



OUR 112th YEAR • February 2, 2018

SEASIDESIGNAL.COM

Happy birthday to Gearhart!

Celebrants fill firehouse

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Cries of “happy birthday” rang out as hundreds of residents old and young filled the firehouse Sunday to mark the 100th anniversary of Gearhart. The former town of Clatsop formally incorporated in 1918 after a vote.

Bill Berg, the author of “Gearhart Remembered: An Informal History,” published in 1990, stood by a Victrola playing fox trots and tangos as visitors entered the ample fire hall.

“This is the birthday of the city of Gearhart,” Berg said. “This is a birthday for people, not historic landmarks. It marks the moment we gained control of our own destiny as a city. ... We became an autonomous entity.”

The 79-year-old Berg celebrated his first birthday in Gearhart as a seasonal resident before moving here full time 45 years ago.

Berg told the audience that of the many contentious issues that have divided the city over the years, none was more bitterly fought than when Gearhart joined the Seaside School District in 1959.

Berg shared the microphone with 95-year-old Bob McEwan. McEwan recalled days when he worked for the opulent Gearhart Hotel, the destination location owned by the Meier & Frank department store chain.



R.J. MARX



EVE MARX

ABOVE: Gearhart historian Bill Berg interviews Bob McEwan, 95.

LEFT: A cake by the Gearhart Homeowners Association provided a delicious dessert.

Mayor Matt Brown was one of three mayors to attend the festivities. Former mayors Kent Smith and Dianne Widrop were also in attendance.

“It means a lot for the whole community,” Brown said. “It’s great to see everybody celebrating, unifying from the whole community. It’s really about the people of the last 100 years who have made this place special.”

Jon Blissett, at 80, Gearhart’s oldest firefighter, remembered the days he ran a Chevron station on the corner of Pacific Way. The station closed in 1992.

Nearby, a slideshow spun

images of historic buildings and scenes.

Visitors sipped prosecco as volunteers from the Gearhart Homeowners’ Association did a brisk business in memberships and sweatshirts.



DANNY MILLER/EO MEDIA GROUP

Seaside Police Chief Dave Ham points to a donated plaque in memory of fallen Seaside Police Sgt. Jason Goodding.

Memorial tribute to fallen officer

Goodding was killed in line of duty

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Seaside police will observe the second anniversary of the shooting of Sgt. Jason Goodding with a public memorial Feb. 5 at Seaside Police Department headquarters. Goodding, 39, was shot in the line of duty after serving a felony warrant on Phillip Max Ferry on Feb. 5, 2016. Fellow officer David Davidson returned the fire, resulting in Ferry’s death.

The public remembrance and candle-lighting will be conducted in the police department’s parking lot, 1091 S. Holladay, at 6:30 p.m. rain or shine, Police Chief Dave Ham said. After the ceremony, the department hallway will be opened to the public to view tributes to Goodding, who was a 13-year Seaside police veteran.

Goodding’s death brought an outpouring of support from around the globe.

In May, Goodding’s name was added to the Fallen Law Enforcement Officers’ Memorial at the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem. He was the 183rd Oregon law enforcement officer to die in the line of duty since the 1800s.

Goodding is survived by his wife, Amy, and his two daughters, Joslyn and Jayden.

“Time tends to heal,” Ham said. “It’s not that I don’t remember my friend every single day — I do. But I think the main remembrance that I have of Jason is the friendship he provided me personally, the camaraderie professionally, the way that he went about his business and the way he treated people. Still to this day I think that’s something to be commended and something for me to try to mirror. His memory is going to continue throughout the community.”



DANNY MILLER/EO MEDIA GROUP

At last year’s first anniversary, Seaside Police Chief Dave Ham looks at a wall full of gifts from the community in remembrance of fallen Seaside Police Sgt. Jason Goodding.

Survival tools for area’s homeless

Nonprofit, community groups share services, information

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Many of the things people take for granted every day — clean clothes, a toothbrush, a pair of glasses — are out of reach for the homeless.

Project Homeless Connect, a one-day event to provide services to the homeless and near-homeless, came Tuesday to Seaside. More than 40 nonprofit, governmental and faith-based agencies filled the Seaside Civic and Convention Center. Visitors could receive medical screenings, hearing tests, eye exams, immunizations, haircuts, personal care items, clothing vouchers and a hot meal.

Alan Evans of Helping Hands Re-entry Outreach Center distributed a basic toiletry kit, with tissue, toothpaste, soap and more. “We give people a nice little packet,” Evans said. “We want to make sure they have the necessities to stay clean and stay warm.”

Last year, Helping Hands distributed about 400 kits. Tuesday they expected at least that many. “It’s been a steady flow since we opened the door, and it’s only been an hour,” Evans said.

Sarah Mitchell and Michael McNickle of the Clatsop County Department of Public

See Homeless, Page 7A



R.J. MARX

Vicki Howe provides a haircut for a visitor at Project Homeless Connect at the convention center.

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