

SEASIDE Signal



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'A GREAT GUY TO BE AROUND'



Makeshift memorial at the spot of a crash Saturday, Sept. 30, that took the life of Robert Miles.

R.J. MARX/SEASIDE SIGNAL

Seaside crash victim remembered

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Outside Gorilla Gas on U.S. Highway 101, a sign reads: "We will miss you Robert."

Robert Miles, 42, of Hammond, was killed in late September when an SUV crashed into a bus stop shelter near McDonald's restaurant in Seaside. Abdirisak Mohamed, 41, of Longview, Washington, was critically injured.

Gorilla Gas attendant Jesse Jones remembered Miles as "one of our regular

customers at our store here."

"He would always meet me first thing in the morning when I came in to open," Jones recalled. "He was almost a fixture around here."

Miles worked in the concrete business, Jones said, and walked or took buses most of the time.

"He was always smiling," Jones said. "He was always in a good mood. He was just a great guy to be around."

Jones let out a long sigh. "We are going to miss him around here."

Outside McDonald's, the bus shelter is gone, shattered by the impact of the crash.

Only a pole with a timetable marks its location. Flowers are carefully placed along the grass in memoriam.

Corrissa Barnett, 38, the alleged driver of the SUV, has been charged with manslaughter and other felonies and misdemeanor drunken driving.

See DRIVER IN FATAL SEASIDE CRASH
FACES MORE CHARGES • Page 3A

Disaster drills to mark Great Oregon Shakeout Day

Annual event seeks to raise earthquake awareness

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

It was appropriate that City Councilor Tom Horning read the proclamation naming Oct. 19 as Great Oregon Shakeout Day.

Horning won election last fall on a platform of tsunami awareness. On Sept. 26, delivered the

proclamation at a meeting of the Seaside City Council.

The proclamation recognizes earthquake safety as a serious concern, with much of the state at risk to seismic shaking and tsunami hazards.

A preparedness plan is the best way to survive a natural disaster, including preparations for self-sufficiency for two weeks after a natural disaster, states the proclamation, and everyone is invited to participate.

Seaside High School took part in the Great Oregon Shakeout

Day for the first time in 2016 after Associated Student Body leaders suggested the statewide event.

The high school will conduct an earthquake and tsunami drill, Principal Jeff Roberts said.

Students will learn "drop, cover, and hold on," described by organizers as a quake-safe action designed to protect lives and prevent injuries from falling furniture and flying objects than can become projectiles during ground shaking.

Teachers and students will then evacuate the building and walk to high ground.

After the event, students and staff will share their experiences.

Broadway Middle School and Heights Elementary will also participate on Oct. 19.

According to the state Office of Emergency Management, surviving and recovering from a major earthquake is a matter of being prepared and practicing how to find protection during earthquakes. This year's theme is "two weeks readiness," encouraging people to be prepared to be on their own

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Hood to Coast and city plan for future

Discord from 2015 a thing of past

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Two years ago it was unclear if Hood to Coast would return to Seaside.

The iconic 198-mile relay starting at Timberline Lodge and ending at the Seaside Prom first arrived here in the 1980s. But mounting complaints from residents and businesses about unruly behavior, traffic and poor organization brought angry crowds to City Council meetings and threatened to end the relationship.

The 2015 relay may have been the low point: with high winds and downpours, crowds filled Broadway and tensions soared. Business owners said organizers arbitrarily closed streets, tapped into private power sources and illegally sold wares on the street.

After the 2015 run, the City Council threatened to sever ties to the event. Dozens of local business owners signed a letter expressing discontent "that the overall impact of hosting this massive event during the busy summer tourist season is negative."

At the time, some councilors called the event "overrated" and sought greater responsiveness from organizers.

On Monday night, evidence of the new bond between the city and Hood to Coast organizers was on full display.

Hood to Coast Chief Operating Officer Dan Floyd appeared before the City Council looking to lock in the race for 2018 and begin discussions for a possible multiyear deal.

"We want to come back and we want to come back for many more years," Floyd told councilors. "Rather than asking for one year, we want to look for a long-term commitment to be a very long time."

Councilors praised the organization and its role in the community.

"This is an incredible event and I'm very proud to have it in Seaside," Councilor Dana Phillips said.

Floyd attributed the improved relationship to city leadership and personnel changes at the Hood to Coast organization.

"We were not without sin in this case," Floyd said. "In the last five years there has been a pretty significant change in staff and the way we've trained volunteers."

Runners from 43 countries and 50 states participated in this year's race. The race brings in about 18,000 runners, Floyd said, and the city generally collects about \$1 per head.

Funds from Hood to Coast raised more than \$730,000 for Providence Cancer Center in 2017.

The Seaside Chamber of Commerce nets about another \$30,000 by staffing and operating the event's beer garden.

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'Oh give me a poem, where the buffalo roam'

Seaside teacher launches artisan market fundraiser for traveling students

By Eve Marx
For Seaside Signal

Mark Mizell has been teaching English at Seaside High School for 34 years. For 20 years, every 3 years, he's taken 20 to 25 high school students to the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada.

The Gathering highlights special guests and programming honoring the contemporary heritage of Basques and Buckaroos. In years past, this field trip was paid for through money allocated through the school budget or education grants such as the Meyer Memorial Trust. Without those funds available, Mizell opted to take a different approach this year.

To finance the trip, Mizell and his wife Becky are sponsoring the Harvest Moon Artisan Market the weekend of Oct. 28 and Oct. 29 to take place at the Broadway Middle School gym. Featured will be ven-

dors from the North Coast and the southwest coast of Washington.

Becky Mizell is an artist working in polymer clay who sells her work through her business, Becky Sue Creations. You may have seen her booth at the Astoria Sunday Market and the market in Ilwaco. The Mizells reached out to other vendors including Leslie McCray's "Sweater Heads," and watercolor artist Dave Bartholet, whose work is displayed at his Gilbert Gallery in Seaside. Mizell expects 25 to 30 vendors to be involved. Each vendor pays a \$70 entry fee.

"Every penny of that money will go to offset student travel expenses to the Cowboy Poetry Gathering," Mizell said.

The Gathering takes place in Elko from Jan. 29



EVE MARX/FOR SEASIDE SIGNAL

Mark Mizell

through Feb. 3. It's sponsored by the Western Folklife Center. Prior to the trip, students will put in hours distributing fliers for the Harvest Moon Market and the Tillamook Head Gathering which takes place in mid-January. Other activities include making signs, manning a food booth at the Harvest Moon Market; helping vendors and practicing for the presentation of a mini-traveling show they're calling the "Let 'er Buck Chili Feed Revue."

"They'll be performing that prior to the trip and during the trip as we travel down the tracks by train, and at the Gathering in Elko," Mizell said.

The trip to Elko is in itself quite an adventure. "The afternoon of Wednesday, Jan. 31, we'll take a beautiful yellow school bus from the high school to the train station in Portland," Mizell said. "From there, we'll ride the train from Portland to Sacramento; switch trains, and travel through the Sierra Mountains and across the Great Basin to Elko, which is in eastern Nevada."

At the Gathering, the students will perform their show. They may participate at the teen poetry and music

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