

Collaboration leads to successful new event in Seaside

A little less than three months ago I was contacted by Meyer Freeman with the Oregon Sports Authority (the state's sports economic development arm) about the possibility of hosting a new sporting event in Seaside. Meyer and I have worked together a handful of times over the past six years and this particular conversation seemed more promising than some of the other potential new events we had discussed.

The event we were being pitched on was something called Footvolley. In short, it's beach volleyball meets beach soccer. The key difference is that hands and arms are not allowed to pass or spike the ball. Shoulders are allowed, but the rest of the arm is a no-no. Two players on each side, a maximum of three hits per side, while players volley the ball over the net just like volleyball. Hearing or reading about it alone makes it sound pretty difficult. And how in the world can a volley back and forth (with legs, body and head) be sustained? Just Google it. You'll see what I mean.

After that initial pitch on April 18, conversations moved very quickly. A week later the pitch was changed. The USA Footvolley Association didn't just want to do an event in Seaside, they now wanted to host the USA National Qualifier on our beach, with a ticket to Rio de Janeiro (home of the 2016 Summer Olympic) on the line. Footvolley will be a demonstration sport in 2016, with the hopes of growing into an official medal sport in the

SIDE RAIL

JOHN RAHL



future. Did I mention that this event needed to happen before July? Two months from the time of this second conversation. All partners would have to move quickly. Event permits needed to be approved and organization needed to begin immediately. Many wondered if it could be accomplished.

Well, if you happened to cruise past the turnaround the weekend of June 25 and 26, you would have noticed that the event did happen and culminated with an incredible final match on Sunday between Team Miami and Team Los Angeles. L.A. was the heavy favorite and won the first set 21-13. The outcome seemed inevitable. That was until Miami scored the first 10 points of the second set and gained every ounce of momentum from the several hundred people that had gathered to watch. Miami won set two, setting up a final set for the right to represent the U.S. in Rio. Led by the energy of Sergio Menezes (president of the U.S. Footvolley Association), who was partnered with the extremely skilled Lucas Roque, Miami claimed set three by the score of 15-11 to punch their ticket. It was a fantastic conclusion to a busy two months.

While the City of Seaside Visitors Bureau and Oregon Sports Authority partnered to sponsor the event,



DANNY MILLER/EO MEDIA GROUP

Team Los Angeles' Alex Freire kicks the ball while facing off against Northern California in the Team USA Footvolley qualifying matches in Seaside.

the Seaside Chamber of Commerce contributed countless hours of setup and breakdown time, along with logistical support. Without that final, integral piece, the event likely wouldn't have happened. Their experience hosting other beach sports events like soccer and traditional beach volleyball allowed this event to run incredibly well. I am extreme-

ly grateful for their partnership.

Part of the agreement was that the championship match would be videotaped and given to Root Sports Network for potential television distribution. The feeling is that it will air later this month. The icing on the cake: the footvolley group enjoyed their time here so much, they are already talking about a return to

Seaside and possibly as a stop on the U.S. Pro Footvolley Tour.

Have a thought or a question about tourism in Seaside, or maybe an idea for a future column? Drop me an email at jrahl@cityofseaside.us. Jon Rahl is the director of tourism for the Seaside Visitors Bureau and assistant general manager of the Seaside Civic & Convention Center.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

District Governor Barb Crozier, second from left, and District Governor-elect Tom Marcos, right, congratulate Seaside Rotary members Denny Jones, left, Alice Wood, center, and Stewart Martin, second from right, on their Rotary Foundation and service awards.

Seaside Rotary hosts its annual banquet

The Seaside Rotary Club held their annual banquet and installation of officers for the 2016-17 year at the Astoria Golf & Country Club on June 17. Seventy Rotarians and family members participated in the evening festivities. District 5100 Governor Barb Crozier and District Governor-elect Tom Markos were also in attendance to support the leadership of the club and to acknowledge that the Rotary Club of Seaside received three awards, including a special Rotary International award to Stewart Martin. Three awards is very significant as there are 73 Rotary clubs in District 5100.

The Seaside Rotary club will be celebrating its 70th year in 2017, and meets each Thursday at noon at the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jason Schermerhorn, Rotarian of the Year Alan Evans and Raven Brown.

