

Looking for Radio Shack? It's called Kennell's now



R.J. MARX PHOTO/SEASIDE SIGNAL

Dan Kennell and Nathaniel Keck of Kennell's Electronics.

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

When you're driving Highway 101 in Seaside looking for Radio Shack, you won't find it. That's because Radio Shack is gone, replaced by the longtime Seaside franchise owners, Van, Dan and Mary Kennell. While a "formerly Radio Shack" sandwich board sits in the driveway, the Kennells want the community to learn their new name, Kennell's Electronics.

"People drive around and they're looking for Radio Shack. We want them to know we have the same merchandise at lower prices," Mary Kennell said.

"I'm a native Astorian, retired teacher, taught 30 years in Warrenton, and we own a business in Seaside, so I'm very much a part of the Clatsop County community," she said.

The Kennells took over the Seaside Radio Shack franchise about 10 years ago. When a corporate restructure came about, dealers were offered the chance to opt-out. A corporate demand to limit franchisees to Sprint mobile products was the clincher for the Kennells.

"Our customers are Verizon users," Kennell said.

About a third of the private Radio Shack franchisees took similar opt-out deals.

The Kennells signed up with STEREN, an interna-

tional electronics wholesaler, and continue to sell Verizon plans and products.

The name change was officially made June 30. "After that date we opted not to sign on with Radio Shack/Sprint," she said.

From household name to a symbol of an industry whose time had passed, Kennell said Radio Shack's shortcoming was "getting away from what they did best."

"They did too much focusing on cellphones," she said. "They didn't do what they did best, the everyday electronics."

Kennell's will continue to provide Verizon plans and products.

Kennell said STEREN provides better value for customers. "It's the same product, but a better deal for us and the consumer," Nancy she said. "Auxiliary cable, old price because of high cost from Radio Shack was \$19.99. Now, \$9.99. We're competitive now because we're getting a better price."

Kennell's will also be able to sell products with local interest. "For example, we have several types of metal detectors because tourists come in and they want to search for treasures on the beach," Kennell said. "Radio Shack would not allow that."

Kennell's Electronics is located at 1219 S. Roosevelt Dr. in Seaside; 503-738-8836.

'Wild Edge' draws conservancy supporters

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

More than 250 people celebrated the release of "The Wild Edge: Freedom to Roam The Pacific Coast" Friday night at the Red Loft building in Astoria.

The event, sponsored by the North Coast Land Conservancy, honored "heroes of the coast," including the land conservancy's Katie Voelke. Proceeds benefit NCLC's conservation work on the Oregon Coast.

It was the first event the conservancy has held in Astoria, Voelke said in introductory remarks, and the first event to have an admission fee, in this case, \$10 per person. Funds will be used to support the conservancy's Coastal Edge initiative, designed to protect lands between Tillamook Head and Nehalem Bay to create a corridor of ecological connectivity along the Oregon Coast.

In her opening remarks to the capacity crowd, Voelke described having her "breath taken away" by natural wonders and wild-life, describing the head of a whale as it majestically dove into water near Cannon Beach.

"I feel so grateful to be doing this small work in this small community that

I live in," Voelke said. "I had the humbling experience of being in this book as a conservation hero. The only reason I made it in that book is because you have made it possible. All of you are cultural heroes from this coast also."

The gala celebrated coastal conservation from Baja to the Arctic, marked by the release of the landmark book "The Wild Edge: Freedom to Roam the Pacific Coast," a photographic journey from the deep ocean to the summit of coastal-fronting mountains. The book is published by Braided River and was available for sale and signing to benefit the conservancy.

Images were displayed as author Bruce Barcott read portions of his introductory essay, among a collection by naturalists and conservationists including Barcott, Philippe Cousteau, Exequiel Ezcurra, Bonnie Henderson, Jon Hoekstra, and Eric Scigliano.

