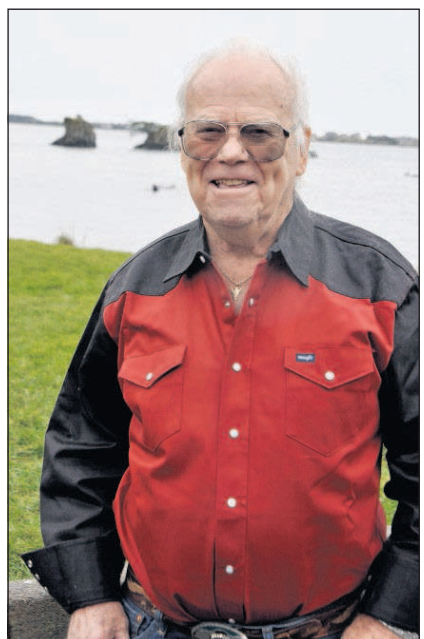


FINAL CHAPTER OF WORLD WAR II

The Friends of the Seaside Library will host Rex and Keiko Ziak as they present the program "The Final Chapter of World War II," Thursday, June 2, at 7 p.m. Pearl Harbor survivor Ed Johann will also be in attendance. The event will be in conjunction with a photographic exhibit of images from the Obon Society that depict the story of the Yosegaki Hinomaru that will be displayed in the library through June 30.

When war broke out the Japanese called up their young men to serve in the military. Each family prepared a unique personal keepsake for their son to bring along when he was away from home. The family signed their names and wrote messages on a small flag which each man carried with him and carefully guarded. It was called a Yosegaki Hinomaru. When it was discovered that every Japanese soldier carried these flags, they became highly prized treasures of war, and were brought back



SEASIDE SIGNAL/SUBMITTED PHOTO
Pearl Harbor survivor Ed Johann.

home by the thousands.

After 70 years, many veterans and their children realize these battlefield souvenirs are personal family items and want them to be returned to their rightful owners in the spirit of peace and reconciliation. They send them to the Obon Society and they conduct a search across Japan through their network of priests, scholars, and government agencies. When the family is found the article is returned at no cost. These flags, for most Japanese families, are the only surviving trace of their husband, brother and father.

The program and photographic exhibit that the Obon Society is presenting continues President Kennedy's spirit of friendship and respect our two nations now share.

Seaside Public Library is located at 1131 Broadway. For more information call 503-738-6742 or visit www.seasidelibrary.org.



CANNON BEACH GAZETTE/SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sou'wester Plant Sale 2015.

Sou' Wester Garden Club Plant Sale

The Sou' Wester Garden Club Annual Plant Sale takes place Saturday, May 28, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center. The public is invited and admission is free.

The Garden Club Plant Sale received rave reviews last year for its spacious location at the convention center.

The garden club's scholarship program provides a \$1,500 scholarship to each of two Seaside High School graduates.

Jack Whittle will be graduating in June and plans to attend the University of Montana to major in resource conservation.

Alanna Kieffer graduated in 2014 and will be a junior

at Oregon State University where she is majoring in marine biology.

Scholarships are funded by a raffle and a silent auction.

The raffle items are a salad bowl on wheels, a whimsical garden couple and quails on parade. Raffle tickets are available for \$1 each or six for \$5. The silent auction features theme planters entered by members for competitive judging before being offered for sale and other unique planters.

For further information, call 503-717-4221. Sou' Wester Garden Club is a member of the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs and the National Council of State Garden Clubs, a 501c3 organization.

Register now for Fourth of July Parade

Registration for Seaside's annual Fourth of July Parade is now open. Registration may be done online at www.seaside-fourthofjuly.org through June 29. The parade line up will be on Necanicum Drive and all entrants must be in line and ready to go by 10:45 a.m. Since the Fourth is on a Monday, large crowds are expected resulting in traffic delays. Arriving early is strongly suggested. Those entrants not at their assigned position will be put at the end of the parade as space allows.

