

Two local young spellers to compete in state championship

Event to take place at Oregon State Fair in September

By Katherine Lacaze
Seaside Signal

Broadway Middle School seventh-grader Frida Ruff and Gearhart Elementary School fifth-grader Elliot Ousley were in mutual agreement about their most effective method for becoming good spellers: Reading. A lot, they added.

That was the tool they used to each win first place in their respective divisions during an annual county-wide spelling competition, hosted by the Northwest Regional Education Service District at the Clatsop Service Center in Astoria May 18.

After winning first and second place at their schools, 12 students from three elementary schools and three middle schools competed in the county contest. Ousley topped Division I, for first- through fifth-graders, and Ruff took top honors in Division II, for middle schoolers. No one from the county participated in Division III, for high schoolers.

Ruff and Ousley, as winners for Clatsop County, are invited to compete in their divisions for the Oregon Statewide Spelling Championship at the Oregon State Fair scheduled for Sept. 5 in Salem.

County competition

In Division I, Kyrstin Crawford, from Gearhart, placed second and Holly Fergus, from Seaside Heights Elementary School, placed third. Seaside Heights student Lucy Gloria was also one of six participants in Division I, and the other two were from Hilda Lahti Elementary School.

In Division II, Kara Spell, from Broadway Middle School, placed second and Rebecca Thurston,

from Jewell Middle School, placed third. The other three participants were from Hilda Lahti and Jewell middle schools.

Unlike at spelling bees, which involve oral communication, the contest was conducted using a written test. All participants for one division sat in a room with a piece of paper to write down answers, Ruff said. A proctor read off the spelling words, 25 in all, along with a sentence using the word and putting it in context.

Immediately after the test was administered, the participants' answers were reviewed and winners were announced. Students were not told how many answers were incorrect or which ones unless they specifically asked, Ruff said.

She felt confident about her answers for all the words except possibly one - leery. Regardless, her performance put her in first place and she will have a shot to test her skills against students from across the state in September during a competition that traditionally features more challenging words, such as isthmus.

The Division I competition, according to Ousley, included words such as civilization, nucleus and vertebrae. After completing the test, he said, he also felt confident in his performance. He has participated in one other county competition and this will be his first time going to state.

Ruff has competed several times at the county level, and this will be her second time participating in the state championship. Her inaugural appearance was after winning first place in the county for Division I as a fifth-grader.

For her, being able to spell words correctly is an

indicator of competence and quality. Even if she is reading something written with nice handwriting, she said, "I notice one little misspelled word and it makes it so much less professional."

Ruff plans to prepare for the state championship as she has for all spelling competitions: by reading, which she thinks is the most effective method because it's something she enjoys.

"I read books, and they have a lot of words in them. So I pick up the words and I remember them," she said.

Ruff particularly likes work from the fantasy and fiction genres; her favorite book is "Every Day," by David Levithan. She frequents the Seaside Public Library and is well-known at the institution.

"I'm a regular there," she said. "I'm pretty sure I've been to every section in the library 100 times."

Ousley also is an avid reader. He specifically likes action and adventure books. His favorite reading material is the Harry Potter series, written by J.K. Rowling. Reading has been a good process for learning how to spell, he said, because "there are a lot of words in books, and you can just look at how they're spelled."

At the fair

In addition to being given a spot in the statewide spelling championship, the students get a free pass to the fair, which Ruff is particularly excited about. The contest is done first, and then she anticipates spending the rest of the weekend going on rides, playing games, eating good food and partaking in other fair activities.

The state contest, which has been sponsored by the Oregon Spellers for



KATHERINE LACAZE PHOTO
Broadway Middle School seventh-grader Frida Ruff placed first for Division II at the countywide spelling contest.

six years and is for all the county and regional spelling contest winners, also is written, but the fair annually includes The Bee at the Fair, a verbal contest open to all patrons. The junior division for kids 12 and younger will start at 2 p.m. The contest for teenagers and adults will start at 3 p.m. Neither competition is sponsored by the Oregon Department of Education or affiliated with Scripps or the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Ruff and Ousley do not intend to participate in the spelling bee. Ruff said it takes longer for her to audibly spell words; Ousley said he is "kind of shy."