Best Western Ocean View in Seaside. Guests are always welcome to attend the lunch meeting which also has guest speakers and programs each week.

OBITUARIES

William Stephen Osburn

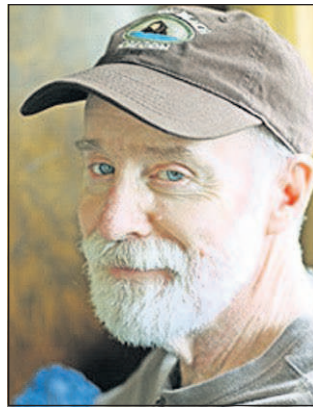
Feb. 2, 1950 — June 18, 2016

William Stephen Osburn, or "Steve," was born in Rochester, Minnesota, Feb. 2, 1950, and passed away peacefully at Sendera Ranch home, Magnolia, Texas, the morning of Saturday June 18, 2016 after a difficult and long struggle with Lewy Body Dementia, Parkinsonism, and ALS.

Steve is survived by his devoted wife, Emily, and his two adoring daughters, Alison and Claire Osburn, as well as numerous loving and beloved friends, in-laws, cousins, nieces and nephews. The son of William and Judith Osburn, Steve was the second-eldest of four siblings. The three surviving brothers and sisters include Carol Jenkins and her husband, Brent Jenkins, Jim Osburn and Susie Jopling and her husband, Buzz Jopling.

A few years after graduating with honors from the University of Texas in Austin, Steve and Emily traveled to Cannon Beach, Oregon, where Steve eventually took over the family business started by his mother and father, Osburn's Grocery and Delicatessen. Steve was a leader, mentor, and friend to many of the employees of Osburn's Grocery and many other Cannon Beach community members. The business thrived under Steve and Emily's direction for over 20 years before they sold the store and returned to Texas.

Steve had many passions, but one of the strongest was learning and teaching. Over the years this included teaching seventh grade reading, imparting to his daughters



William "Steve" Osburn

his boundless knowledge and appreciation of music, literature, poetry, botany, biology and any other important bit of life's wisdom he could get into their heads (when they were listening, of course).

Steve taught himself to run a business without any business training, and eventually became a fine wine expert and collector. Steve had a fun-loving and genuinely caring spirit, a mischievous and witty sense of humor, and a profoundly honest, accepting and loving attitude towards people from all walks of life. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him and loved him.

A funeral service was held on Saturday, June 25, 2016, at Trinity Episcopal Church, 3901 S. Panther Creek Drive, The Woodlands, TX 77381. A reception followed the service in the Paris Hall.

Memorial contributions may be made to: the National Parkinson's Foundation, www.parkinson.org; or Ducks Unlimited, www.ducksunlimited.org

Land conservancy offers two guided outings

North Coast Land Conservancy is offering two ways to experience a recovering coastal rainforest, guided by expert naturalists.

On Friday July 29, biologist and educator Mike Patterson leads a 2-mile round-trip walk into Eco-la Creek Forest Reserve in Cannon Beach.

The following Friday, Aug. 5, naturalist Neal

calls a "Seaton Watch" at Circle Creek Habitat Reserve.

The two-hour outing will follow a 0.8-mile nature trail through a Sitka spruce swamp at the edge of this 365-acre conservation area at the south end of Seaside.

Visit NCLCtrust.org/on-the-land-summer-outings for more details or to register for this free On the Land outing.

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LETTERS

Letters from Page 4A

That is enough of my vent, but it is hard to watch what is going on and believe someone so hateful is being allowed to represent a political party. Does money buy everything? Vote Blue. I certainly will.

M. Diebolt
Seaside

Flags at half mast

Half mast. Our flag was at half mast again. As a child in a post World War II era, I recall seeing our flag fly proudly. There were a few identifiable events that the flag would be at half mast. The most notable was the 30 days of mourning after the assassination of President Kennedy.

As I look about in today's world, I see that the flag is frequently, maybe more than

not, at half mast. It more rarely flies proudly as before. And it seems the majority of events are related to some form of gun violence.

As I continue to look up at our now half-mast flag I will be forever reminded that this is now the price we will all have to pay for the "right" to bear arms.

Bud Perschek
Seaside

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