

Three of Seaside High School's Associated Student Body officers give a presentation on the group's Don't Catch This Wave tsunami awareness and fundraising campaign during a Seaside School District Board of Directors meeting Jan. 19.

KATHERINE LACAZE/SEASIDE SIGNAL

Funds raised for tsunami project

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the tsunami inundation zone and not retrofitted to survive an earthquake of that magnitude. The high school students have to walk at least 1 mile at sea level, and then at least half of a mile more, to reach their evacuation site. Broadway Middle School students have to travel about a fourth of a mile at sea level and three-fourths a mile uphill. "The most dire situation of all," Lin said, is at Gearhart Elementary School, where students have to travel only a fourth of a mile, but they evacuate toward the ocean. The site's highest point is only 42 feet above sea level, but it is predicted that the water will rise about 80 feet above sea level during the tsunami.

"It's truly a gut-wrenching situation when you stop and think about it," Lin said. "We need new schools if the kids in Seaside have a chance at survival."

The student leaders set a lofty fundraising goal of \$2 million. To reach it, ASB Co-President Taylor Barnes said, they know they will need outside support, in addition to what they receive in the community. They are in the process of reaching out to Fortune 500 companies, celebrities and politicians to help raise the money.

"We're not going to be able to reach our goal through \$20 donations at a time," Barnes said. "It will have to be a large effort, probably throughout the nation."

They originally set up a GoFundMe fundraising page that raised nearly \$3,000. However, they are now asking people to mail in or make online donations so they can go through the high school's account and the project can keep 100 percent, rather than approximately 91 percent, of donations. Also, the school account will allow donations to be

tax-deductible for donors. Instructions on how to give are posted on the Seaside ASB Tsunami Project Facebook page, which also contains project updates. In all, the students have raised about \$4,000.

The students' Don't Catch This Wave campaign has received a bit of media coverage from television stations and other publications, such as KGW, KOIN and The Oregonian. In addition to presenting before the school board and the Seaside City Council, the officers gave a presentation at the fall 2015 Oregon Association of Student Councils Conference. They also gave two presentations at Gresham High School — one in front of their student leadership and then again in front of the student body for the school's Unity Week — and spoke to student leaders at Scappoose High School. They plan to bring in students from other schools, or go

to other schools, to give the presentation.

On April 30, the students will partner with the city of Seaside for the Seaside Dash to Safety 5K Run/Walk and Safety Fair. The 5K event will take participants from Seaside's Cove, north on the Promenade to the Turnaround, along Broadway to Wahanna Road and finish at Seaside Heights Elementary School. The Safety Fair will be held at Seaside Heights and help residents prepare for all types of emergencies.

The students want to include a 1.6-mile Doggie Dash to represent the distance from the high school to a safe location.

"We will be incorporating our tsunami project into their event, and hopefully bring the public's attention to our project," Lin said. "We're working very hard on our tsunami project, because we truly want to make a difference in our community."

Meetings set in search for new superintendent

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Administrators and office staff will meet at the district office while Associated Student Body leaders will convene in the high school conference room. Maintenance and food service staff from all schools will meet at Seaside High School library. The community meeting follows at 5:30 p.m.

For those unable to attend a meeting, an online survey is available on the Seaside School District's website, www.seaside.k12.or.us. The survey takes about three to five minutes.

The survey seeks information on what is "working well" in the district and what is not. Questions seek to determine a vision for the dis-

trict and areas where greater success can be achieved. The survey asks respondents to check off qualities important in a superintendent, for example, "good listening skills," "empowering leader," "strong core values" or "visionary."

From the information gathered at the meetings with students and employees, the survey and interviews with community leaders, the district's board of directors will "come up with an idea of what the district is looking for as far as qualities for the superintendent" to aid in the search process, Francis said.

The board plans to discuss the information and adopt a set of qualifications at its meeting Feb. 16. A public hearing will be held.

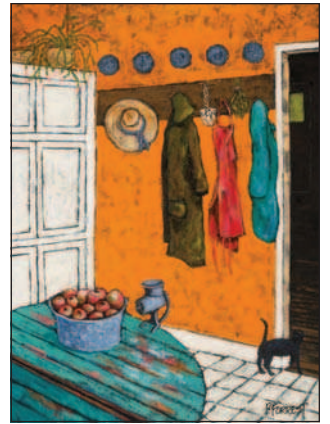
Seaside Art Walk celebrates its 12th anniversary

The Seaside First Saturday Art Walk takes place Feb. 6, from 5 to 7 p.m. at galleries located in the historic Gilbert District of downtown Seaside. The Art Walk is celebrating its 12th year.

Seaside Yoga, 609 Broadway, opens the cultural arts season with a debut show featuring two talented Northwest artists. Kristin Tschannen, owner. Oregonian artist Drea Frost works in interdisciplinary photography, painting, fiber arts and sculpture. Her art explores nature, sublime, geometric patterns, human condition and relationships. Frost has exhibited at Hoffman Gallery and Oregon College of Art and Craft.

Beach Books, 616 Broadway features the entire the Green Cab Artist Collective, a working artist group located in Washington County that was created with the goal of encouraging and inspiring one another, sharing artist techniques and information about the business side of art, and sharing work with the public. The "Cabbies" are a synergistic alliance of artists, working in diverse mediums. The February show includes work from artists Anne E. Brown, Penny Forrest, Lisa Griffen, Jeffery J. Hall, Kathryn Jtineant, Christine Martell, Helvi Smith, Bruce Ulrich, Jim Zaleski and Elna Zerberg.

