Striking up the band at Seaside High School

Dahlgren lets students 'cut loose a bit'

By Rebecca Herren For Seaside Signal

It is the beginning of the school year at Seaside High School, and with that, there will be another musically exciting adventure for the bands. The Symphonic Band will welcome new students into its band program.

Without last year's seniors, the first order of business, according to Terry Dahlgren, the high school's band director, will be to get everyone used to playing together. "Quite a bit of time goes into rebuilding fundamentals of playing and sight-reading the first few weeks of school," Dahlgren said. "Working up the music for pep band is also a fun priority that needs to be accomplished." For many of the students, this is their favorite part of band, he noted.

Dahlgren has a busy year planned for his band students. After they have settled into the new school year, their attention will be focused on the fall concert in November that will include patriotic, holiday



Seaside High School band director Terry Dahlgren works on rebuilding fundamentals of playing and sight-reading for returning and new band students.

and Halloween pieces. Then in January, they will begin building their contest music. One of the pieces Dahlgren has planned for the contest is a medieval piece that conjures images of knights and majestic royalty.

The district and league contest performances will depend on the performance level the students achieve while practicing their musical skill building. All the while working on music for basketball pep band and supporting the school where they can.

But it doesn't end with all work and no play. Dahlgren will let the students "cut loose a bit" to play some movie music for their spring concert. "The students have made some great suggestions for pieces to play for pep band and the spring concert, so we'll see how many of these we can accomplish." In the meantime, he will try to put together a jazz band for this year.

Concerts and contests don't come without a price and Dahlgren acknowledges the support from the community. "We have been extremely fortunate in the bands to have had great financial support from our community that helps us avoid spending valuable classroom time and energy on fundraising." He recognizes the support through organizations such as the Lighthouse Jazz Society, Seaside Boosters and Broadway PTO among the community members who have made generous dona-

The bands in Seaside continue to be one of the largest 4A programs in the state. There are approximately 230 students from grades 6 through 12. The Symphonic Band, which is the main band for the high school, continues to be strong at the 80- to 90-member range. Both the pep band and jazz ensemble are assembled from the membership of the symphonic band.

Dahlgren notes that the band program is fortunate to have some of the best academic kids in school and there are several opportunities for students to shine. Ten students from Broadway Middle School and Seaside High School will be selected for the district honor band in January.

Two students who stand out from last year are Kendy Lin, who traveled with the Oregon Ambassadors of Music to Europe this summer; and Gretchen Hoekstre, who was a member of the Music in May honor band at the end of the last school year, and who, Dahlgren said, will be an integral member to the bands' success this year. "We have many great kids like Kendy and Gretchen, but it's a team effort. Everyone is important to our success. That's just not a platitude in our case, it's the key to everything."

Dahlgren's philosophy speaks volumes. The competitions are one of the learning opportunities used to increase performance skills and he's upfront about the purpose of the competitions. As for beating other bands, he's no longer interested in providing that experience to students. What he is interested in giving them is the opportunity to play in a real auditorium and receive real feedback from leading music educators. "The key for me is that the kids are showing growth and that the feedback is valuable. If musical growth occurs, then it's 'mission accomplished' in my book."

A cast of zombies



The cast for the fall play of "The Craving: A Horrific Comedy

Students head 'em out for cowboy poetry festival

Poet from Page 1A

soned writers and poets. On Sunday, Feb. 4, they'll catch the train to Reno where they'll next board a plane for Portland where the beautiful yellow school bus will be waiting to transport them

home again. "Along with parent and teacher chaperones, my wife and I have been taking students to the Gathering for 20 years. "The last one we attended featured the world-renowned author and activist Temple Grandin as the keynote speaker, as well as Cowboy Poetry Gathering greats such as Michael Martin Murphy, Ian Tyson, Don Edwards, Cowboy Celtic, and Paul Zarzyski."

The Harvest Moon Artisan Market promises to be an slam, as well as meet with sea- amazing event. "All the craft items are handmade by the vendor," Mizell said. "And this is a fun way to help students afford the upcoming trip to Nevada." For more information about becoming a vendor contact Mark Mizell at 503-593-9044 or email him at mmizell@seaside.k12.or.us. Describe the type of handmade craft you will be selling and any questions you have. To make a donation to the students' travel fund, write a check to Seaside High School Elko Fund.

"This is the first time we've ever done a fundraising artisan fair to get the students to Elko," Mizell said. "Hopefully, it won't be the last."

New school, new language, new customs

By R.J. Marx Seaside Signal

Among the 461 students enrolled at Seaside High School this year are three exchange students from over-

Arthur Brugneratto Prada and Fernanda Vasconcellos, both of Brazil, and Mathilda Gunleiksrud of Norway appeared with returning exchange student Sam Thornton at the school's district's September board of directors meeting.

"I'm really enjoying my time down here," Vasconcellos said. "Last weekend I went to my first football game. I couldn't understand what was going on, but it was fun."

Gunleiksrud, of Dolmen, Norway, will be living with her host family for the year. So far she's traveled to Cannon Beach, Nehalem and Portland, and will be visiting Boston in November. She plans on participating in the drama club's fall play. She likes her host family's home cooking and the availability of local takeout food.

Brugneratto Prada, a senior, said he liked the electives at the high school. The most fun he's had in the U.S. was at a wedding in the California redwoods. "It was really cold," he said, before adding, "Every day here is really cold."

He plans on joining the



Vasconcellos of Brazil, Seaside's Sam Thornton, Mathilda **Gunleiksrud of** Norway, Arthur Brugneratto Prada of Brazil. R.J. MARX/SEASIDE SIGNAL

Fernanda

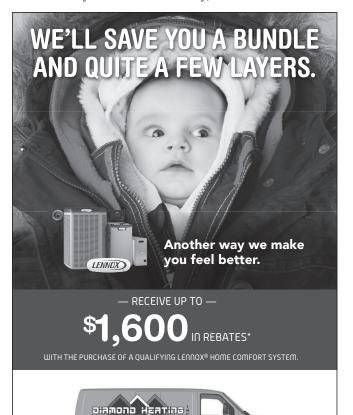
wrestling team and participating in the Key Club.

The exchange program has a long history at Seaside High School, said Natalie Osburn, the school's assistant principal. Students typically take their exchange period during their junior year because they want to spend their senior year with peers.

Thornton returned from a year in Mexico. "I went in with no Spanish at all," she

Thornton lived with two host families and developed her language skills by speaking Spanish every day. "I really connected with them." she said. "I met some of the best friends of my entire life."

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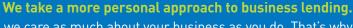
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