

Reflecting in the calm after a wild summer storm

What an unbelievably wacky end to August! After a winter, spring and summer that brought endless amounts of sunshine, unseasonably warm temperatures and lots of visitors to Seaside, Mother Nature reminded us on Aug. 29 who is the most powerful boss around the Pacific Northwest.

The Hood to Coast and Portland to Coast Relays still finished their 34th annual race in Seaside this past month, but it will go down in history as something most will never forget. Sure the coast has storms much bigger than this one, but if this happened in November, most wouldn't have thought much of it. The fact that 25,000-plus were descending upon Seaside during this unseasonably strange

wind and rain storm, created a scene on the beach that most had never seen before — at least in August. Scaffolding, banners, tables and tents were just some of the objects that took a beating. Race organizers had to make adjustments on the fly; the races finished on the Prom and along the end of Broadway, and by Monday evening life in Seaside was mostly back to normal again. I love that resilience about our community.

Businesses I spoke with after the event also had adjustments to make. With the removal of all scheduled events on the beach, that meant more people were diving into restaurants throughout town. Results vary by business but the feeling I got was that there



JON RAHL

was a definite increase during what is normally expected during a Hood to Coast Saturday. One of the critiques of the event and of the week-end though, continues to be strange pre- and post-traffic

patterns that exist in Seaside around Hood to Coast. Because hotel rooms are often booked for two or three nights — with many unoccupied the first night — the town slows down a bit prior to race day. A huge influx arrives Saturday morning and then things come to a steady halt on Sunday again. The question I have been asked many times is whether there is a better week-end to schedule this event.

Unfortunately, the answer to that question is not simple. This event has an amazing history in our community and analyzing what works and what doesn't is always a healthy process. The pros and cons of something of this magnitude have been well documented. But if you feel

passionately about this event on any level, you'll have an opportunity to voice that opinion on Monday, Sept. 21 at 6:30 p.m. during a City Council workshop at City Hall. If you have anything to say about Hood to Coast, on any level, I encourage you to attend this meeting.

Oregon's North Coast update: As the official end of summer comes to a screeching halt this coming Tuesday, Sept., 22, so too does the ramp-up to our fall and winter programming and advertising for the Oregon's North Coast cooperative. This fourth-annual partnership looks like it will be driving some of our promotion back into Beer 101 — a concept we unveiled two autumns ago, during October

and November of 2013. That year, North Coast breweries collaborated on a signature brew that consumers helped name. This year, we hope to unveil a unique beer pass for purchase that will give us tracking mechanisms we've never had before, while also offering tremendous value for a product people are still very passionate about. I'll keep you updated on the progress in next month's column.

Have a thought or a question about tourism in Seaside, or maybe an idea for a future column? Drop me an email at jrahl@cityofseaside.us. Jon Rahl is the director of tourism for the Seaside Visitors Bureau and assistant general manager of the Seaside Civic & Convention Center.

Community gathering to recognize service of former recreation district employee

Public invited to party for Vicki Yarbrough at playhouse

By Katherine Lacaze
Seaside Signal

A community group is saying an overdue "thank-you" former Seaside resident Vicki Yarbrough with a celebration of her more than 30 years of service with the Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District.

The party takes place from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, at the Mary Blake Playhouse, 1215 Avenue A. The public is invited for light refreshments, activities and the opportunity to give Yarbrough a proper farewell, said her uncle, Gordon Dickey, of Portland.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Former Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District employee Vicki Yarbrough will be honored at a community party at Broadway Park on Saturday, Sept. 19.

In spring 2014, Yarbrough was abruptly let go from her 33-year position as the Youth Center Program Coordinator

at the park and recreation district. The decision was described at the time as a cost-cutting measure, but some community members felt her dismissal was unfair and improperly handled, Dickey said.

Dickey said Yarbrough's sudden departure left children and their families without a chance to tell her goodbye or thank her for her service in the district's youth and aquatics divisions.

An online petition on MoveOn.org urged the district and former General Manager Justin Cutler to "Rehire Vicki Yarbrough and give the kids their favorite teacher back." Eighty-five people signed on her behalf from March to April 2014.

An unofficial committee of about five people plan to

show their gratitude for Yarbrough's service with the community party, Dickey said.

"It's our way of making up for the lack of a farewell," he said. It also will be a chance to say "thank you."

She "did her job every day without complaining because she loved her job, which was loving and caring for children," Dickey said. "Vicki represents the vast majority of workers who don't receive nor need recognition, as they thrive on the joy received by caring for others."

For Yarbrough, he added, "doing what she did was a reward itself."

Yarbrough is temporarily living Portland, but plans to attend the party along with family members and friends.

Long-distance travelers



NEAL MAINE PHOTO/SEASIDE SIGNAL

Sooty shearwaters move into the area.

The annual movement of sooty shearwaters into the area occurred Friday, Sept. 4. Somewhere in the range of 300,000 to 400,000 appeared in the near shore ocean and come close enough to shore to photograph. Many folks ask about this bird streaming by

Gearhart and Seaside. Studies indicate that the sooty shearwaters travel the longest animal migration routes ever recorded, 39,000 miles. The birds breed in New Zealand and Chile and migrate to feeding grounds in the Northern Hemisphere, including Seaside.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS IN BRIEF

Learn how to dry wood

Clatsop County Community College and the Oregon State University's Extension Service are offering "The Art & Science of Drying Wood" for wood industry personnel, portable sawmill operators, woodworkers and anyone else interested in learning about the physics behind wood drying.

The class will help participants understand wood be-

havior, including checking, cracking, splitting, shrinking, swelling, warping and how to mitigate their impacts.

The class runs from 9 a.m. to noon Sept. 24 at the college's South County Campus, located at 1455 N. Roosevelt Drive in Seaside. Registration by Sept. 22 is required. It costs \$10 per person for hand-out materials. To register, visit Oregon State's Clatsop County Extension Service office in Room 210 at 2001 Marine Drive in Astoria, or download

the registration form at <http://tinyurl.com/abmqmxw>.

Small business retirement plans

Teresa Brown, investment representative of TMB Financial, LLC will present a workshop on retirement plans for small businesses. Brown has been working with individuals and businesses for over 15 years.

A morning workshop takes place Tuesday, Sept. 22,

8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Clatsop Community College South County Campus 1455 N. Roosevelt Dr. in Seaside. An evening workshop will be held the same day from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at Clatsop Community College, 1651 Lexington Ave., Columbia Hall Room 219, Astoria.

The workshop fee is \$20, payable at the workshop by check or credit card. Email SBDC@clatsopcc.edu for a registration link or call (503) 338-2402.

CCC offers class on kung fu

Clatsop Community College offers a class teaching basic to advanced kung fu techniques within the hybrid Kajukenbo martial arts system. Self defense, jujitsu, cardio and strength-building are emphasized.

The class is taught by Kajukenbo professor David Poole, an eighth-degree black belt with 43 years of experi-

ence. The class is designed for beginning and continuing students at any level of mastery.

The class runs from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays, Sept. 28 to Dec. 3, at the Seaside Masonic Hall, 201 N. Holladay Drive. Cost is \$80 for this 10-week course.

Registration is now open at the college. To register, visit www.clatsopcc.edu/schedule and search under Course Title or call (503) 325-2402.

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BROADWAY PARK PARTY

SATURDAY SEPT. 19TH 1-3PM

Vicki Yarbrough
Celebrating 34 years of service
Vicki taught most Seaside children and their parents how to swim
Sunset Empire Parks and Recreation District