



For Lady Gulls, it's on to

SWEET 16!



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Jetta Ideue shoots against Junction City.

Seaside Signal

The Seaside Lady Gulls pronounced themselves "state tournament-ready" following a decisive 57-33 win over Junction City in a Class 4A girls basketball Regional Play-in game on Feb. 25.

Seaside must win one more game to officially qualify for the tournament, but the way the Gulls played Saturday, they're looking far beyond just the final eight.

The Gulls (17-4 overall) earned the No. 9 seed to the Sweet 16, and will play at No. 8 seed Molalla (14-6) March 4.

Tied 7-7 in the opening minutes of Saturday's game, Seaside took off on a 32-0 run for a 39-7 halftime lead, and the Gulls had all the points they would need to win the game.

Seaside was forcing turnovers at will in the first half (18), while Maddi Utti scored 19 of

her game-high 23 over the first two quarters. Teammate Sydney Villegas finished with 17, as the two seniors combined to outscore the Tigers by themselves.

The Lady Gulls have been rewarded for their efforts on the court this season. Cowapa League girls basketball co-champions Banks and Seaside shared top honors with the announcement of the all-league team, as voted on by the league's coaches.

Seaside senior Maddi Utti was named the league's Most Valuable Player as well as the Defensive Player of the Year.

She was joined on the first team by senior Sydney Villegas and junior Bryre Babbitt, while junior Jetta Ideue was selected honorable mention.

Seaside's Mike Hawes joined Brandon Begley of Banks as the co-Coaches of the Year.



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Jetta Ideue, Bryre Babbitt, Maddi Utti, Sydney Villagas and Lucy Bodner.

Plans laid for new school campus

A 'snapshot' of timeline

By Katherine Lacaze
For Seaside Signal

What will Seaside's new campus look like? Representatives with the agency representing the Seaside School District shared their vision for the design process, a tentative construction timeline and ideas for community engagement during the board meeting Feb. 21.

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Seaside looks at implementing 'Safe Routes to School' program

Program promotes healthier learning environment

By Sue Cody
For Seaside Signal

How kids get to school may be the hub around which Seaside parents, organizations and agencies intersect to build a healthier environment for everyone.

That's because a new school bond measure, a public works needs assessment and parent interest are bringing together information and resources, through the federal Safe Routes to School program.

"One of really nice things about this is how it is an extension of the incredible opportunities for kids that we're seeing come together simultaneously in our community," said Sheila Roley, superintendent of Seaside School District.

She cited work with The Way to Wellville and Dan Gaffney for the Universal Preschool feasibility grant and a partnership with Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District for preschool — and now, Safe Routes to School.

Safe Routes promotes health

About a dozen people gathered at Seaside Heights Elementary School Feb. 9 for a presentation by LeeAnne Ferguson on Safe Routes to School. Ferguson, of The Street Trust in Portland, presented information about the importance of encouraging students to walk or ride their bikes to school.

It struck home for Ferguson when she heard the surgeon general a couple years ago say that this generation was the first in a long time in which kids are not living as long as their parents.



SUE CODY

LeeAnne Ferguson and Shasia Fry give a presentation about Safe Routes to School at Seaside Heights Elementary School.

"Kids are not getting enough exercise," Ferguson says. Seventy percent of adults walked or biked to school when they were younger, and today that number is only 10 percent.

Safe Routes to School has been implemented in different parts of the state and country. Ferguson says in Portland, safe routes increased walking and biking to school by 40 percent.

Benefits include exercise for better health, easing traffic congestion and air quality around the school and improving a sense of community.

Shasia Fry, with North West Transportation Options, attended a Safe Routes to School conference in Eugene. Her work promotes safe and active transportation options for Clatsop, Tillamook and Columbia counties.

"I am really excited to start Safe Routes to School in Seaside," Fry says. "If we teach children to

make smart, safe choices, when they become adults, it will be part of their lifestyle."

She took the concept to Seaside Public Works Director Dale McDowell. They took it to the Seaside School Board in September. She says they have support from leaders, now she would like to start a parent or community group to move this project forward.

City assessment prelude to grant

For his part, McDowell has been doing an inventory of infrastructure needed within a one-mile radius of the school. It's not as simple as connecting sidewalks, as he first imagined. He ran into culverts, cable lines and right-of-way issues, then realized it would be a good time to lay conduit for street lights that are missing.

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Wright steps up to council

Priorities are housing, tsunami, safety, city's historic legacy

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

For the second time in four months, the road to the City Council moved through the Planning Commission.

In November, former Planning Commissioner Tom Horning was elected to fill a vacant City Council seat.

On Monday, councilors selected Planning Commissioner Steve Wright by a 4-1 roll call vote to fill the remaining two years of Mayor Jay Barber's unexpired council term. Barber replaced former Mayor Don Larson, who died in December.

"Your gain is my loss," Planning Director Kevin Cupples said good-naturedly after the vote. "You've now raided not just Tom Horning, you've taken one of my good planning commissioners."

Wright, a Seaside homeowner for nearly five years, is also a member of the Budget Committee and president of the Seaside Museum and Historical Society's board of directors.

He was the former chief financial officer of Columbia Grain International, a company he served with for 35 years before his retirement.

Three other contenders— Norman Brown, John Chapman and George Stacey — also interviewed for the Ward 1 seat.

"We went through four local community citizens who were brave enough to put their names into consideration by council," Barber said. "The problem was, when we were done, we wanted to add four more seats to council. They were all highly qualified."



Steve Wright

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