



An annual Gearhart tradition

COLOR DASH



Participants in the Coast Color Dash in Gearhart celebrate the end of the run.

Colin Murphey/The Astorian

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

During the third annual Coast Color Dash on Saturday, no one was safe from being pelted with fistfuls of powdery, colored corn starch that hung suspended as translucent clouds before gradually dissipating — only for the process to start all over again.

Between the colors filling the air and covering both racers and spectators, the upbeat music, and the closing pancake feed, the event — a fundraiser put on jointly by the Parent-Teacher Organizations of Gearhart Elementary School and The Heights Elementary School — felt every bit like a big party.

“This is the first year we’ve kind of taken it on ourselves,” Lauren Davis, co-president of Gearhart’s PTO, said, adding the past two years, they have received assistance from an outside fundraising entity. “It makes it super easy, because we live in a community where everybody’s willing to help and everyone’s willing to donate and come do crazy things, like throw color and get color thrown on them.”

The Color Dash featured both a 3K and 5K run, catering to participants of all ages and skill levels while celebrating health and fitness. Volunteers — primarily the parents of elementary students, teachers, and staff members — were stationed along both routes with bags full of pastel-colored corn starch to toss at participants as they raced by, a task they took to well.

“It’s oddly satisfying to throw chalk at the students and parents,” Joy Duff, a special education assistant at Gearhart, joked.

Alona Whisenhunt, a student at Broadway Middle School who volunteered with her mother while her little brother ran, agreed her favorite aspect was “coloring my friends.”

It was not uncommon for entire families to participate in the event in different capacities. Chantrell Lee, a fifth-grader at Gearhart, ran the 5K while her parents, Michelle and Barry, helped with the color-throwing. Describing her favorite part of the event, Chantrell Lee said, “I like that you can be messy and let loose of everything.”

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Photos by Katherine Lacaze/For Seaside Signal

Students douse themselves in colored powder ahead of starting the race at the third annual Coast Color Dash on Saturday. The event featured both a 3K and 5K for runners and walkers of varying ages and skill levels.



The third annual Coast Color Dash fundraiser started at the Gearhart Ocean State Park and wrapped around adjacent neighborhoods. Along the way, runners and walkers were pelted with bright, colorful powder.

What would you call the new school?

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

Come the fall of 2020, two separate elementary school bodies will be merged into one singular entity when Gearhart Elementary School students join students from The Heights Elementary School on the hill.

In preparation for the transition, the Bringing Our Elementary Schools Together, or BEST, committee wants to guide the community through a process of selecting a new name, mascot, and school colors to encompass all elementary students starting in the 2020-21 school year.

The purpose, committee member and Gearhart instructor Jessica Garrigues said during the Seaside School Board’s regular meeting May 21, is to represent “a merge and true new start.”

Along with Garrigues, the committee includes principal Juli Wozniak; Gearhart librarian Laura Stewart; Gearhart first-grade teacher Christina Budiselic; Gearhart fifth-grade teacher Sarah Collins; Seaside kindergarten teacher Betsy Mahoney; and Seaside fourth-grade teacher Hannah Clark.

The committee started developing the idea of a name and branding change during the summer of 2018. They attended a workshop on school culture and climate hosted by the Northwest Regional ESD and gathered ideas for blending two elementary staffs and student bodies together. Next, they distributed a survey to classified and certified staff members to gather their opinions on the pros and cons of the transition to the new campus and subsequently held two joint staff meetings.

“There is so much unknown at this time with the grade school, but we wanted to be able to get to know each other and talk about things that are heavy on people,” Stewart said.

From the input, the team developed the following aim statement: “By 2020, we will establish an equitable, cohesive, and collaborative environment to support our students, staff and parents as we become one blended elementary community.”

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Marijuana lounges in Seaside?

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

You’ve bought it. Now what?

Purchasers of legal marijuana often have that problem, Steve Geiger, owner of Highway 420 in Seaside told the City Council in open comment remarks on Monday, May 13.

Geiger wanted councilors to become familiar with Oregon Senate Bill 639, which changes the Clean Air Act to allow cannabis consumption at special events or in smoking lounges.

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R.J. Marx

Dr. Maria Gozo, a physician aboard the USS Anchorage as it engages in humanitarian and rescue missions.

WHEN THE BIG ONE STRIKES, HELP IS ON ITS WAY

Landing mission shows strength of rescue team

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

With D-Day on Thursday, Clatsop County residents may have been surprised to see two amphibious landing vehicles cruising through the waters before crawling on land at the entrance of Sunset Beach.

The event, developed by the Clatsop County Office of Emergency Management with the coordination of the U.S. Army, Coast Guard, Oregon Military Department along with local government leaders and responders, aimed to provide a “dry run” for after the Big One hits.

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