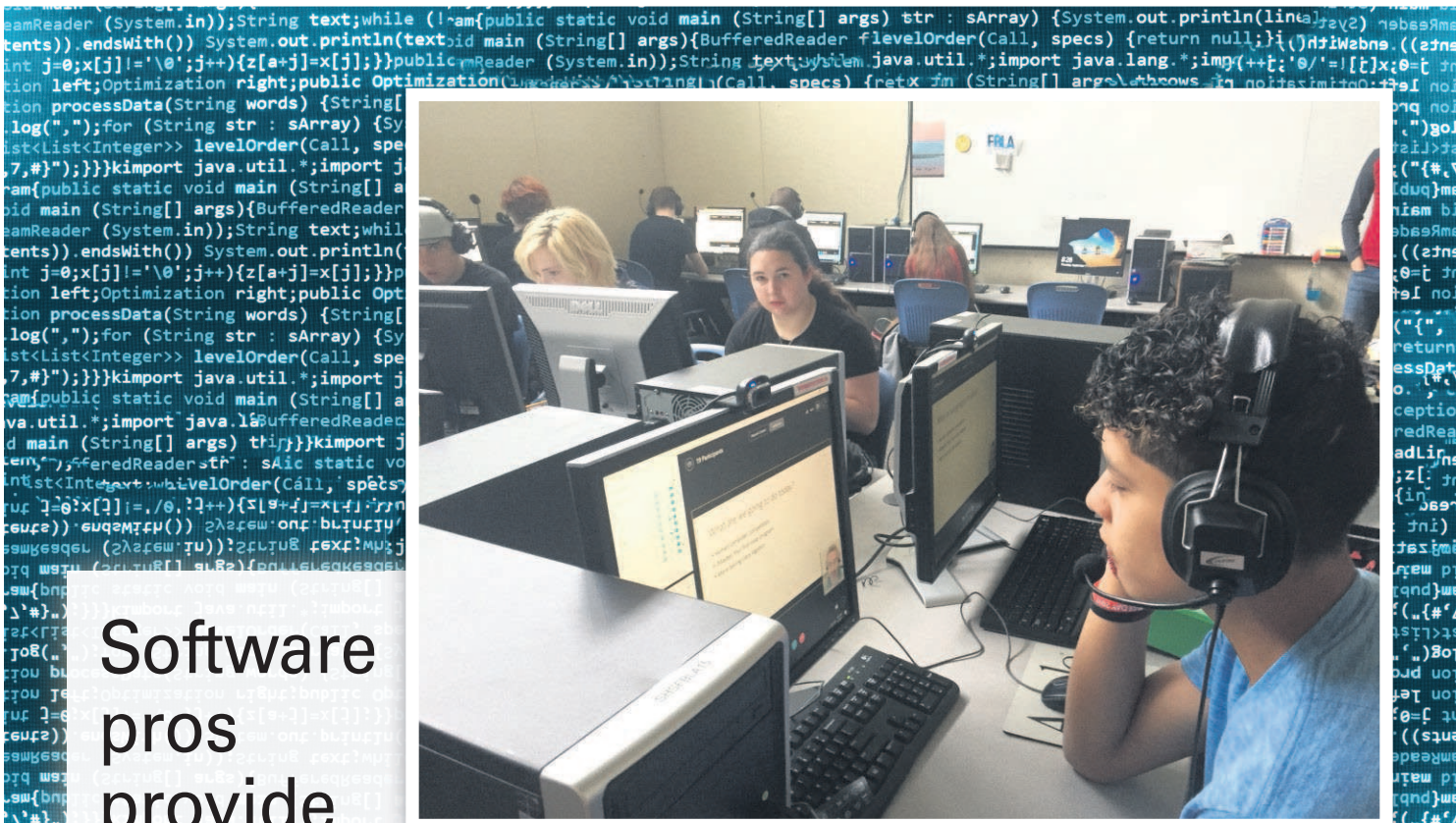




STUDENTS GET WITH THE PROGRAM



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Diego Silva Village at a workstation.

Software pros provide expertise

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Four professional programmers, including two Microsoft employees in Redmond, Washington, will be making a difference at Seaside High School via a program called Technology Education and Literacy in Schools, or TEALS.

Jeff Hiatt, a local professional programmer who telecommutes to a company in Portland, will be in the classroom in person as a teaching assistant.

Sam Nelson, a Seaside High School graduate who lives in Springfield, where he works for a startup company, will support students via teleconference.

Microsoft employees Sandy Spinrad and Sean Mitchell will teach the class via teleconference.

TEALS is in four schools in Oregon — one each in Seaside, Bend, Portland, and Amity — and in 352 schools nationally this year.

“One new program that I’m really excited about is our TEALS program,” Seaside High School Principal Jeff Roberts said at the start of the school year.