When it comes to the spelling contest, the two competitors also have different feelings. Ousley said he's not a very competitive person, and he more just enjoys the activity with winning being a bonus. Ruff agreed it's all for fun, but she views herself as "pretty competitive" - "I want to win," she added.

For more information about the Oregon Statewide Spelling Championship or the nonprofit Oregon Spellers, visit www.oregonspellers.org/.

Local Happenings in Brief

Ashore Hotel is coming to Seaside on July 1

Brady and Tiffany Turner grew up on the Long Beach Peninsula, surrounded by the rugged Pacific Northwest. They are the dynamic "accidental entrepreneurs" and owners of Adrift Hotels, Inc.

They moved back to their hometown to build a life and a dream where they can be a part of the beautiful beaches and the community. In 2004, they saw an opportunity and developed the Inn at Discovery Coast, a 12-room oceanfront boutique hotel. The hotel is idyllically situated with the Pacific Ocean as its backdrop, and it immediately resonated with travelers and locals alike. There onward, they have been growing and nurturing a business and community.

The Turners are expanding their business to Seaside with the Ashore Hotel, a boutique 22-room re-imagined of its former property, The Sundowner Motor Inn, just one block from the ocean in the heart of Seaside. The Ashore Hotel will open on July 1.

The hotel will offer 22 rooms ranging from 350 square feet to 900 square feet. Along with what is described as a "hip and retro modern décor," the hotel

will include a saline heated indoor/outdoor pool; outdoor fire pit area and deck; complimentary beach cruisers, and a wine and beer bar in the lobby. The hotel offers guest parking an all In 2011, the Turners purchased an under-performing 80-room property adjacent to the Inn at Discovery Coast and recreated it as a unique, sustainable, oceanfront hotel named Adrift Hotel & Spa. The hotel includes several unique selling points including Pickled Fish, a restaurant to satisfy the staunchest foodie with locally sourced ingredients, well curated wines and craft cocktails. The restaurant also serves as a live and free daily music venue featuring local and upcoming bands. The music booker for the venue is none other than Ezra Holbrook, drummer and founding The Decemberists member.

Four years later, the Adrift Hotel & Spa continues to impress travelers and winning awards including: 2015 TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence; 2015 King5 News Northwest Escape Award for Best Renewed Hotel; and 2015 Best Romantic Getaways in Washington State, Vacation Idea Magazine.

Seaside School District free summer food program

Free summer meals are in, when school is out. The free summer meal program runs from Monday to Friday, June 22 to Aug. 21; closed July 3. Meals are provided 11:30 to 12:15 p.m. at Broadway Middle School, 1120 Broadway in Seaside and Seaside Heights Elementary, 2000 Spruce Dr. in Seaside.

This summer, children can enjoy lunches at no charge through the Summer Food Service Program, a

federally funded nutrition program open to all kids aged 1-18 years. No applications are necessary to drop in and all children and teens are welcome. The Summer food service program makes sure all children can eat healthy food during the summer months when they cannot eat at school. For more information Mckenzie Bovard, (503) 440-8111 or mckenzie.bovard@compass-usa.com.

Seaside Heights students explore the arts

By Katherine Lacaze
Seaside Signal

The halls of Seaside Heights Elementary School were alive with the sounds of rope skipping, upbeat Zumba and jiu-jitsu and the smells of paint, glue and tortillas during the school's two-day Celebration of the Arts event.

The event, which absorbed the school's campus for a few hours June 1 and 2, made only its second appearance at Seaside Heights this year, but the tradition is inconspicuously mature as it was brought to Seaside along with dozens of students with the closure of Cannon Beach Elementary School in 2013.

Seaside Heights has embraced the tradition, which truly is a celebration of all the arts, from performance to visual and culinary. Inside the gymnasium, cafeteria, library and classrooms, volunteer community artists taught students how to tie-dye T-shirts, make greeting cards, construct cardboard critters, create sand dollar ornaments, quilt, paint Pysanky eggs and many other skills.

Out front of the school, Josh Fry oversaw a group of young students decked in ear-loop face masks who were using spray paint and stencils to make works depicting superheroes and outer space landscapes. He guessed for many of the students it was one of the

first times they were granted adult permission to unleash canisters of aerosol paint upon open canvases.

