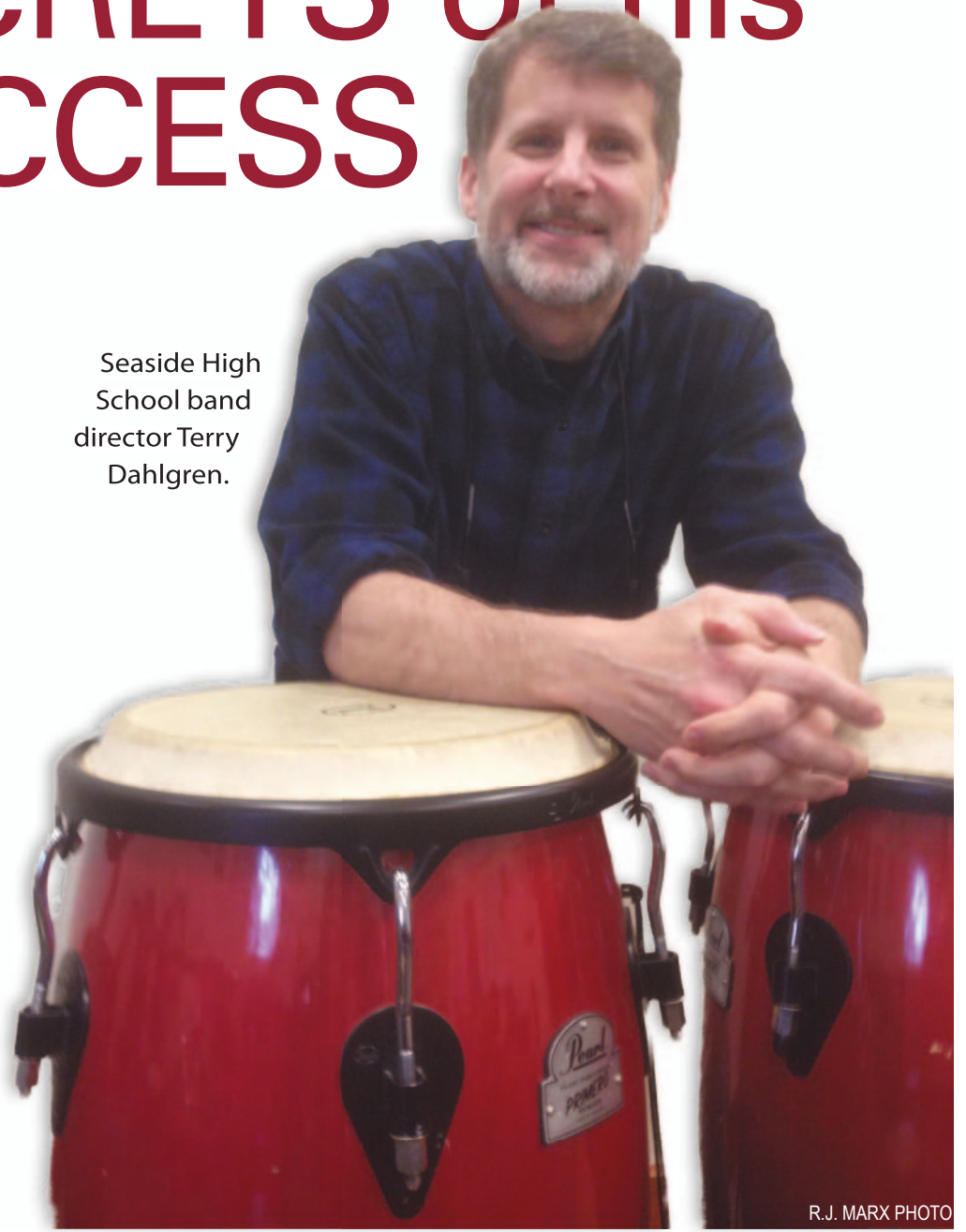


By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Seaside band leader shares the

SECRETS of his SUCCESS

Seaside High School band director Terry Dahlgren.



R.J. MARX PHOTO

The Seaside High School Concert Band took home statewide honors on Wednesday, May 3, and their success comes in large part from the efforts and leadership of band director Terry Dahlgren.

We sat down with Dahlgren shortly after his group's triumph and probed for the secrets of his group's success.

Dahlgren joined the district in 2002. A trumpet player, he'd been "heavily involved in band since fifth grade. He attended the University of Minnesota as a trumpeter, but already had played percussion and marching band. "I started on violin in fourth grade. I sort of followed a remote path."

On his arrival to Seaside, he led the group to the state band finals in 2003, with about 30 members. Band includes beginning band, "Everything is directly related to how things start at Broadway. Particularly in the band area, the class that starts as sixth-graders is really the future of the band as seniors. That's seven years of territory to cover. There's 90 here in symphonic band, and there's another 140 down at Broadway, divided between beginning band and two seventh- and eighth-grade bands.

