

Ending the cycle of violence in our own backyard

I loved this line best, from a remembrance of Sgt. Jason Goodding: “He didn’t just respond to a burglary call, he stayed until the homeowner felt safe.”

And as we learned from his friends, fellow officers and family members who joined in the salute, Goodding responded to everyone with compassion, working with local shelters and social service groups to help get the homeless or mentally ill off the streets.

In recollection after recollection of their fallen partner, fellow officers found him an inspiration and a friend.

“I have benefited greatly from your gifts,” Seaside police Sgt. Gary Welborn said at last Friday’s service at the convention center, a gathering that brought thousands together in tribute. “Your presence will be missed greatly. Your bravery, your face in danger represents the true definition and personification of heroism.”

These words were echoed by Seaside Police Chief Dave Ham, Sheriff Tom Bergin and fellow officers.

In our own backyard the grief stings in an overwhelming and personal way.

“It’s going to be a while before the community heals,” the Rev. Rob E. Sachs, pastor for the Seaside Police Department and Seaside Fire Department said last week. “And sadly, we’re no different than Roseburg right now.”

The comparison was potent and dead-on. Roseburg, where eight students and a professor were shot dead in a college shooting, has become a symbol of the needless carnage inflicted upon the innocent.

The death of Phillip Max Ferry

Probably the most controversial aspect for us at the Signal was coverage of the alleged killer of Jason Goodding, Phillip Max Ferry,

55, was a longtime county resident when he wasn’t incarcerated. Ferry was well-known — for criminality, addictions and demons.

“Let’s not talk about that now,” a public official said when we first asked about Ferry.

Yet Ferry was a father and a husband. He was somebody’s child.

One of the most poignant notes to pass our desk read: “Did it ever cross your mind that he too has a family that is hurting from the whole thing?”

The note continued: “He too has people right here in this judgmental county.”

SEEN FROM SEASIDE

R.J. MARX



The letter writer is right.

Ferry didn’t become a monster overnight. He was mercilessly addicted to drugs. He was desperately in need of mental health and rehabilitation services — or perhaps a more lasting jail term. According to the Oregon Department of Corrections, his parole officer had lost touch with him. Since 2014, Ferry devised homemade explosives, harassed neighbors, spit at police officers, even ripped off a member of a biker gang in a gun deal.

For Ferry, so much had gone wrong: the mental health system, prison system, help for the homeless, social services.

Mark Terranova, the executive director of Restoration House in Seaside, where Ferry had been provided housing after his last prison release 14 months ago, lamented: “When it becomes a situation where all the wraparound systems fail, then we can’t have him or anyone like that living here.”

But these are questions we need to know: Why wasn’t Ferry in jail, or a



JOSHUA BESSEX/EO MEDIA GROUP

New York Police Department officer Brian Rothermel watches during a memorial for Sgt. Jason Goodding at the Seaside Convention Center.

hospital? Is it a result of a revolving door justice system, or a failure of our prisons to rehabilitate? How does a lifelong criminal pile up an arsenal? We have “clean and sober” services like Restoration House and Helping Hands Reentry Outreach Center for the homeless, but what are we doing for a much more at-risk population of homeless substance abusers and mentally ill? The risk is not only to themselves, but to all of us who share this city.

Social services, it seems, were in the hands of Jason Goodding and his partner that night in Seaside.

The tears

Amy Jones was the homecoming queen and Jason Goodding was the football star. That was the message that resonated, from the football and basketball jerseys and the video tribute focusing on Jason’s life.

It was ironic, or maybe not so, that this was Valentine’s Day weekend. Amy Goodding did not need to speak at the memorial. Her tears and those of her family spoke volumes.

The image I will remember finally from the memorial was that of Gov. Kate Brown, kneeling before the widow as she presented the Medal of Ultimate Sacrifice, given to Oregon officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The medal, established in 2012, has been presented six times since.

Goodding joins heroes Coos County Deputy Sheriff Gil Datan,

‘After the pomp and the bagpipers and the out-of-towners are gone, life will go on for those officers on the beat in Seaside.’

Oregon City Police Officer Robert A. Libke, Eugene Police Officer Christopher Kilcullen, Rainier Police Chief Ralph Painter and Department of Corrections Officer Buddy Herron.

The cycle of violence is spinning out of control.

Last week, six U.S. police officers were shot in the line of duty — Derek Geer, 40, in Mesa County, Colorado, after being shot by a teenager. Two deputies, Mark Logsdon and Patrick Dailey, died responding to a shopping center disturbance in Abingdon, Maryland. Greg Barney, a Clayton County, Georgia, officer was shot and killed while he and other officers were attempting to serve a drug warrant.

In Fargo, North Dakota, Officer Jason Moszer responded to a domestic disturbance with other officers, and was shot. He died the next day.

Early this week Cpl. Derrick Couch was in critical condition at Regional One Health in Memphis, Tennessee, after a point-blank shoot-

ing in the face. He is on a ventilator, has lost one eye and the bullet remains lodged in his brain.

After the pomp and the bagpipers and the out-of-towners are gone, life will go on for those officers on the beat in Seaside.

“Every piece of evidence, every witness, leads us to the same conclusion — that Phillip Ferry, with a long history of resisting arrests and assault on police officers, was given every opportunity to surrender peaceably to uniformed officers,” investigators said Tuesday. “He not only refused but made statements that now seem to indicate that he intended to do worse.”

In the police log posted by the Seaside Police Department this week, officers conducted two warrant arrests early Sunday morning on Broadway not so unlike the one confronting Sgt. Goodding and his partner. Another took place the same day a little before midnight. Warrant arrests are considered by law enforcement officials to be among the most dangerous of all stops. Subjects have often had the opportunity to turn themselves in but have chosen not to do so. They have bypassed lawyers and good judgment. They have little incentive to cooperate and may be intoxicated or violent.

