



SPIKE! Tourney is a winner



PHOTOS BY JEFF TER HAR/FOR SEASIDE SIGNAL

The event is a major summer attraction for downtown Seaside with 154 volleyball courts set up on the beach.

Seaside beach volleyball delivers sun, fun, sand

By Kaelia Neal
EO Media Group

The 36th annual Seaside Beach Volleyball tournament was full of sand, sunshine and spikes.

After two extremely close sets, Chelsea Ching, Garrett Wilson, Kacey Losik and Wyatt Harrison won the final quads coed open on Sunday, Aug. 13, the last championship game of the tournament.

"It was incredible," Ching said of her experience at the tournament. "You hang out and have a good time."

In the final match, every player was essential for the team win. Considering this was their first time playing together as a team, it was impressive to see their chemistry.

Wilson, Losik and Harrison fought hard on the net as blocking and hitting machines. Ching took care of the defense and was an asset for picking up tips.

After back and forth rallies, Ching, Wilson, Losik and Harrison won set one 24-22 and set two 21-19.

The team travels with a crew from Santa Cruz of about 35 people.

"It's kind of a tradition," said Ching, who has been to the tournament three times.

"It was an epic year," Wilson said. "We had a really good group of people."

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The amateur beach volleyball tournament is considered the largest of its kind in the world bringing in more than a thousand teams.

Below: Volleyball players hit the beach in Seaside over the weekend.



Seasiders lukewarm on urban renewal

Issues raised about traffic, growth

By Brenna Visser
Seaside Signal

In a heated public hearing, residents expressed concerns to the Seaside City Council Monday about the impact of a proposed southeast urban renewal plan.

The hearing was a chance for city councilors to consider whether the urban renewal district is in compliance with city goals. It also is the last stop before city councilors vote Aug. 28 whether to adopt the urban renewal plan, which has been in development since January.

While the city has heralded the \$68 million program as an efficient way to pay for long-term infrastructure projects, some residents and the Oregon Coast Alliance argue that plans to include unincorporated forestland outside of the urban growth boundary do not follow the city's comprehensive plan.

Others were concerned about overdevelopment, traffic and how projects would be implemented. But the largest sentiment coming from the audience was the feeling there was not enough public comment leading up to the vote.

"All we want to do is be heard. I don't think people are necessarily against development — we just want it to be smart," Maria Pincetich, a resident, said in the hearing.

City councilors said there were multiple public meetings on the issue.

"Urban renewal is a proven tool in Seaside for infrastructure. How many enjoy the North Holladay boulevard? If we didn't

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Gearhart to dive deep into the weeds

Tree-topping at core of beach dune controversy

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

GEARHART — City councilors agreed to consider recommendations from the Dunes Vegetation Committee after finding that city rules on tree trimming, removal of noxious weeds and invasive species failed to provide clear guidance.

"In my opinion there is nobody in this debate who is right or who's wrong there are just differences of opinion," committee member George Van Hoomissen said at the Wednesday, Aug. 4, City Council meeting.

Mayor Matt Brown acknowledged the ordinance, which allows for "thinning or pruning of 50 percent of the plant's present growth," was unclear and offered little guidance to officials.

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Cannon Beach Academy is a go with temp permit

Volunteer efforts help charter school meet building deadline

By Brenna Visser
Seaside Signal

CANNON BEACH — Cannon Beach will have an elementary school again.

It's a project that supporters of the charter school have been working toward for almost four years after the old elementary school was closed for tsunami safety reasons and a budget shortfall. But as of Tuesday, Aug. 15, the academy, a tuition-free, public charter school offering kindergarten to second grade, has secured a temporary occupancy permit that will allow the school to open for classes on Sept. 5.

"I'm over-the-moon excited," Amy Moore, the school's executive direc-

tor, said. "We are blessed to have all of the support from the community."

The road here

Because the location for the school was secured only two months ago, volunteers, academy board members and Coaster Construction worked down to the wire to meet the Tuesday deadline set by Seaside School District. The last-minute need to find a new location came when the board received an estimate of \$150,000 over the \$90,000 they budgeted for construction costs at the original location on Sunset Boulevard. Costs were driven up because the space would need to be renovated extensively to meet state school fire codes.

The academy was able to find an alternative in the former Preschool and Children's Center at 3781 S. Hemlock St. But by the time lease negotiations

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BRENNA VISSER/SEASIDE SIGNAL

Volunteers helped sweep up leaves at a cleanup event in July for the new Cannon Beach Academy at the former Preschool and Children's Center.