The competition for the state band finals at Oregon State in Corvallis was Seaside's 10th trip in a row. "It's a huge honor just to get there. The schools are rated in size based on their enrollment from 1A to 6A. The biggest schools are 6A. Seaside competed in 4A.

"The most difficult competitions are 4A and 6A," he said. "They seem to have the heaviest concentration of bands that perform at state band finals. Everybody's good."

To prepare, "It actually starts in the summer,"

Dahlgren said. "I plan what we're going to play in the fall, at contest time, and what we inevitably do in the spring. The key for me, in terms of opportunity what to do in the finals is selection of the music in the summer. I spend hours listening to old things, listening to new things.

"At the 4A level, you have to perform 18 minutes of music," he added. "That's a good chunk of music. Not only do you have to pick music that the kids are going to learn from, hopefully enjoy, but it has to fit the time requirement. A lot of times I'll come up with a great program that doesn't fit the time requirement, so I have to go back and come up with the right formula."

"We rarely take a day off. We play pretty much every day of the school year."

The selections come from the "mostly classical" repertoire. "When I started, we hung around the standard warhorses, now there's a lot of great writing for high school band."

Repertoire started with the "Cincinnatus March," H.A. Vandercook, a circus march. "I love marches, the kids enjoy it," Dahlgren said. "They make you smile, tap your foot, and they're technically demanding. Circus band music is a beating. Then we went to a three-movement work called 'Lyric Suite,' based on the work of Thomas Hardy and William Shakespeare, which required us to use our finesse, to hit all aspects of musicianship. Then we played a ballad, a slow piece, 'Whispering Tree,' in memory of a student killed in a traffic accident. To me there has to be a point to the music. I don't just pick something because I think 'the kids are going to win,' or 'the kids are really going to like this so it will be easy to work with,' that's

not how I work. We need a hook, this is why we need to work on this piece, to do this piece. We finished with a big festive piece called 'Proclamation.'"

The work was debuted at the district concert in St. Helens in early March, before being performed at the high school before parents and community. The band prepared for league concert, and based on how well the band performs, they have the opportunity for selection to the state competition in Corvallis.

Each band performs the repertoire, then there is a sight-reading component with another judge. "They pass out a piece of music no one has ever seen, and you have seven minutes to figure it out. During that seven minutes, no one can play, you can only talk through it. You can clap, you can sing — with 90 people in the band trying to get everybody on the same page, it's a big challenge. That is a huge component because no one is fully confident of what's going to happen. You don't know what the music is going to be. You have to hope you have solid enough skills to work it out in seven minutes, and play it. They'll give you a two-minute warning, a 30-second warning, then you have to play it, whatever happens."

With parents and alumni in the audience, the kids finished tied for third with 11 bands, and the kids were "very happy" with the result.

"You're never quite sure how it's going to go on the stage," Dahlgren said. "It's

a new environment. nobody gets to practice. You play in the high school 10 feet from the wall, which sounds very different from when you're onstage at Oregon State. It's a hard journey to make it to that level and be one of those 11 bands."

Among the performers, he gave credit to the percussion section, which was "really on top of their game. I have a big percussion section. Having a big band does not always

equate to quality. The percussion were just on top of everything that was given to them, which was extraordinary."

Trumpeter Nathanael Ward also received kudos. "He was very good," Dahlgren said. "Who wouldn't be terrified out there knowing that there's three judges in front of them? It's an enormous amount of pressure."

Dahlgren said flute player Ellie Whitlock plans to study music, and bass

player Luke Surber is the recipient of a \$600 scholarship from the Lighthouse Jazz Society, and will attend Camp Hee Bee Jee Bees, Port Angeles, Wash., in July. The scholarships are given for jazz camp, music lessons, guest artists and donations to Seaside High School jazz ensemble. The Lighthouse Jazz Society donated \$600 for the tuition, and has also donated \$1,500 to Seaside High School music department, directed by Dahlgren.

City not planning water, sewer rate hikes

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similar to private enterprises, which means user fees primarily cover costs. Those operations include the Seaside Civic and Convention Center; the water department; and the sewage treatment plant.

The city has slated the following major projects for 2015-16:

- North Holladay Drive improvements, including water, sewer, roads, underground power and sidewalks;
- Seaside Civic and Convention Center improvements, whether through expansion or renovation;
- Annexation of select areas, such as South Seaside;
- Formation of a new Urban Renewal District;
- Improvements to the Seaside Municipal Airport;
- Use of fire levy funds to purchase a half-million-dollar fire truck;
- Conducting a facilities study to prioritize maintenance and efficiency needs for public buildings.

Extra funds will cover the new all-day kindergarten; district also wants to add a special education teacher

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will increase the property tax value calculation and translate into more revenue collections for the school district. The extra funds will be used to cover the district's new full-day kindergarten program. Second, the district's Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) rates will decrease. The reduction, Hill said, will provide about \$300,000 in savings, which will cover salary increases and associated payroll costs.

If the budget allows, the district wants to add a special education teacher and assistant to address the social, emotional and behavioral needs of students, particularly at the elementary level.

