



Yasemin Archer leads zumba dancers at SEPRD's 50th anniversary celebration.

## SEPRD celebrates 50 years with picnic, fitness events

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

Hot dogs, burgers, dancing, races and a bouncy house for the kids. Even some of the post-60 set were seen kicking it up on the swings. The message was fitness as Sunset Empire Park and Recreation district celebrated its 50th anniversary with a party Saturday at Broadway Park.

The rec district's executive director Skyler Archibald greeted guests for the family triathlon, zumba dancing, games and more. "Everything's free today," Archibald said. "It's our way of saying thank you to our supporters for 50 years of SEPRD."

Archibald gave a shout-out to the workers, employees and board members including Michael Hinton — the board of directors' longest serving member — and board members elect, Lindsey Morrison and John Chapman.

"I think it's great," Chapman said. "The atmosphere of fitness — I'm getting tired just watching the dancers. It makes me proud to be in Seaside."

Among the city's notables, Mayor Jan Barber and his wife celebrated the historic occasion of the rec district's anniversary.

"I often think of what it would be like if they weren't here for our young people, our children and our seniors — it's a great program and we're blessed to have it," Barber said.



Karlie Kujala enjoys the fun at SEPRD's 50th anniversary celebration.



Levi Conner mans the grill at the SEPRD picnic.

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Mayor Jay Barber

## Drowning lawsuit could head to jury trial

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

Seaside's motion to dismiss a lawsuit brought by the family of an Oklahoma teenager who drowned in Seaside in 2016 was denied in May by Circuit Court Judge Dawn McIntosh.

The case, now in the discovery phase, could be headed to a jury trial in Clatsop County.

L. Nicole Moore, mother of Conner Miguel Wu Moore, 14, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, filed a \$3.6 million lawsuit against the city, claiming her son and his cousin were not warned about dangerous ocean conditions.

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The sky over Seaside lit up during the annual fireworks display.

## City ramps up to deter illegal fireworks

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

After concerns about illegal fireworks on the Fourth of July, councilor Tita Montero presented ways to prepare for a safer holiday.

Montero met with Fire Chief Joey Daniels, Police Chief Ham and Public Works Director Dale McDowell to get input on what's happening now and get their ideas how we can affect some change.

"I was really gratified to know that a lot more was going on in the public safety arena than a lot of us are aware," she said at the Monday, June 10, City Council meeting.

Lifeguards go out every day to look for pallets — illegal on the beach — and conducting patrols. Signage is on the way, listing prohibitions and penalties for violations.

"There's a lot more coordination among the three departments than we're aware of," she said. "They're in contact with each other — they can say, 'There's something in your arena down here.'"

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## Jan Barber's spirit dolls combine nature, spirit

By EVE MARX  
For Seaside Signal

Jan Barber makes her spirit dolls with love and intention.

"I design them to bring encouragement, inspiration, healing, and comfort," Barber said over tea and cookies from Dough Dough Bakery in the fairy tale scrumptiousness of her art studio, a stone's throw from the rocky strand of the Cove. "As we all do, each doll has many layers, beginning with her driftwood frame. Tucked into each layer I've chosen words stemming from her theme." These theme words are sewn on to a ribbon attached to each layer of fabric. Barber ties each ribbon off with a classic French knot. Each word is a message of inspiration and healing.

The story of every spirit doll begins on the beach. Barber spends hours beachcombing in search of just the right sticks.

A recent creation, "She Danced to the Moon & Touched the Stars" has these words sewn on to her: "Love"; "Grateful"; "She is Rising"; "Believe in Yourself"; "Free Your Heart"; "Love the Small Things"; and "Unfinished."

Although Barber has been making decorative and spiritual objects forever, the first spirit dolls were created in November 2018.

"I was making them as gifts for friends," she said. The intention for each doll is to uplift a woman's spirit.

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— Jan Barber



Spirit doll, by Jan Barber.

Eve Marx