



## Kids race for the eggs at Broadway Field



## EGG HUNT

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

**T**hey're jockeying into position, closing into the line, elbowing each other aside —

And those were just the parents.

Families converged on Broadway Park on Saturday for Seaside's annual egg hunt, an event presented by the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District.

The district's Darren Gooch hasn't missed an egg hunt in 16 years. He provided patter for the crowd from the Broadway Field press box.

The Easter bunny was much in demand, posing for photos with adoring fans.

Today's 54-degree temperature was perfect for the crowds — 600 to 800 kids, with an additional 1,000 parents, grandparents and onlookers from Seaside, Clatsop County and beyond.

The field, filled with 6,000 eggs, was divided into five areas divided by age group, from newborns to older kids, executive director Skyler Archibald said.

While the youngest children received parental assistance, the older children were on their own, baskets in hand.

One egg in each area came with a special prize, Archibald added.

Volunteer Barbara Murray had one of the toughest tasks: she stood inside



Eve Marx

A four-legged friend accompanies this youngster.

the roped areas before the egg hunt began.

"My job is to make sure they don't go early or push anyone away," Murray said.

As the clock struck 10:30, the race was on, parents and toddlers first, then the preschoolers and older kids.

Kids raced onto the field in waves, collecting eggs in baskets, bags, hood-

ies and pockets.

And in minutes, the fields were picked clean.

Proud children displayed their bounty and parents snapped family selfies.

Alas, a few tears came from youngsters who came up short.

Luckily, siblings had enough to share, so everyone went away with a smile, and a lasting memory.

## District unveils \$22M school budget

By KATHERINE LACAZE  
For Seaside Signal

The Seaside School District is proposing a \$22.2 million budget for the 2019-20 fiscal year to continue pursuing the district's top priorities and strategic plan adopted in November, superintendent Sheila Roley explained during the budget committee's first meeting April 16.

"Our budget is clearly based on the core values of our district to provide our students with equitable, safe learning environments, an engaging and well-rounded education, and a focus on collective wellness and community partnerships as we pursue our mission of strengthening community, inspiring possibility, ensuring opportunity," Roley stated in her budget message.

During the meeting, held directly before the district's regular board meeting, budget manager Justine Hill reviewed the proposed budget, large portions of which contain no major changes. The budget committee is comprised of several community members, business owners, and parents of students currently served by the district; members include Kelli Brenden, Darrell Walker, Nancy McCune, Cathy Peinhardt, Mary

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## Rep. Bonamici at housing listening session

Leaders share concerns of shortages, costs

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

How can the federal government help ease the North Coast's housing crunch?

U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici came to Seaside Tuesday, April 16, as part of a series of visits along the Coast. The goal was to crack the code of the South County's ongoing housing crisis, one which sees a dearth of affordable workforce housing — a problem hindering economic development, leading to a rise in homelessness and higher housing costs.

"Oregon and much of the nation is facing this affordability crisis," Bonamici said. "There are so many issues that contribute: inadequate housing stock, new units are often unaffordable, especially for the middle and lower income households. The federal support for the cost burden is insufficient and frankly declining, and income growth has failed to keep pace with housing costs and other expenses."

Her remarks were echoed by those in attendance, including Warrenton Mayor Henry Balensifer, Helping Hands Re-Entry and Outreach Center Executive Director Alan Evans and Clatsop County Commissioner Lianne Thompson. Kevin Leahy of Clatsop Economic Development Resources hosted the event.

Thompson suggested using federal and state forestlands to build housing throughout

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## Write On Seaside! promotes library access, programs

By KATHERINE LACAZE  
For Seaside Signal

Eight local authors shared their work and insight into the literary process in a writers extravaganza during a community event to raise money to support library services and programs in Seaside and the surrounding area.

The third annual Write On Seaside!, a fundraiser for the Seaside Public Library Foundation and Libraries Rural Outreach in Clatsop County, was held April 14 at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center.

"Libraries are one of the last places on the planet

where you can get things for free," said Melissa Eskue-Ousley, chair of the foundation's board. She referenced several of Seaside's services and programs, such as checking out books, DVDs and audio books; attending storytime and Teen Tuesday, featuring a slate of engaging projects for youth; and using computers and accessing the Internet.

"Libraries really do serve the entire community," Eskue-Ousley said. "They serve all of us. That's one of the reasons I support libraries."

The local authors who

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Katherine Lacaze

Astoria Library Director Jimmy Pearson, Warrenton Community Library Manager Nettie-Lee Calog, and Seaside Public Library Director Esther Moberg give the opening presentation at Write On Seaside!