



A competitor performs before the judges during a jump rope tournament in Seaside. COLIN MURPHEY/SEASIDE SIGNAL

## GOING DOUBLE DUTCH!

**A**cross the hardwood floor of the Seaside High School gym on Saturday, April 21, teams of double dutch jumpers showed their stuff as judges stood crouched nearby. Ropes, arms and legs moved at breakneck speed as jumpers relied on strength and finesse and pullers maintained steady control of the ropes. This was the fifth year of the Oregon Coast Invitational in Seaside, featuring three teams from Washington, one from Arizona, one from Montana, along with the host Tsunami Skippers.

"It's all about the turners," Tsunami Skippers co-founder Stacey Dundas said. "You have to be very much in control. Usually if the jumper misses, it's because of the turners, not the jumpers."

Speed is timed by the number of jumps per minute, as judges keep pace using clickers, counting how many times the right foot hits the floor for 30 seconds, a minute or three minutes. "You only count the right foot," Dundas said. "You could never click quick enough for both feet. It takes practice. It's harder."

### Oregon Coast Classic

Dundas has jumped since fourth grade and started the Tsunami Skippers with Shannon Carey in 2004 as a nonprofit to give kids an alternative sport that would help young people learn teamwork, the benefits of exercise, self-control, self-confidence and respect for others.

Over the past 13 years the Skippers have performed at el-

ementary school assemblies across Oregon and Washington, half-time shows and parades of all kinds.

This year's squad features 30 members, ranging from second- to 12th-graders. The season runs January to June, with two to three practices each week.

Malory Dundas, 11, started performing at age 3.

Ella, 9, enjoys playing piano when she's not jumping rope.

Alona Whisenhunt, 11, practices at least twice a week for "a couple of hours" each day.

"I really enjoy working with different people and learning different things," Alona, 11, said.

Alona, a Gearhart Elementary School fifth-grader, also

See Skippers, Page 7A



Malory Dundas and mom Stacey Dundas, co-founder and coach of the Tsunami Skippers. R.J. MARX/SEASIDE SIGNAL

## Campus milestone

With approval, district readies to put shovels to the ground

By R.J. Marx  
Seaside Signal

Seaside's Planning Commission unanimously gave the go-ahead to the new Seaside School District campus in the Southeast Hills. The \$99.7 million campus, approved by voters in November 2016, is expected to begin construction June 1.

"It is a significant milestone for us that now we can proceed with our planning and begin the process of starting construction," Superintendent Sheila Roley said after the Tuesday, April 17, public hearing, the district's third after two continuances. "We were able to have some good conversation with the commissioners and resolve any concerns that came up."

### Expansion plans

The district came before the commission requesting a conditional use permit to authorize the master plan and development plan for the new campus in accordance with the city's zoning code.

The permit allows expansion of Seaside Heights Elementary School and establishment of a new middle school and high school facility.

Commissioners considered plans for elementary school play areas, a track and athletic practice field, a secondary access drive, stormwater treatment, expanded parking areas and bus access.

The district also identified areas that could be used for a future water storage reservoir and pump station.

Planning commissioners and school district officials agreed to negotiate a proportional payment when cost details are available.

A memorandum of understanding between the city and the district will detail the district's financial responsibility for improvements.

### Road impacts

Commissioner Bill Carpenter sought a commitment from the school district to repair roads that could be subject to damage during the construction process.

According to a revised construction management plan, more than 11,000 heavy trucks will be used in construction. This represents the damage done by the equivalent of nearly 75 million passenger



car trips on Spruce Drive during the 14-month period of heavy construction, Carpenter said.

Repairs to Spruce Drive could come from Seaside's urban renewal funds, school district attorney Kelly Hosaini said. "We are committed to doing what is necessary in respect to Spruce. The district is not planning to walk away from that. I think the district and staff will be able to work something out."

### Conditional OK

Commissioners unanimously voted to grant the permit with the condition that any major changes be brought before the commission or staff.

Major changes identified by the staff or the district will be brought to the Planning Commission for review.

After the meeting, Noelle Idehara of Hoffman Construction Co., said the commission's decision allows the district to move forward. "We still need to work through our permitting for the site work piece of this, but this will allow us to start moving forward," she said.

See Campus, Page 6A

## May start planned for convention center reno

South County contractors play big role in \$15M project

By R.J. Marx  
Seaside Signal

Construction begins in May for the Seaside Civic and Convention Center expansion project.

At Monday's City Council meeting, councilors approved O'Brien and Co. LLC to become construction manager/general contract for the project. O'Brien will begin some demolition and drywalling next month, the center's General Manager Russell Vandenberg said.

The project will add about 10,000 square feet to the 62,000-square-foot facility, and renovate more than 13,000 square feet of the space. Construction is budgeted at about \$11.1 million, a guaranteed maximum price. Fees for fixtures, furniture, equipment, utilities and other expenses are budgeted at \$3.7 million, with a \$291,000 contingency fund. The total project cost is \$15 million.

There could be change orders during construction for improvements or more scope. "But I won't be coming before you unless it's for a change order for part of the design that we've approved,"



Rendition of the convention center after expansion and renovation. SEASIDE CIVIC AND CONVENTION CENTER

Rendition of the convention center after expansion and renovation.

'... local subs and crews will have a lot of pride in this project, helping to build what I hope will be the nicest building in town.'

Jason Stegner  
project manager

Vandenberg said.

In 2016, Vandenberg said the convention center needed additional space and upgrades or the city risked losing convention traffic.

Plans were developed by Holst Architecture and Convergence Design of Kansas City for the contract to design the renovation and expansion of the center, built in 1968.

The renovation and expansion is to be paid for by an increase in the city's room tax, from 8 percent to 10 percent. Bonds for the project went out for sale in November.

"It's a great honor for me to be a part of this project," project manager Jason Stegner of O'Brien & Co. Architecture told members of the council.

Seventy percent of contractors are local, he added. "That's pretty amazing for an \$11 million project."

Arcade Concrete, Gale Insulation, Coastline Roofing, DC Drywall, Glasco, Velazquez Painting, Terry's Plumbing, Diamond Heating, Inland Electric, Sandy's Nursery and Clean Sweep.

"I hope you recognize some of those names," Stegner said. "They're also extremely excited to be part of this project. Those local subs and crews will have a lot of pride in this project, helping to build what I hope will be the nicest building in town."

The project will take 12 months to complete, Vandenberg said, with a targeted completion date of spring 2019.

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## For Latino families, a program for college readiness

Seaside School District families, students benefit from college prep program

By Katherine Lacaze  
Seaside Signal

Ensuring one's student is adequately prepared for post-secondary education can be daunting for any parent or guardian. The Juntos program's six-week college readiness workshop — taught entirely in Spanish — aims to provide local Latino families with the right information to support that process.

Ryan Stanley, the coast coordinator for Juntos, offered through Oregon State University, said the biggest benefit is showing students and families "what's possible, especially living in a smaller community."

Mari Mitchell, a longtime educator in the Seaside School District

who retired two years ago, and Leticia Campos, a teacher at the Cannon Beach Academy, facilitated a Juntos workshop for Latino families in Seaside that wrapped up Tuesday, April 24. Over the course of six weeks, participants learned about preparing students for higher education, from high school graduation requirements and standardized testing to the admissions process and obtaining financial aid.

At its core, Mitchell said, the course is about giving parents and their students "the keys to be able to open the door to higher education."

When preparing students for college, many parents and guardians face a language barrier, which



Leticia Campos, a facilitator for a six-week college readiness course, during a class April 17 held at Seaside High School. SANDE BROWN

See Juntos, Page 6A