Entries must be able to negotiate turns onto and off Broadway. Floats cannot be over 40 feet in length, towing

vehicle and float combined, and no more than eight-feet wide. If a float or vehicle distributes "goodies" it must be done by someone walking alongside the entry. No goodies or candy can be thrown from the float or vehicle.

The parade starts at 11 a.m. From Necanicum it will turn east on 12th Avenue, then south on Holladay Drive to Broadway, west to Columbia, east to First Avenue back to Necanicum. The parade takes place rain or shine.

Emails with additional parade information and assigned position will be sent out to registered entrants July 1-2.



SEASIDE SIGNAL/FILE PHOTO
Seaside's 2015 Fourth of July Parade featured participants of all ages, including some youngsters riding on the float for Mrs. Tami's Daycare & Preschool.

Sushi employee arrested for sexually abusing co-worker

EO Media Group

An employee at Tora Sushi in Astoria was arrested Tuesday for sex abuse and harassment after allegedly touching



MAXIMO CRUZ FIGUEROA

a co-worker inappropriately while training her. Maximo Cruz Figueroa, 31, of Seaside, is being charged with third-degree sex abuse and harassment with a sexual component. Astoria Police detectives received a report from the 26-year-old victim, who had been hired at Tora Sushi the day before the incident. She reported the inappropriate touching.

Management at Tora Sushi assisted with the investigation, according to police, and placed Cruz on leave pending completion of the investigation.

"Circumstances like this often go unreported to police for various reasons. When we learn of these situations we become concerned about whether there may be other victims." Astoria Police Deputy Chief Eric Halverson said.

Any former co-workers or victims that may have information regarding Cruz are encouraged to contact Detective Thomas Litwin at 503-325-4411 or by email at tlitwin@astoria.or.us.

Help attack a notorious weed at Circle Creek in Seaside

Impatiens glandulifera — an invasive plant better known as policeman's helmet — is becoming a scourge in the Necanicum River watershed. Help arrest this public enemy at Circle Creek Habitat Reserve at a volunteer stewardship day on Saturday, June 11, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Native to Asia, policeman's helmet is named for the plant's white, pink or purple flowers, whose shape resembles an old-fashioned British policeman's helmet. It was first sighted in the Necanicum River watershed about 3 years ago and has since spread widely. It thrives in moist riparian areas such as the floodplain at Circle Creek, where volunteers will be working.

Dense patches of policeman's helmet choke out other plant species and reduce native plant and animal diversity while increasing the risk of stream bank erosion. When touched, the plant's mature seedpods split and eject seeds up to 20 feet. A single plant



SEASIDE SIGNAL/SUBMITTED PHOTO

Policeman's helmet is easy to pull up by the roots.

can produce up to 800 seeds, which remain viable for 18 months or more and can even germinate under water. We've timed this stewardship day—a partnership with Necanicum Watershed Council—to pull up plants before they have a chance to set seeds.

If you'd like to help, contact NCLC Stewardship Director Melissa Reich at 503-738-9126, melissar@nclctrust.org, for details and directions. Visit NCLCtrust.org for more information about this stewardship day and a link to a fact sheet about this weed.

Chicks, ducklings killed in fire

EO Media Group

Baby chickens, ducklings and a turkey were killed May 16 when a shed on a property in Gearhart caught fire.

The cause of the fire is undetermined, but firefighters are pointing to a heat lamp in the shed for the baby chickens and ducklings that may have started the fire.

Residents of the property on the 89000 block of West Anderson Road were not home at the time. A neighbor reported the fire and Gearhart Volunteer Fire Department responded at

about 9:30 a.m. The shed was fully engulfed in flames and is considered a total loss. No other buildings were damaged.

Gearhart Fire Chief Bill Eddy said some of the baby chickens and ducklings were able to get out. It is unknown how many were killed, since the shed was completely destroyed and unsafe for firefighters to enter and investigate.

Fire crews stayed on scene for about a half hour putting out hidden hot spots around the structure. Gearhart Fire was assisted by the Seaside and Warrenton fire departments.

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