After the city decided not to demolish the Avenue U Bridge and build a new structure, the attention "turned to North Holladay and a complete reconstruction of First to 12th" streets.

Mark Winstanley,
city manager

The city is not planning any water or sewer rate hikes, and increased usage of public services continues to cover costs and provide additional reserves for certain funds, Seaside City Manager Mark Winstanley wrote in his 2015-16 budget message. The tax rate for the Downtown Maintenance District also will stay the same at approximately \$8.84 per front foot.

Part of the annual budget process includes addressing the Seaside Road District and the Seaside Urban Renewal Agency, which have separate budgets.

The Seaside Road District is "responsible for the

reconstruction of already improved street right-of-ways in the city," Winstanley wrote in his budget message. After the city decided not to demolish the Avenue U Bridge and build a new structure, the attention "turned to North Holladay and a complete reconstruction of First to 12th" streets, Winstanley states. Most of the project will be funded by the Seaside Urban Renewal Agency, but the Road District will be a funding source for a smaller portion from First to Third streets. The city also is planning a project to overlay from First Avenue to Avenue A and reconstruct the intersection

of Janus funds stock, is estimated at \$5,908 and it will be split between the four schools with the contingency that at least \$500 must go to the high school's robotics team.

The board unanimously approved an interdistrict transfer proposal, which states the district will accept the following number of students from other schools districts for the upcoming school year: one for seventh grade; two for eighth grade; and 20 for ninth through twelfth grade. A letter of interest must be received by Dougherty by July 31. Preference is given to previously approved transfer students who reg-

ularly attended a Seaside school during the 2014-15 school year or students who regularly attended a Seaside School but have a new residence outside of the district. The transfer, Seaside High School Principal Sheila Roley said, allows the county's principals to support each other and better serve the students by allowing them to go to an out-of-district school for specific reasons. For instance, some districts don't offer certain curricular programs or extracurricular activities that other districts do, and the interdistrict transfer gives students the opportunity to go where their needs will best be met, Roley said.

of Broadway and Holladay Drive. The proposed 2015-16 Seaside Road District budget is \$797,418.

The Greater Seaside Urban Renewal District, formed under the Seaside Urban Renewal Agency, will sunset on June 30, which means 2014-15 is the last year the district has taxing authority, according to Winstanley. That will release approximately \$77 million of assessed value to other taxing agencies for 2015-16, and those additional funds will go to the city, schools, Clatsop County and special districts.

The Seaside Road District and Seaside Urban Renewal Agency budgets will follow the same adoption process as the city's general budget and they also will be presented to City Council at its June 22 meeting.

A copy of the proposed city budget can be viewed at Seaside City Hall, 989 Broadway. Once the budget is approved by City Council, it will be posted online at the city's website.

Seniors install garden at high school for Pacifica Project

Old courtyard space now will yield produce, herbs for culinary arts program

By Katherine Lacaze
Seaside Signal

Four Seaside High School students transformed a dingy courtyard on campus into an inviting garden environment that will yield produce for the culinary arts program in addition to serving an aesthetic purpose.

"It's a lasting legacy," said Chris Holen, the chef of Astoria's Baked Alaska and Seaside's culinary arts teacher. "It's really quite the gift they're leaving to the school."

Holen and many of the culinary students are committed to the farm-to-table movement, but they did not have a way to personally practice it through the program, until recently when four seniors began to re-imagine a purpose for the school's courtyard.

The courtyard was installed decades ago but it wasn't designed with easy maintenance in mind, Seaside High School Principal Sheila Roley said. Additionally, a pond built in the center of the property was constructed without a recirculation system and had become a vat of green muck.

"It was never as inviting or functional as a yard space could be," Roley said.

Every few years, a senior would spruce up the space for their Pacifica Project, but there was no maintenance plan in place. This year, some culinary students became interested in the courtyard and what it had the potential to be.

The group first was pre-occupied with fundraising for the culinary arts program and did so successfully at the Pouring at the Coast craft beer festival in March. The students traditionally cater the opening Oregon Coast Brewer's Dinner, held the first day of the event. Holen and the Seaside culinary students prepared a five-course meal and dessert, which were paired with Oregon Coast craft beers.

From a simple collection at the dinner, the students raised enough cash to purchase four KitchenAid mixers. They "passed around a hat and people just opened up their wallets and started giving us money," Holen said, adding they received "a ton of community support and interest from the community."

The catering brought in nearly \$6,000, enough to do a significant project and have some funds left over.

When thinking about how to best benefit the school and give back into the community, the students landed on "the idea of putting in a garden to grow things in an environment for the school to enjoy," Holen said.

Seniors Garret Rogers, Ian Kimbrough, Celina Nicolazzi and Erick Mendez took the idea and ran with it. Together the four students, with no assistance from adult staff members, hired a landscape designer, lined up local contractors to remove the pond and bring in new materials, sought community participation and completely transformed the courtyard into a garden that serves as their lasting endowment to the school.