"The Wild Edge," celebrated as the first book on the ocean-based North American wildlife corridor, describes in words and photos the "great Pacific seam of North America that reveals the great Pacific seam of North America from the Baja Peninsula to the Beaufort Sea of Alaska.

High school ventures into the land of 'The Bold, Young and Murdered'

Seaside High School Drama presents the murder mystery comedy, "The Bold, the Young, and the Murdered," by Don Zolidis. Performances take place Nov. 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14 at 7 p.m. each night at Seaside High School cafeteria.

The setting is the television set of the long-running soap opera, "The Bold and the Young." The show is in its last days and its hunky hero has self-esteem issues, its villainous old man is more interested in soup, and its heroines are slightly psychopathic. The executive producer gives the squabbling cast an ultimatum: Complete one episode overnight or the show dies. But when the director ends up murdered, and other cast members start dropping like flies, it seems like his threat might actually come true. Can these misfits discover the murderer before the show is literally killed off?

Eight actors play the parts of eight characters inside the long-running Soap Opera, while the other characters are playing the production team. In essence, this is a play within a play and the "soap opera"



SUBMITTED PHOTO/SEASIDE SIGNAL

On the set of "The Bold and the Young," from left to right, sitting is Jake Malone and Joseph Harkins, kneeling is Bridgette Malone. Standing from left to right: Phoenix Miller, Bekah Cox, Fiona Bonn, Jack Stapleton, Annie Stafford, Isabella Curcin, Chloe Kincaid, Ryanne Sunnell, Ethan Taylor, Kelsi Leer, Sabrina Anderson and Kelsie Crider.

actors are challenged to present two distinctly different characters. It's a challenge the students have been having a lot of fun with and are excited to bring to the stage.

The eight soap opera characters are played by Joseph Harkins, Jack Stapleton, Jake Malone, Chloe Kincaid, Bekah Cox, Sabrina Anderson, Ethan Taylor, and Fiona

Bonn. The "production crew" players are Ryanne Sunnell, Phoenix Miller, Isabella Curcin, Kelsi Leer and Annie Stafford. The cast is assisted by Bridgette Malone, Mad-dy Quicke, Shayla Tsuji and Kelsie Crider.

Lenore Morrisson directs and Linda Anderson is production manager.

Tickets are \$5 general ad-

mission and \$3 for Seaside High School students who present their ASB card. Tickets are available at the door. Doors open at 6:30.

"The Bold, The Young, and The Murdered" is produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.

For more information, call 503-738-5586 and ask for Lenore Morrisson.

5 Minutes with...
Denise Fairweather
Fairweather House & Gallery owner Denise Fairweather talks about the upcoming "Vino Van Gogh" event, described as a paint and sip experience. The event will be held Friday, Nov. 6, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Fairweather House & Gallery, 612 Broadway.

By Katherine Lacaze
Seaside Signal

Q: Can you tell me a little bit about the upcoming instructional painting event?

A: This was created by an artist here, Katherine Taylor. She has a gallery in Bend and we display her ocean-scapes here. She went through the summer — which would be their off-season — and came up with this idea of offering adults a painting experience. You bring your wine and she gives you all the products to do a painting and then we provide a snack. So we're hosting it. She did that in Sisters and had a great response. She contacted me and said, "Do you have a space available?" I said, "How many do you think?" and she said, "Up to 14." I asked "How much room do you need?" She said "I need white walls." I said, "Let me think." I didn't want to rent a room, because it loses the experience of being out on the street or receiving the vibes of everyone. Then my landlord offered me an open space and it's all white. It's right around the corner next to the North Coast Distilling tasting room.

Q: Have you been to one of these types of these events?