T. Anjuli's Salon & Gallery, 7 North Holladay Drive, features contemporary poster art work by gal-



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"Organic Pink Ladies," by Penny Forrest, on exhibit at Seaside's Saturday Art Walk.

lery artist, gallery owner and Seaside philosopher Billy Lutz, who has painted in themes for 30 years, developing a philosophy of collectivism premised on the requirements of individual motive and paradox.

Seaside Coffee House, 3 N. Holladay Drive, features art by Morgan Stoller, whose pen-and ink work is demonstrated through dramatic, subtle contrasts of light and shadows, as well as certain posters and stickers by artist Billy Lutz.

Participating restaurants include Nonni's Bistro, 831 Broadway St.; McKeown's, 1 S. Holladay Drive, Seaside; Three Little Bird's Bakery, 8 N. Holladay Dr.; Seaside Tora Sushi, 619 Broadway; Seaside Nonni's Bistro, 831 Broadway, Seaside; and McKeown's, 1 S. Holladay Drive. Courtesy parking for the Gilbert block is available on the corner of Holladay and Oceanway.

Young actor is just one of the guys

Patrick Webb
For EO Media Group

To break up the apparently aimless conversation of the two main characters in the North Coast production of "Waiting for Godot," more than one visitor arrives to enliven and intrigue them.

It would spoil the surprise to reveal whether one is the mysterious Godot, but at some point they do greet his messenger.

Teenager Parker Fergus plays that role in the new production, which is being staged by Partners for the PAC, the coalition of arts groups dedicated to preserving the Clatsop Community College Performing Arts Center at 16th Street and Franklin Avenue.

Fergus is an eighth-grader who attends Broadway Middle School in Seaside. His mother, Lisa Fergus, is a regular in the North Coast theater scene, most recently appearing in "Once Upon a Mattress" at the Coaster Theatre in Cannon Beach, in which her son was in the ensemble.

Fergus, 13, has appeared at the Coaster and with the Missoula Children's Theater, making his debut as Little Jake in "Annie Get Your Gun," then playing Tiny Tim in "Scrooge, The Musical" and Chip in "Disney's Beauty and the Beast," which his mother directed.

"I've never pushed him to be in a show," said Lisa Fergus. "He chooses whether to be involved and prepares on his own for auditions."

"And I try to instill in him the classic, 'no small parts, only small actors,' and that the way he acts with his cast and crew is just as important as the performance he gives on stage."

Fergus recalls his debut with fondness.

"When they did 'Annie Get Your Gun,' my mom asked me if I wanted to be in it. I said OK," he said. "I just kind of checked in and figured out a passion. I love acting. It's just kind of fun to be someone I'm not."

He's eloquent about why he does it, too. "Applause — that's reward enough," he said. "If I got paid, it would be a dream job."

His ability to memorize lines continues to surprise his mother.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Parker Fergus, right, appears as the boy messenger, and William Ham plays Vladimir in the new Astoria production of "Waiting for Godot" at the CCC Performing Arts Center.

'Parker was treated as an equal member of the ensemble, with the same expectations and respect.'

Karen Bain

"He does not have to study them — lines come naturally, very early on in the rehearsal process," she said. "He doesn't usually write anything down, but simply commits everything to memory."

Fergus shrugs off his ability. "It just comes to me. I don't know how," he said. "I just remember the line."

"Waiting for Godot," which spawned the "theater of the absurd" movement, was famously described by a newspaper critic as a play in which "nothing happens — twice." It was written by Irish playwright Samuel Beckett and first staged in Paris in 1953 as mainland Europe rebuilt after World War II.

The director, Karen Bain, studied the script at the Directors Lab West, an invitational workshop in Los Angeles last spring. For the Astoria production, which opens Friday, she cast familiar North Coast actors William Ham and Slab Slabinski as the

tramps, Vladimir and Estragon, with Bill Honl as a strange visitor, Pozzo.

"I was looking for a young boy to play the two boys in the play, who are traditionally played by one actor," she said.

"Parker was recommended to me by several people," Bain added, noting the youngster's experience acting at the Coaster Theatre.

"From the beginning, Parker was treated as an equal member of the ensemble, with the same expectations and respect. His ideas during the exploration of the script were excellent."

When older, Fergus would like to sing the role of Javert, the villain, in "Les Miserables." For Christmas, his parents gave him "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare."

"I am working my way through it," he said, with a grin, noting that "Romeo and Juliet," "Hamlet" and "Macbeth" are his favorites ... with his eye on the male lead roles.

Bain, the director, is impressed with his talent. "Parker is a young man I would be happy to work with again," she said.

"Waiting for Godot" is funded, in part, by a grant from the Oregon Cultural Trust, distributed through the Clatsop County Cultural Coalition.

Enjoy trivia night at the Seaside Public Library

On Wednesday, Feb. 10, at 6 p.m. the Seaside Public Library will host its monthly Team Trivia Tournament. Teams can consist of one person or have as many as six people.

Trivia nights are informal, fun, competitions where teams battle to see who has the greatest knowledge of all matters trivial. General questions will be asked by our trivia host and the winners are the team which, at the end of

the night, has correctly answered the most questions. Prizes will be awarded, but the main prize is knowing you have the smartest trivia team in Clatsop County.

Seaside Public Library is located at 1131 Broadway, across from the youth center and swimming pool. For more information on this event or other library activities, call 503-738-6742 or visit www.seasidelibrary.org and facebook.com/seasidepubliclibrary.

New book from Alzheimer's caregiver

Author Willem O'Reilly discusses his new book, "What Do I Do Now? A Caregiver's Journey with Alzheimer's." The discussion takes place Feb. 12, at 11:30 a.m. at the Bob

Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A. O'Reilly is a freelance writer from Colorado currently in Seaside as part of a book tour. For more information call 503-738-3893.