

# Making a 'Connection' at aquarium



SUBMITTED PHOTO/SEASIDE SIGNAL

Oregon Connections Academy first-grade student Zoey Thorne from Astoria, was one of several students who enjoyed a field trip to the Seaside Aquarium on Thursday, Feb. 25. Zoey was fascinated by the many different types of creatures that coexist in the sea and her favorite part is feeding snacks to the seals. ORCA is Oregon's largest virtual public charter school with over 4,000 students statewide in grades K-12, around 70 enrolled from Clatsop County. The school hosts dozens of field trips like the one to the aquarium every year across the state.

## OBITUARIES

### Chief Master Sgt.

### Alan Todd Bergeson

June 28, 1963 — Feb. 19, 2016



CM Sgt. Alan T. Bergeson passed away peacefully at the age of 52 on Feb. 19, 2016, in his home at Kailua, Hawaii.

Alan was born on June 28, 1963, in Astoria, Oregon, to Larry and Marianne Bergeson. Alan graduated from Seaside High School in 1982, and enlisted in the Air Force in 1983, and retired from the Air Force in 2013, after 30 years of service. He achieved the rank of chief master sergeant. After retiring from the Air Force, Alan went into property management, and had just recently received his Realtor's license.

Alan enjoyed spending time with his family, friends and his three dogs (Buddy, Goma and Mochi), hiking, working out, traveling, playing in the surf, laying in the sun and his job of property management. Alan was known as a great mentor of youth, and for his great personality, kindness and compassion for all. Alan will be dearly missed by



Chief Master Sgt. Alan Bergeson

all who were fortunate to have known him. Alan loved his best friend, Jennifer Braun of Cannon Beach, and numerous

friends in Hawaii. Alan enjoyed life to the fullest.

Alan is survived by his father, Larry Bergeson of Seaside; his brother, Mark Bergeson and his wife, Suzette, and their three children, Dani, Andrew and Matt, of Astoria; his brother, Russ Bergeson and his daughter, Maddie, of Bend; his sister, Paula Mespelt and her husband, Don, and their two children, Ashley and Josh, of Seaside, and his great-niece, Lexi, of Salem; as well as numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Alan was preceded in death by his mother, Marianne Bergeson.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, April 2, 2016, from 1-4 p.m., at the Surfsand Resort in Cannon Beach, 148 W. Gower St.

The family asks in lieu of flowers that you make a donation to the Lower Columbia Hospice in Astoria, Oregon, in his mother's name: Marianne Bergeson.

## LETTERS

### Trump is no dummy

The political punditry continues to profess dread surprise over the ascendancy of Donald Trump. Why should that be so? Of the six contenders now standing, only he has no association with an enterprise, the U.S. government, which is approved of by little more than 20 per cent of its putative employers. Who, in his right mind, would promote to CEO an employee of an organization which dissatisfied more than three-quarters of those for whom it works?

It is said that he is coarse. Chaucer and Shakespeare were coarse. America, never having had a monarchy or an aristocracy, has never aspired to refinement. And besides, the liberal press, Trump's most obstreperous critics, did not squeal nearly so loudly when the current front-runner's husband, the most notoriously iniquitous occupant of the White House, was exposed.

The government of this country has become a giant casino, the croupiers of which, euphemistically called "legislators," and their legions of unelected bureaucrats, themselves so vast in number and power as to become a fourth branch of government, systematically mulct the citizenry — Thomas Paine's "greedy hand of government" — out of trillions of dollars.

Then, after seizing a sizable portion for themselves "off the top," redistribute the remainder to the "winners." The press, in fact, routinely refers to those who benefit from legislation and government spending as "winners." What is unspoken is where there are "winners," there must be "losers."

What, then, is there to wonder at that a man who has never been a politician, and who speaks unlike the ventriloquists' dummies against whom

he contends, may one day occupy the White House?

**Louis Sargent Gearhart**

### A community with hope, without hunger

Imagine our community without hunger, we can and we hope you can too!

Our South County Food Bank, a local food pantry, works seven days a week to provide emergency food and hope to over 1,000 community members each month.

Each year over 250,000 pounds of food is coordinated, collected, sorted, set out and individually distributed, one on one by volunteers to our most vulnerable friends and neighbors living in our area.

We need your help now to continue this essential work. For the first time we are sending out a call to action brochure, in the mail, to all residents in south county. Please take the time to read it and get to know the good work of your food pantry and the enormous challenge we are facing around the most basic need for any person — nutritious food.

For more information about our good work, stop by our new building at 2041 N. Roosevelt Drive, call 503-738-9800, go online at [www.seasidefoodbank.org](http://www.seasidefoodbank.org), or follow us on Facebook: [fb.com/seasideoregonfoodpantry](https://www.facebook.com/seasideoregonfoodpantry).

We sincerely thank you for

your continued help and support as we work toward a community without hunger.

**Mary Blake Seaside**

### A thank-you from Hickman family

The family of Ray Hickman would like to thank the Cannon Beach Police and Fire Departments; the Coast Guard; the Search and Rescue teams from Clatsop, Tillamook, Washington, Multnomah and Clackamas counties; Mountain Wave Search and Rescue; all the volunteers, neighbors and friends who spent time and effort in such inclement weather to search for Ray when he went missing on Jan. 30. Many of you are still look-

ing as time permits and we appreciate that so much.

We'd also like to thank everyone who donated money and the man from Hamlet who lent the use of his drone.

We've learned that many Cannon Beach and Seaside restaurants donated food for the searchers. And we know that many from the community donated food for the searchers and for us. Thank you all.

Such an outpouring of support from the entire community has been just overwhelming, and very special. It keeps us going every day. We appreciate all of it so very much.

**The Hickman Family (Anita, Holly, Michael and Maya)**  
Cannon Beach

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## PUBLIC MEETINGS

**Thursday, March 22**  
Seaside Airport Committee, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**Monday, March 28**  
Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**Tuesday, April 5**  
Seaside Community and Senior Commission, 10 a.m., 1225 Avenue A.

**Seaside Library Board**, 4:30 p.m., Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway.

**Seaside Planning Commission**, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**Wednesday, April 6**  
Seaside Improvement Commission, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**Gearhart City Council**, 7 p.m., City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

**Thursday, April 7**  
Seaside Parks Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., City Hall.

**Monday, April 11**  
Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**Thursday, April 14**  
Seaside Convention Center Commission, 5 p.m., 1225 Avenue A.

**Gearhart Planning Commission**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

**Monday, April 19**  
Seaside School District, 6 p.m., 1801 S. Franklin St.

**Wednesday, April 20**  
Sunset Empire Parks and Rec District, 5 p.m., 1225 Ave. A, Seaside.

**Thursday, April 21**  
Seaside Transportation Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**Monday, April 25**  
Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**Tuesday, May 3**  
Seaside Community Center Commission, 10 a.m., 1225 Avenue A.

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