



SANTA IN SEASIDE

‘Well that’s one I haven’t heard before!’



Santa considers this young man’s holiday request at the 2018 Seaside Parade of Lights.

Jeff Ter Har/For Seaside Signal

Strategic plan starts with putting students on track

By Katherine Lacaze
Seaside Signal

“We’re on our way,” Superintendent Sheila Roley said at the Thursday, Dec. 13, Seaside School District board meeting with the adoption of a five-year strategic plan.

The plan comes with “a lot of hard work,” she added, “but I don’t think we could be more excited.”

The 2019-2024 strategic vision plan aims to encapsulate the desires of the community and its families, as well as the needs of students and goals of educators.

The planning effort started Dec. 5, 2017, when the school board and Roley committed to undertaking a comprehensive, nearly year-long process, not only to review the district’s strengths and weakness but to also develop a multiyear strategic plan.

They selected a team of 25 members that included teachers, support staff, parents, community member, administrators, and school board members. The team met monthly from January to October during the planning process.

See School district, Page A5

Helping Hands moving across the street

Facility closes building, relocates services

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Helping Hands has closed one facility in Seaside as the homeless outreach center prepares to replace it with another.

Raven Russell, the outreach center’s development director, told city councilors Monday night that the center was unable to negotiate terms with their landlord for the rental of the building at 1530 U.S. Highway 101.

The “vast majority” of former residents of the facility are now served in a new housing facility in Astoria, where they have better access to county resources, Russell said.

The shelter at 286 W. Marine Drive, opened last month.

The new Seaside facility, located on the east side of U.S. Highway 101, is “much larger than it appears,” Russell said, with 10 emergency shelter beds and long-term housing.

The new facility should be open within the next two weeks. In the meantime, beds remain available at the Astoria facility, she said, with occupancy about 90 percent of capacity.

In 2004, the organization’s founder and executive director Alan Evans opened an eight-bed home for the homeless in Seaside.

See Helping Hands, Page A5

Medical services for the homebound

Providence Home Services assists patients in managing their own lives

By Eve Marx
For Seaside Signal

Seaside Providence Hospital’s Home Health program offers short-term medical care services and resources.

The program provides education in disease management and resources so patients can take care of their own health, said Mary French-Peterson, manager for the program. “We help them

become independent in their environment.”

Staff include an occupational therapist, speech therapist, wound care specialist and certified nurses. “We work with five social workers at Seaside Providence Hospital,” French-Peterson said. “Our clients are from all walks of life.”

French-Peterson has worked in outpatient rehabilitative services for 16 years. These days she oversees the office in Gearhart.

“We have nine nurses working in the field and at any given time, 100 patients,” French-Peterson said. “We serve all of Clatsop County and into Wheeler in Tillamook County.”

Eligibility for home health services is through doctor referral. The first step is often a homebound designation. But being homebound these days doesn’t mean what it used to.

That’s where technology can come in.

“Providence is the most wired health care company,” French-Peterson said. “We have top of the line technology which makes it possible for patients to manage their own care through their laptops and iPhones.”

The help is professional and medical, including skilled care from registered nurses. “We can

See Providence, Page A5



Eve Marx

Jolie Taylor, registered nurse; Mary French-Peterson, manager; and Carol Sumaray, team assistant make Providence Home Health Services a winning experience for homebound patients.