

# New school activity bus will debut in Seaside

## Some relief for student-athletes

By **LUCY KLEINER**  
The Astorian

A new activity bus will join Seaside's fleet of school buses this school year.

With extended leg room and overhead storage, "it's like an airplane," Michelle Wunderlich, a school board member who heads the transportation committee, said with a laugh. "Except it doesn't take off."

On Tuesday evening, the school board unanimously approved the \$187,343 purchase of the bus.

"It's still a gigantic school bus," Wunderlich said. "But the seats are wider and there is more space in between them."

The hope is the extra space will allow students to get more rest on their way home after sporting events, specifically on school nights. League games regularly require student-athletes to ride for more than an hour



Lucy Kleiner/The Astorian

**The school board on Tuesday approved the purchase of a new student activity bus.**

each way. During the play-offs, students can ride up to five hours.

Though school board members clarified the bus is

not "fancy," it will have air conditioning, and instead of continuous bench-like seats, each seat is separate from its neighbor. From the outside,

however, it will resemble a regular yellow school bus.

"The kids, who are very much our size, are riding on the bus," Wunderlich said. "They are adult-sized kids. It will be nice for those two to five hour bus rides that they often take."

The bus also has the potential to be used on morning routes within the school district for nonathletic events. It is expected to arrive in December.

In other business on Tuesday, the school board approved a \$46,617 emergency procurement for a leak at Seaside Heights Elementary. Susan Penrod, the assistant superintendent, responded to the leak when a construction crew at the campus called and alerted her that the school hallways were covered with about 3 inches of water.

Fire Systems West Inc., a fire protection contractor, responded immediately and repaired the damage. The same contractor originally installed the system.

Though construction was already taking place on the

campus, that did not cause the leak, according to Superintendent Sheila Roley. "It was just an old system that failed," she said. "It was a 40-year-old pipe."

Insurance was able to cover some of the expense, including the cost of new carpet, linoleum, paint, sheetrock and more. However, the school district was left with a \$46,617 bill.

"They won't cover what they consider 'wear and tear' on the pipe," Justine Hill, the school district's business manager, said of the insurance company.

"It was scary," Hill said. "With water damage and other things, we just weren't sure" if school would resume on time. But she said the situation was resolved quickly and will not impact the school's start date or the construction of the building.

Jim Henry, of the consulting firm hired by the school district to manage the construction of the new campus in the Southeast Hills, also updated the school board on the progress.

Finalized contract documents for the middle and high school's maximum price were set in July. One of the next goals is to complete the parking lots, bus loop and sidewalk pavement.

"This summer has been really busy," he said. "Everyone is working really hard to get the Heights buttoned up and ready for school to start."

Roley also presented the school district's annual strategic plan, which was unanimously adopted by the school board.

The plan specifies two strategic goals that focus on preparing K-12 students with the emotional and academic skills to succeed in the community. Roley listed a number of performance indicators the district will work toward this school year, including increasing the number of students attending at least 95% of school days.

"We're going to do a lot more than hope this year," Roley said. "We're pretty darn excited."

# Seaside Police to step up enforcement on seat belts

Seaside Signal

From Aug. 19 through Sept. 1, Seaside Police Department will conduct a high-visibility enforcement period regarding the proper use of a seat belt. They will also educate the public on the importance of child car safety.

In 2017, there were 10,076 unbuckled passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes in the United States. To help prevent crash fatalities, officers need to step up enforcement and crack down on those who don't wear their seat belts.

Seat belt use is required by law for a reason: In 2017, seat belts saved an estimated 14,955 lives of occupants 5 and older. From 2013 to 2017, seat belts saved nearly 69,000 lives. If all passenger vehicle occupants 5 and older involved in fatal crashes had worn their seat belts, an additional 2,549 lives

### FOR MORE INFO

For more information on the proper selection and use of a child safety seat, go to the Seaside Police Department, or look on the web at [nhtsa.gov/campaign/right-seat](http://nhtsa.gov/campaign/right-seat).

could have been saved in 2017 alone.

The national seat belt use rate in 2017 was 89.7 percent, which is good-but we can do better. The other 10.3 percent still need to be reminded that seat belts save lives.

Among young adults 18 to 34 killed in crashes in 2017, more than half (57%) were completely unrestrained — one of the highest percentages for all age groups.

Men make up the majority of those killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes. In 2017, 65 percent of the 23,551 passenger vehicle

occupants who were killed were men. It comes as no surprise that men wear their seat belts at a lower rate than women do — 51% of men killed in crashes were unrestrained, compared to 39 percent of women.

High-visibility seat belt enforcement is important 24 hours a day, but nighttime is especially deadly for unbuckled occupants. In 2017, 55 percent of passenger vehicle occupants killed between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. were not wearing their seat belts.

Also, every 32 seconds in 2017, one child under the age of 13 in a passenger vehicle was involved in a crash. Many times, injuries and deaths can be prevented by proper use of car seats, boosters, and seat belts.