Only those who wear a badge know the risk at hand when the call comes in.

The rest of us can only salute.

Seaside Public Library is ‘more than just books’

Andrew Carnegie said, “A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert.”

The Seaside Public Library strives to be the spring that waters the soul of the North Coast with great books of all types, and with programs that bring a wealth of information, fun, knowledge, and creativity.

We are constantly striving to bring the best books in the literary world to our shelves, and our acquisitions librarian, Dan Cawley, has over 20 years of experience in building a collection of interesting, scholarly, popular, and just down right entertaining books for folks in our community to read. Some of the new popular fiction titles we just received are: “Friction” by Sandra Brown in which

BETWEEN THE COVERS

ESTHER MOBERG



Texas Ranger Crawford Hunt saves a judge from a masked assassin, but his act of heroism may jeopardize the most important thing in his life. “

The Fifth Heart” by Dan Simmons brings together Sherlock Holmes and Henry James for a romp through America in 1893, as they try to solve a mysterious death of one of the country’s most noted families. “Georgia”, a novel of historical fiction, by Dawn Tripp, lets us delve into the life of artist Georgia O’Keefe as she transitions from a young unknown art teacher into an icon of our times.

If popular fiction is not your coupe, tasse (cup of tea) then here are some titles that may appeal when you are having some intellectual yearnings: “Neuro Tribes”, by Steve Silberman, is a sweeping and penetrating account that takes a detailed and dense history of autism and turns the story into a genuine page-turner. “The Witches,” by Stacy Schiff, is the story of the Salem witch trials of 1692 and is a riveting description of a seminal episode in our country that unveils a primal American mystery. If you’re hungry for something in between these two genres then belly up to the table with “Nom Nom Paleo: Food for Humans” by Michelle Tam. Tam and her co-author, Henry Fong, bring you over 100 recipes for eating healthy that actually tastes good.

Now we don’t just want to water your soul with books, so one of our missions is to bring interesting and relevant programs and speakers to the library. Some of the highlights from last year were: “Growing Carnivorous Plants,” “My Life in Hollywood” with local artist Jorjett Strumme, “The History of Camp Rilea” and “Project Runway,” with clothing designer Michelle Lesniak. We also offered botanical drawing classes with artist Dorota Haber-Lehigh, cooking classes with local chef Teresa Dufka, and gardening demonstrations, to name just a few. Upcoming events for this year are: “Unsung Heroes: The Art of Storytelling” with Gideon For-mukwi, the “Listening to the Land” series with the North Coast Land Conservancy, “Container Gar-

dening” with Maggie Stuckey, a “Learn to Play the Ukulele” workshop with the Ukualians and don’t forget our monthly Night of All Knowledge Trivia Tournaments. All of the programs that the library offers are provided by The Friends of the Seaside Library who generously fund all of our events.

We are so fortunate in this community to have the bountiful resources that the library offers and we hope it is that “never failing spring” that waters the collective soul of the North Coast.

Here is an update on the Little Free Library Auction that was cancelled in February. The new date for the event is March 26, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Seaside Convention Center. Thank you for your patience, and we hope to see you then.

Our prayers will always be with Goodding family

My friend Ed found a wolf spider outside his place of business. With legs spread out, he was a little larger than a 50-cent piece. His legs were gray and black striped and I’m not sure of the body — black, I think, with a white cross on the back. All spiders are treacherous looking but I’d never seen one like that.

On recent bus rides, we drove through the tubes of the Warrenton Business Park. I was surprised to see maybe 24 new apartments in a veritable little village. We rode around S.E. Willow Drive and Huckleberry Ave. I once lived on S.W. Willow Lane in Jeffers Gardens, now known as Willow Road. There is lots of nos-

SCENE & HEARD

CLAIRE LOVELL



algia connected with that section of the county.

I met Trent and his fiancée Vickie (or was it Nickie) at the post office on the 29th. At first when Trent passed the window, I thought he was on a skateboard. Turned out he was riding a 12- or 15-inch air wheel, similar to a unicycle but with no seat, only two pedals. Battery operated, it can travel six miles per hour and is maneuverable by leanings of the body. Cool.

What about the pink morning clouds over the ocean one day? I had said a couple of days earlier I’d be rich when the sun came up in the west. Didn’t expect it to happen so soon, though I’m still waiting for the money, ha. It was probably a reflection from the rising sun, which I didn’t see but it was certainly an eerie situation.

Maybe it was a precursor to our hot summer day on the eighth of February. How about that? Summer one day and a monsoon the next. I must say, I did enjoy our stormy weather. Was it Tuesday or Thursday when the rain was blowing sideways and swooping down from on high? It was Wednesday because I had to go out.

Let’s hope all is well for the ceremonies for Officer Goodding. We look forward to paying him honor and to sharing in the solidarity of our town’s support for his family. Surely our prayers will always be with them.

About 11:30 a.m., a Coast Guard helicopter was over the house — just hovering for several minutes. Then they went toward Broadway and did the same thing. Maybe they were taking pictures. Seaside has been on national news on several occasions. We prefer it for things like marathons and volleyball tournaments — or even for just being the end of the Lewis and Clark Trail. Sensationalism — has no place in our quiet community.

The sides of Roosevelt Drive between 12th and 13th are looking pretty messy and in need of TLC. I don’t know what attracts garbage to that area, maybe the theater or the factory outlet, but when things get tacky, that spot is the first to show signs.

Laugh Line

A man divorced his wife of 25 years and his neighbor inquired, “How did she take it?”

“You know,” said the newly single fellow, “you can live with someone for years and never know them. This is the first I realized that she could sing and do cartwheels at the same time.”