Fry confessed, at one time, he did not consider himself an artist, because he was not proficient with charcoals or other mediums. Then he saw spray paint used as an art form and figured it was something he could do. After trying it, he said, "I caught the bug." He described it as "a wonderful artistic loophole," more accessible to those who aren't good with traditional art forms and easy to learn.

The students, Fry said, appeared to have a good time with the spray paint art.

"They all finished and they all made a piece they can be proud of," he said, adding those who discovered a particular affinity for the art now have a basic understanding that can be developed through practice and experimentation.

Inside the gymnasium, Fred Meyer and his son, Erik, were leading a slightly more contained project where students painted houses and fish on small slabs of wood cut in the correct shape to give the students a blank silhouette to work with. Fred Meyer, originally from Detroit, Mich., typically calls the multi-color, wiggly structures "Ghetto Houses," but for the West Coast they've been retitled "Beach Hous-

es." Erik Meyer is more known for the fish pieces. This was the first time the duo led a workshop at Seaside's Celebration of the Arts, an event Fred Meyer believes is "super great" because it helps foster an appreciation for the arts at a grade school he admires.

"I'm really impressed with all the stuff they're doing," he said.

Nearby the Meyers' station, Judi Garrity also was making her first appearance for the art celebration, teaching her group how to craft an array of colorful, interesting critters from boxes, straws, paper, tape and other tidbits that soon will inhabit the school's library. On the first day of the event, each student constructed a smaller critter, and on the second day, those who wanted to teamed up to manufacture larger pieces.

Fifth-grader Evan Rodriguez, who made a neat turtle worthy of display, said he had fun doing the project, although he was at first unsure whether he would enjoy it. He chose the box critter activity because he "wanted to try something new." From doing the project, he said, "I learned how to be more creative with my work." Fellow student Jacob Bonn, who constructed a large caterpillar named "Candy Bow," said the activity was "amazing."

The Celebration of the Arts event gives students the opportunity to find a

creative venue that fits their skills, interests and learning styles. For instance, Garrity said, the box critters would not be good for kinesthetic learners, whereas jiu-jitsu, lead by Adamson Bros. Mixed Martial Arts and Jiu Jitsu Academy, might be.

The visual arts pieces created over the course of the event were displayed for family members and the public during a barbecue the evening of June 5.

Other work also will have an extended lifespan, such as a video tour created by Seth Morrissey, of Morrissey Video Production Company, that featured students who wanted to try speaking on camera. The project was a way to give the students another creative option and also to make a useful informational tool for the school, he said.

Lighthouse Jazz Society offers scholarships

The Lighthouse Jazz Society embraces traditional jazz and other types. Each year the society, which created the Seaside Jazz Festival, holds a raffle with all proceeds used to provide young people opportunities to broaden their musical experiences. The scholarships are given for jazz camp, music lessons, guest artists and donations

to Seaside High School jazz ensemble. Luke Surber, a senior, has received a scholarship and will attend Camp Hee Bee Jee Bees, Port Angeles, Wash., in July. He plays bass guitar and upright string bass. The society donated \$600 for the tuition, and has also donated \$1,500 to the Seaside High School music department.

Girls basketball clinic at Seaside High School

The Seaside Girls Basketball program is putting on a free girls basketball clinic from 9:30 a.m. to noon June 12 and 13 at Seaside High School. Third graders through eighth

graders are invited. For additional information or questions, call Wally Hamer at 503-758-4827. Seaside High School is located at 1901 N. Holladay Drive.

102.3 fm **KCRX** presents **The 8th Annual Duck Derby** Saturday June 13th at the Quatat Park Seaside

Free BBQ at 11:00 AM - Race at 12:45 PM

YOU CAN COUNT ON MEDIX
for even your smallest needs

LifeCare ONLY \$59⁰⁰*

LifeCare w/Life Flight ONLY \$119⁰⁰*

*Full year, per household. Membership covers dependents listed on your tax forms, living in your home.

BECOME A MEMBER. IT'S EASY...
VISA JOIN TODAY! MasterCard
Enrollment opens May 1 and ends June 30, 2015
Call us today 503-861-5558 or stop by our office

MEDIX
2325 SE DOLPHIN AVENUE
WARRENTON
www.medix.org
IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 9-1-1