TEALS is a cooperative effort between Microsoft Philanthropies and school districts to introduce students to coding, Roberts said.

Microsoft provides volunteers who will work directly with a classroom teacher to co-teach classes on coding.

“After two years of co-teaching the class we will have the ability to offer the class independently and turn it into an AP computer science program,” Roberts said.

The goal of TEALS is to help ensure that high-school teachers teaching computer science teach to a student’s capacity through high-caliber curriculum and volunteer support, Anthony Papini, Volunteer Engagement Manager for Microsoft Philanthropies said.

Volunteers are industry professionals who have academic and professional background in computer science have gone through training.

Educators partner with computer science experts in the classroom, Papini said.

Seaside School District Curriculum Director Sande Brown said she learned about the TEALS program when she went to the National Science Conference in Portland a year ago.

“It is difficult to find high-school teachers for computer science as people with CS degrees usually end up going into the better paying field of computer science programming/coding,” Brown said. “So Microsoft wanted to come alongside current teachers in schools and help build their capacity to teach computer science.”

In Seaside, science and math teacher Doug Mitchell already had some programming experience. He volunteered to be the TEALS teacher, Brown said.

See TEALS, Page 9A

Campus relocation rolls ahead

Ordinance, comp plan updates need one more reading for adoption

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

The Seaside District’s drive to bring a new campus to the Southeast Hills rolled along as city councilors gave the nod to code changes necessary for construction. On Monday night, the city presented the ordinances necessary to complete the comprehensive plan amendment, which would move three endangered schools to higher ground out of the tsunami zone.

Relocation of Seaside High School, Gearhart Elementary School and Broadway Middle School is anticipated in September 2020.

See Campus, Page 9A

City’s first responders win council recognition

Proclamation marks First Responder Appreciation Week

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Only a few minutes before the city was to deliver a proclamation honoring first responders, Police Chief Dave Ham presented recognition to four Seaside officers who had handled a dramatic crisis situation in August.

“At the 6 o’clock briefing for the night shift I presented some recognitions to four of our officers for an event on August 23 where we had a mentally disturbed person in crisis with a firearm,” Ham said. “Those officers handled that very professionally and with respect and dignity.”

Responding Sgt. Johannes Korpela and officers Matthew Brown, Elise Parkman and Nathan Tapper were all safe and the person received mental health treatment, Ham added.

Situations like that one are representative of the kind of training the city’s first responders draw upon, Ham said.

The officers were able to talk him down through the interaction, Ham said. “They were able to take him into custody to the hospital and get him to Clatsop County Behavioral Health.”

The mental health process took care of the crisis, he said.

“It was a life-or-death crisis situation not just for the affected mental health person, but the officers just arriving to a dangerous scene,” Ham said. “The officers were able to calm him down enough to get

See Responders, Page 6A

PRSRIT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 97
ASTORIA, OR

James Folk returns to his roots

SHS alumnus joins Academy Mortgage

By Eve Marx
For Seaside Signal

James Folk, or “Jimmy” to his closest friends, recently opened the Academy Mortgage office in Gearhart practically next door to The Sweet Shop.

Seventeen years into his career in mortgage and lending, Folk teamed his skills with Academy to open this branch office. Founded in 1988, Academy is among the nation’s largest and most respected independent mortgage lenders. With headquarters in Salt Lake City, Utah, the company has more than 260 branch offices around the country. Gearhart is one of the most recent.

Folk has been in the mortgage and lending business for close to two decades. Born in Klamath Falls, his family moved to the Coast when he was just the tender age of one year. His mother, Sue Pickell, who likes to drop by the new office to say hello, was a well-known and respected real estate agent around town.

“I moved away from the area after high school,” Folk said. “I traveled as far as Australia.”

One of the jobs he did while traveling was caddy on a pro golf tour. An avid golfer, Folk is a member of the Seaside Hall of Fame Committee.

Eventually he found his way to southern California when he decided to return to school.

Fifteen years ago he returned to Portland before he felt the call to return to his roots on the North Coast.

“I’ve been in the mortgage busi-

ness since 2001,” Folk said.

He worked for a privately held corporation in Salt Lake; after returning to the Portland area, he was a regional manager doing mortgage business in Lake Oswego, Portland, Wilsonville, Beaverton and the Coast, including the U.S. Bank in Astoria and Seaside.

“I’ve worked for a long time in banks in their mortgage and lending divisions,” Folk said.

Not long ago, he joined Academy as a loan officer with the intention of opening a Gearhart branch.

Inside his Pacific Way office, clients can also see his artistic side. The photographic beach scenes and landscapes hanging on the walls are his work, creating a gallery-like feel.

As a direct lender, he said, there is no middle person, which is a “big



R.J. MARX/SEASIDE SIGNAL

James Folk in his Gearhart office. The photographic artwork on the wall is his own creation.

See Folk, Page 8A