

5 Minutes with... Jeremy Catt

Get to know Jeremy Catt, the Seaside School District's new Director of Special Services. Catt was hired by the district in the spring and started working in August.

By Katherine Lacaze
Seaside Signal

Q: What were you doing before joining the Seaside School District?

A: I was with Neah-Kah-Nie School District for eight years and I was at Tillamook High School for three years prior to that. I worked at the elementary, middle and high school levels, but I was also Neah-Kah-Nie's autism specialist, behavior specialist and intervention support for the district. While I was at the high school, I was the lead special education teacher. In Tillamook, I spent three years working with students with significant behavior disabilities in a self-contained behavior classroom at the high school.

Q: What draws you to this line of work?

A: I got into special education with a focus really on serving students with significant behaviors,

and that's what I did for my first three years. I feel like my best attribute is creating relationships with students with challenges. So that was the start. And through that, I was introduced to working with students with a variety of disabilities, and I've really enjoyed serving students with disabilities. I have a ton of passion for it, I have a ton of energy for it and I'm motivated to see them succeed.

Q: So you find out what each student's particular need is and how to meet it?

A: Absolutely. With the hope of getting them mainstream as much as possible. I'm really motivated to be creative with special education teachers and the regular education teachers and looking at inclusive practices. I'm really excited when students have an opportunity to be successful in the regular education setting. It's my personal philosophy and the philosophy of this district to do whatever we can to provide stu-



dents the skills to mainstream in the regular education setting as much as possible.

Q: What are some of your responsibilities in this particular role?

A: I think people in my position could have a variety of responses for that. But I see my responsibility as doing whatever I can to serve students and support teachers. But my responsibilities would also include practice instruction, building collaboration strategies between special education and regular education staff and, again, finding ways to mainstream students. It's also my personal goal to know every student that I serve, know their families, and work collaboratively with teach-

ers and families. And celebrating successes. I think that's a huge one, especially in this position.

Q: What are some methods for doing that?

A: One of the things I bring to this position is, because I've worked at every level and I've been in every position, I know what challenges teachers face, I know what challenges students face. And as a parent, I know how passionate parents are about their children. I understand that, being that I have two children of my own. So what that looks like to me is providing students, teachers and parents the resources they need to be successful in the school environment. And then — because I've been in all those positions — coaching, modeling and supporting. I'm definitely a knees-on-the-ground-in-the-classroom type of special education director. I love to be in the classroom, I love to be working side by side with teachers and kids. As I've come into this school district, one of the things I'm most excited about is the how skilled the teachers are and how open they are to supporting all students. The level of teaching in this district, from what I've seen — and I've been in every building multiple times and almost every classroom — the level of teaching is extremely high and teachers are very loving, compassionate and passionate.

Q: What made you decide to take the position in the district?

A: I have been required in my experience to do a variety of jobs, and I continued to be encouraged by my previous administrators to pursue an administrative license and get into a position similar to this. This is a position that I'm very passionate about. It's definitely the right fit for me and it's something I've prepared myself to do for the last 15 years. This is what I've done.

Q: How do you like Seaside?

A: My wife is a speech language pathologist assistant in Seaside School District. I met her at an autism training in Hillsboro six years ago and we got married five years ago. I love Seaside. I've lived in Seaside for five years, but I've been on the coast for 12. Prior to Seaside, I lived in Manzanita. So I already had a really strong community in Seaside prior to this position, so it's made the transition much easier, personally and professionally. This is exactly where I want to be and this is exactly what I want to be doing. To me, this is the top. This is not a stepping-stone position for me, or a stepping-stone district. I live on the Prom, and I surf in all my free time. This is exactly where I want to be.

Local veteran seeks community's help to obtain mobility scooter

Friends establish online account for disabled vet

By Katherine Lacaze
Seaside Signal

Seaside resident Mitch Mayhue dreams of living with more freedom and less pain. Through a social media campaign, friends are helping make the disabled Marine Corps veteran that dream a reality.

Mayhue is in need of a better scooter to transport himself and his service dog, Buddy, a long-hair Chihuahua. Longtime friend Nancy Jones, of Ocean Park, Wash., started a GoFundMe account to raise about \$3,000 to purchase an E-Wheels EW-72 four-wheel mobility scooter, determined to be optimal because of its comfort and dependability. "He is a wonderful guy," Jones wrote. "Thank you so much for your prayers and blessings."

A 19-year Seaside resident with his wife Kathleen, Mayhue served in the United States Marine Corps as a trooper scout stationed in the Philippines and Okinawa, Japan, from 1978-81.

Since then he has "done a lot of hard work" in law enforcement, ministry, landscaping and construction and several other industries. At one point he started a local limousine service, but today he can no longer drive. He has even given up metal engraving and woodworking because he can no longer handle sharp instruments, he said. Now he can get around only with the help of Kathleen.