Go to the Seaside Police Department, or go to [nhtsa.gov/campaign/right-seat](http://nhtsa.gov/campaign/right-seat), for more information regarding the proper selection and use of a child safety seat.

# New technology makes flagging safer

Seaside Signal

Every year flaggers and other highway workers are injured and killed on highways in Oregon and across the nation.

The Oregon Department of Transportation has begun deploying new flagging technology — auto flaggers — that takes work zone flaggers out of the line of traffic making them safer.

An auto flagger is a device with lights and a flagging arm. Auto flaggers are more visible to drivers than traditional flaggers and allow a person to operate the device at a safe distance

from traffic. A flagger still operates the auto flagger. They're just outside the line of traffic and away from the hazards of oncoming vehicles approaching the work zone.

What to do when you see an auto flagger:

Stop when the light is red and the arm is down.

Proceed with caution when the light flashes yellow and the arm is up.

Know that there IS someone nearby, operating the device.

See how the auto flaggers work

"Everyone knows what the red light means," Rolon Williams, ODOT Transpor-

tation Maintenance Manager. "In every country in the world, red means stop."

Distracted drivers endanger themselves, highway workers and others. Ninety percent of Oregon work zone crashes are caused by bad driving such as drivers following too close, driving too fast, not yielding or driving under the influence.

Please be patient and remember, highway crews are working to create a safer, more efficient transportation system for all of us.

Pay attention to work zone signs. Slow down in work zones and obey all flaggers.



### Seaside Police log

#### Aug. 9

12:03 p.m., Beach, Avenue E: A missing person is reported.

#### Aug. 10

12:01 a.m., The Cove: Subjects are warned of unlawful lodging.

12:51 p.m., Avenue I and Irvine: Police respond to a report of a man lying in the grass. Police say subject has mental health issues but is not doing anything illegal.

2:02 p.m., 2300 block N. Roosevelt: Police respond to a report of a man walking on the road carrying a rifle. It was not a rifle.

4:06 p.m., Turnaround: A child reported missing is reunited with parents.

#### Aug. 11

12:37 a.m., Turnaround: A subject is arrested on a warrant.

3:31 p.m., Broadway: Police respond to a report of a person alleged to be taking pictures of people's body parts using a large camera. Police are unable to locate described subject.

#### Aug. 12

4:55 a.m., 100 block Forest Drive: A deceased person is reported.

8:17 p.m., 500 block Broadway: An assault is reported.

#### Aug. 13

11:28 p.m., E Street and N. Cottage, Gearhart: Police assist Gearhart police on a call.

#### Aug. 14

10:54 p.m., 1400 block S. Hemlock, Cannon Beach: Assist other agency with an investigation.

#### Aug. 15

2:21 p.m., 1000 block S. Downing: Caller reports people looking in her windows; officer canvassing the area determines no one is around. Caller advised how to safe safe.

5:19 p.m., 400 block S. Roosevelt: A person is arrested on a warrant.

#### Aug. 16

12:40 a.m., Library: Subject warned of unlawful lodging.

6:39 a.m., 1800 block S. Franklin: Subjects sleeping under the stairs are warned of unlawful lodging.

10:49 p.m., 400 block Holladay Drive: A disturbance is reported.

### Seaside Fire log

#### Aug. 9

8:13 a.m., 1500 block N. Wahanna: Emergency medical response.

9:59 p.m., S. Lincoln: Emergency medical response.

6:35 p.m., 3300 block Beerman Creek: Emergency medical response. Deceased person reported.

#### Aug. 10

5:57 p.m., 300 block Avenue K: Emergency medical response.

#### Aug. 11

9:22 a.m., 300 block Hillside Loop: Emergency medical response.

2:03 p.m., 300 block S. Columbia: Structure fire.

5:31 p.m., 100 block Broadway: Fire investigation

#### Aug. 12

3:17 p.m., 10th and Beach: Water rescue.

#### Aug. 13

2:40 p.m., Beach and Semaphore 6: Water rescue.

3:29 p.m., 2300 block Ocean Vista: Emergency medical response. Medix on scene.

#### Aug. 14

12:16 a.m. 8500 block Highway 101: Emergency medical response. Medix on scene.

2:25 a.m., 900 block Fourth Avenue: Emergency medical response.

4:35 p.m., Ocean and Haystack Rock, Cannon Beach: Water rescue.

7:20 p.m., 300 block Sixth Avenue: Fire investigation.

8:15 p.m., Highway 101: Fire investigation.

#### Aug. 15

8:05 a.m., N. Wahanna: Emergency medical response.

7:09 p.m., The Cove: Fire investigation.

11:55 p.m., 300 block Fourth Avenue: Emergency medical response.

#### Aug. 16

12:16 a.m., 1000 block Avenue I: Emergency medical response.

12:24 a.m., Avenue T and Ocean: Water rescue; on arrival it was determined children reported in the water safely returned to shore on their own.

6:21 p.m., Avenue G, beach: Grass fire.

# SEASIDE Signal

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