A: No. But we started with the Seaside First Saturday Art Walk. The art walk has been around 11 years. I've been involved with it for 10 years. In 2008 we started events called "Seaside Painting Live," where you come into the art walk experience and instead of being overwhelmed with the art, you're actually seeing an artist paint. Generally it is a demonstration; sometimes it's a quick finish; sometimes we have had a duel where one artist was painting with a palette knife and another artist was painting with a toothpick. Whenever an artist is painting, quite a lot of the activity is over in that area. Many of our artists our edu-

cators who actually have taught painting and art. Katherine is an educator; she's a retired teacher, so she's versed in teaching. She was the one I selected to do this. It's a debut. We've never done it before, but we've heard about these events where people come in and paint. And I thought it was clever for her to name it "Vino Van Gogh."

Q: People have to bring their own wine, correct?

A: Yes. And they don't have to drink. We're just trying to get them loose, so they feel comfortable. Most of us remember painting or drawing when we were in second grade, you know, stick people. So we hope the spirits will loosen up the artistic abilities, or just being with friends will loosen up the painters. It's a two-hour event. At the end of the two hours, they will have a painting to take home. It will be a complete painting. We'll hopefully do a show and tell.

Q: How many people can participate?

A: We hope to keep it under 10. In the event that we have a waiting list, we are able to move it into another weekend. In our gallery we have 14 educators that are ready to do this. Our thought is to continue it through spring break, so every month we'll do another event. It might be a collage artist, it might be fiber artist. Who knows? We want to just open the doors without someone having to take a class and being tied to six weeks of commuting in the off-season weather. This is a one-night event. A party with art.

Q: This was planned specifically for the offseason?

A: Yes. I don't think we could handle it during the high season, and that was Katherine's statement; because it's a wild card, what's going on. She said this gives her one-on-one time with



KATHERINE LACAZE/SEASIDE SIGNAL

Denise Fairweather, owner of Fairweather House & Gallery, displays some artwork from Katherine Taylor, an artist who will serve as instructor for VINO Van Gogh, the gallery's debut wine and paint night.

each guest.

Q: Tell me a little bit Katherine Taylor.

A: This is her portfolio, and she does anything from nudes to still life painting, old world and landscapes. And some pretty unusual pieces. We elect to bring in artists that do destination work. Her choice was, "Do we do a still life or something else?" And I said, "You know, in November. It's our Pacific fly-away time, when all the birds are finishing their migrations. And there's such a huge event for birding here." I said, "Perhaps, we can do a shorebird." So she's giving people the choice of doing a still life, which would be a bottle of wine and a rose and some cherries, or a shorebird.

Q: How does the instruction work?

A: To me, it's going to be similar to Bob Ross. She's going to have a finished oil painting so people can see what they're leaning towards, but we want it to be improvised. So people say, "I want a seashell," or "I want a butterfly on my wine bottle," and we'll be open to that. Because we're going to have fun with it, too.

Q: As a business owner, is your purpose in bringing these types of experiences to promote Seaside, the Gilbert District or art?

A: I think it's all of them. Mostly it's art. I think we live in a "coast land." As one artist says, we live in paradise. So many of the artists paint that and the patrons purchase that art. This brings it closer, that they can create it themselves.

Head Start gets a hand from Seaside Elks



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Seaside Elks members recently assisted Head Start with vision and hearing testing. Pictured, from left, Linda Morlan, holding a Plus Optics Vision Screener, Jeannie Moorhead, Anne Cook, Jeannie Uzelac and Raedetta Castle.

On Oct. 12, Seaside Elk members assisted with the eye screening of Seaside Head Start students, when almost 50 children ages 3 to 5 were screened for eye problems. Any child showing a need for further testing is being referred to the Elks Children's Eye Clinic. An infrared camera, the Plus Optics Vision Screener is used to test for problems including "lazy eye."

Elks volunteers also tested the hearing of the young children using the Pilot Audiometer, purchased by Seaside Elks and donated to Head Start. The donation was made possible by an Elks National Foundation grant.

On Oct. 14, Elks volunteers barbecued hot dogs and hamburgers during the Seaside Head Start Block Party. The free event was open to all as a celebration of 50 Years of Head Start.

For information about other community projects or membership, call 503-738-6651 or email seasideelks@yahoo.com.