Mayhue uses a power scooter on loan from the American Legion, but the scooter leads to discomfort and irritates his injuries. The only wheelchair he owns "isn't adequate to get him up and down the steep parking lot where he lives," Jones wrote.

Mayhue's lack of mobility has led him to feel "trapped," he said. He hopes obtaining the new mobility scooter will change his future. He said he hopes for easier access to medical appointments, to the store or supermarket — "things other people take for granted," he said. "That's all I want, to be able to do a little bit more."

The added mobility will give him freedom and relieve pressure on family and friends, he said.

So far the campaign has raised \$955 from 14 donors. The fundraising effort, and particularly Jones' help spearheading it, means a great deal to Mayhue.

"It reestablished my hope in people to a certain extent," he said.



Seaside's Mitch Mayhue is in need of a mobility scooter. Mayhue served in the United States Marine Corps in the late 1970s.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/SEASIDE SIGNAL

And if he gets the scooter. "It would be a dream come true."

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Seaside, event organizers parley on Hood to Coast modifications

Relay from Page 1A

The first work session ended with no resolution, prompting the need for a second open forum, preferably with representatives from the event.

No one with Hood to Coast spoke at the first workshop, but a representative attended and took notes.

In a subsequent interview with the Signal, Chief Operating Officer Dan Floyd said they plan to attend the council work session to respond to complaints.

Meanwhile, he said, he is considering other backup options for a finish line location.

"We love Seaside and we'd love to be back, but it would be smart of us to always have a backup plan for Seaside and every other location on our race course," he said.

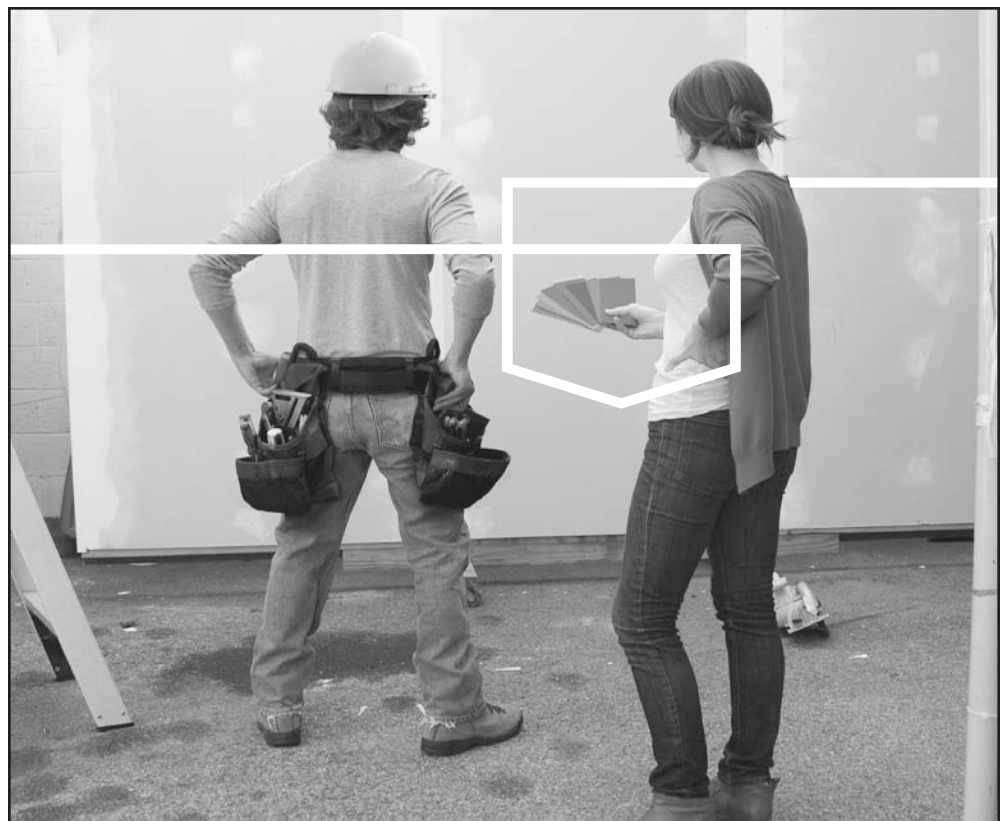
The problem with changing the venue, or even just the date, Floyd said, is that the race is about 200 miles long. Any change would impact not only Seaside but every jurisdiction that provides a start or exchange location on the route.

Because of time constraints, it is important to hold a second Seaside work session as soon as possible, Frank said. The city needs

to make a decision so organizers can finalize plans for next year's event.

Councilor Tita Monteiro said she perceives the second work session as an opportunity for collaboration between local residents and Hood to Coast organizers, including founder Bob Foote or his daughter, Felicia Hubber, who now serves as president.

Even if they don't attend, councilor Dana Phillips said, the city can record various opinions and concerns expressed by citizens and pass on that information to Hood to Coast organizers.



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