grand prizes for kids include e-readers and baskets of books!

The Seaside Public Library’s first summer reading event will be held on Saturday, June 13. The theme is a Pirate Carnival Kickoff party starting at 11:30 a.m. We will have everything from a dunk tank to a shark toss! Come and find out who will be in the dunk tank and try your hand at Pirate Rubber Ducky Hunt!

This year’s summer reading theme is around superheroes and heroes and our main theme is: “Every Hero has a Story.” The countywide summer reading will start in June at each of the public libraries in As-



ESTHER MOBERG

toria, Seaside, and Warrenton, as well as at the Jewell and Knappa schools, and will continue through July.

Other exciting events for kids at the Seaside Public Library include our regular weekly story times every Wednesday at 10 a.m. These story times are for children ages up to age 5 with a focus on early literacy that includes stories, songs, crafts, and more. For older kids, we will also be having Lego club, cookie decorating and many other events and performers all around the superhero theme. These aren’t exactly my kind of heroes, but I hear a rumor there may be some carnivorous (meat eating!) plants at the library, as well as

some reptiles hitching a ride with the Oregon reptile man!

To round out summer reading for teens, we will also have events just for them. Who doesn’t love a good pizza taste testing party? We may also see some ninja’s around the library and some obstacle courses to name just a couple of the ever popular teen Tuesday events starting June 16. All events will be held at 3 p.m. for teens.

So, if you have the hankering to learn more about superheroes, or maybe you think you are a hero, then show off your stuff, come

to the library and read up on your favorites. You never know, you might just see Batman lurking in the corner by the comics, or Thor checking out the graphic novels!

Kids, teens and adults don’t forget to come to the Seaside Public Library after June 2 to register for summer reading and pick up your reading logs! Complete them this summer, and turn them in at the Seaside Public Library for a chance to win some really cool prizes!

Esther Moberg is the director of the Seaside Public Library.

Obituaries



Rodney Dean Douglas

Nov. 20, 1943 — May 12, 2015



Rodney Dean Douglas was born on Nov. 20, 1943, to Margaret Ann Ness in Seattle, Wash. On May 12, 2015, Rodney passed away at home surrounded by his family.

Rodney is preceded in death by his younger sister Margie, his stepfather Donald Douglas, and his mother Margaret Douglas. Rodney is survived by his wife, Lynda; his daughters, Juliet Davis and Kristen Cazarez; his son, Rodney Jr.; six grandchildren, Dante and Diega Douglas, Jordan, Parker and Ruby Davis, and Saoul Cazarez; two sisters,

Barbara Rash and Ellen Low; and several in-laws, and nieces and nephews.

Rodney was raised by Don and Margaret Douglas in Seward and Cordova, Alaska, and Seattle, Wash. In the late 1950s they moved to a small farm in Tigard, Ore. Rodney was a graduate of Tigard High School. Rodney was an enrolled member Tlingit Haida tribe of Southeast Alaska. Rodney spent his teen years apprenticing as a carpenter, ship builder and car mechanic with Don Douglas. After high school, Rodney enlisted in the Navy and was stationed in the Philippines and Japan during



Rodney Douglas

the Vietnam conflict. He was an enlisted crew member of the USS Clarton River.

When he returned to civilian life in 1967, he lived in Tigard. His passions at this time were collecting and restoring 1929 era Model A Fords. Rodney attended community college and received his degree as a dental technician. During this time he met his future wife, Lynda Peterson. After a short courtship, Rodney and Lynda were married in 1968.

In 1972, Rodney, Lynda and Don Douglas built a beautiful dream home for his growing family on the property in Tigard. For many years, Rodney crafted and improved the home site with landscaping and a four-bay shop to restore his vehicles and share his creativity with friends and family.

The house is gone now, but the shop is in use as a park maintenance facility for the city of Tigard. While his children were attending McKay elementary in Beaverton, Rod gifted the school a reading structure for the library, and the custom crafted school sign which still hangs on the front of the building.

After acquiring his denturist license in the early 1980s, Rodney relocated his family to their Seaside home and started the Astoria Denturist Service. Rodney was the sole proprietor of this business from 1983 until 2009. Many of those years he worked side by side with his daughter, Kristen, who managed the business. Rodney spent his free time camping, fishing, restoring a 1957 Chevy BelAir, a 1949 Dodge dump truck and maintaining the 1929 Model A known as “Sarah.” Rod cherished spending time with his family, his children and grandchildren.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, please donate to your favorite charity.

Hughes-Ransom Mortuary in Astoria is in charge of arrangements. Visit www.hughes-ransom.com to share memories and sign the guest book.

Margaret Hedrick

June 24, 1923 — May 11, 2015



Margaret Hedrick

Margaret was an outgoing, active person until her final weeks. She was active in business for many years. She worked at the telephone company and in insurance when young. After moving to Eugene, she helped her husband with his mobile home business, sold real estate, and became a travel agent. She had a passion for going places, with frequent trips to Hawaii and abroad. A highpoint for her was the trip she and her husband took around the world.

She was active at St Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in Portland and Peace Presbyterian Church in Eugene. She coordinated fundraising and regional activities for

the AFS foreign student exchange program in Eugene. She was a fan of North Eugene HS and UO sports teams, and a supporter of the Eugene Jr. Symphony. She frequently played social and duplicate bridge in Portland.

Her husband predeceased her in 1992. She is survived by her four children (Virginia Dideum, Ken Hedrick, Nancy Hedrick, and Barbara Scofield), two grandchildren (Amanda and Patrick Dideum), and three great-grandchildren, as well as two sons-in-law (Thomas Dideum and Chris Scofield), and her granddaughter-in-law (Kathy Dideum).

Her memorial service is on June 6 at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, 3228 S.W. Sunset Blvd., at 11 a.m.

Remembrances can be given to the church’s Cuba Mission (www.standrewspdx.com/cuba-mission) or Bay Area Cancer Connections (<http://bconnection.org>).

Her memorial is online at the Springer and Sons website, www.springerandson.com/category/on-line-obituary

Deaths

May 14, 2015

PETERSON, Harold Robert, 87, of Hood River, formerly of Seaside, died in Hood River. Services are pending. Anderson’s Tribute Center in Hood River is in charge of the arrangements. Go to www.AndersonsTributeCenter.com to leave a note of condolence for family.