

SEAGULLS RANKED FIFTH IN STATE, IN RUNNING FOR CHAMPIONSHIP



Gulls showed their stuff despite the rainy weather, defeating Banks 19-14 at home.

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SEASIDE Signal



OUR 111th YEAR • October 27, 2017

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R.J. MARX/SEASIDE SIGNAL

Ballot box at Gearhart City Hall.

Short-term rental vote underway

Gearhart's short-term rental rules face repeal

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Residents in Gearhart perceive the vote to repeal and replace vacation rental rules to be a dramatic turning point that could determine the future look and direction of the community. With ballots on their way today to the city's 1,245 registered voters, advocates of Measure 4-188 say the new rules take away their property rights and will cost the city millions in lost tourism dollars.

City officials and many residents counter that a repeal would jeopardize Gearhart's residential character. They, too, say property rights are at stake and that the rules promote much-needed long-term rental housing. Vote "no" advocates warn repeal could lead to overcrowding and health and safety hazards. The issue comes to a head at the ballot box on Nov. 7, the result of years of discussion and debate.

Ongoing debate

In 2013, city leaders and residents raised concerns over "renters' mentality" and how vacation rentals in residential zones can negatively affect the atmosphere and livability. At the time, the taxing ordinance for short-term

rental properties provided exemption for the approximately 50 single-family homes rented out under the city's guidelines. The owners were required to pay Oregon's 1 percent lodging tax but did not have to pay Gearhart's 7 percent lodging tax, through an exemption that had been put in place in the 1990s so those dwellings could be rented without paying taxes. Gearhart City Administrator Chad Sweet estimated that the city was losing about \$95,000 a year because of the exemption. That exemption was removed in 2016 and short-term renters were required to pay the city's 7 percent lodging tax.

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SEASIDE, GEARHART TEAMS BATTLE CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Seaside's Katie Bulletset on the scene of wildfires in Santa Rosa, California.

Firefighters return after facing Santa Rosa devastation

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Imagine the city of Seaside ablaze — and then some. Santa Rosa, California, a city of more than 175,000, fought blazes on every side,

south and east to Sonoma and Napa, one of 12 wildfires burning in eight counties. "It was one of those things where the whole city was on fire," Seaside Fire Chief Joey Daniels, among the Clatsop County Strike Force members returning from Santa Rosa, said. "They lost malls, they lost the hospital ... It basically took out a whole city." "The news does not give it justice," Gearhart's Fire Chief Bill Eddy, also a strike force member, said.

In areas where livestock, pets and wild animals caught in the fire perished, "you could definitely smell it," Eddy said. "It wasn't just a physical fire," Daniels said. "It's mental fatigue. We all take it personally. When you stand on the hillside and thousands of homes and buildings are gone, when you drive down the freeway and their commercial buildings are burned down on both sides — none of us wants to see somebody devastated like that."

Daniels was one of five members of the Seaside Fire Department contingent, in addition to Lt. Genesee Dennis, Capt. Mike Smith and fire-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Seaside firefighters join crews fighting California blazes.

fighters Alex Hernandez and Katie Bulletset. Gearhart's crew consisted of Eddy, Tanner Rich, Mike LaLonde and Angels Garcia. Olney-Walluski Volunteer Fire and Rescue Chief Ron Tyson led the county strike team, joined by volunteers from Lewis and Clark, Knapapa and Columbia River Fire in addition to those from Seaside and Gearhart.

Firefighters step up

The Oregon Fire Marshal received the request for assistance through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, a national state-to-

state mutual aid system, late at night on Oct. 10. Crews were mobilized and on their way down Interstate 5 the next day, Daniels said, about a 15-hour trip. Clatsop County firefighters worked with the more than 4,200 firefighters in the Santa Rosa region, sleeping in tents outside the Sonoma County Fairgrounds. Oregon firefighters offered relief to local crews whose resources had been spread thin. Some local firefighters had been working shifts of three or four days straight, Daniels said.

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Manager, board at odds over food bank temporary closure

South County food bank to see 'internal restructuring'

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Board members and Karla Gann, the former regional manager of the South County Food Bank, have two different accountings of a split that could leave hundreds of South County residents hungry over the holidays. Gann said she and staff were approached by board members Friday, Oct. 19, ordered to relinquish their keys and locked out of the Roosevelt Drive building. "They said, 'You're fired, you're gone. Give me your keys and leave.' They did it

in the worst possible way," Gann said. Gann blamed the closure on months of board mismanagement. It could jeopardize Thanksgiving and holiday meals and leave thousands of dollars in Christmas gifts undelivered, she said. Late Friday, South County Food Bank board members released a statement that the food bank would close for two weeks for an "internal restructuring." "With the consistent growth in the number of people we are serving on a daily basis, we really need to make sure we have the infrastructure in place to continue to feed everyone who comes through the doors," board president Darren Gooch said.

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Helping dogs and their owners 'work as a team'

Arnicadia Dog Training opens in Seaside

By Eve Marx
For Seaside Signal

Is your dog your best friend or your biggest headache? If the answer isn't 'best friend' it may be time to call Cati Foss, professional dog trainer. "Training is often a last ditch effort to keep the dog," Foss said from her desk at Arnicadia Dog Training in Seaside. The primary reason pet owners seek professional help is because they are experiencing a problem with their dog that makes everyone, including the dog, miserable. The most common issues are impulse control, timidity and anxiety, jumping, barking, mouthing, and reactive dogs. "A reactive dog is a dog who is hard to manage in public," Foss said. "The dog is overexcited, or it has mild aggression, or anxiety or fear." Her first job is calming the dog so it will be receptive to training. Cati Foss relocated from Des Moines, Washington,



EVE MARX/FOR SEASIDE SIGNAL

Cati Foss and her Sheltie, Lyra, are loving Arnicadia's new training and play space.

to the coast in 2008. Her husband has family in the area. The couple live in Astoria and have two kids and a Sheltie dog. After working as a manager at Safeway, Foss became part of the new management team building the then-new Petco in Warrenton. "After awhile, I was invited to move from management into dog training," Foss said. "I quickly learned I had

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