



R.J. Marx

The Gearhart City Council agreed to provide funds to transition the east tennis court to pickleball play.

Pickleball: An alternative to other regional courts

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“We had 30 people waiting for the courts at Camp Rilea,” Lane said. “There are really no public outdoor courts in this area. Gearhart is the very first community on the coast and it will be instrumental, as a matter of fact the Armory is thinking about doing it, even Warrenton at the soccer and baseball fields.”

Lane, a lifelong tennis enthusiast and instructor, has been playing pickleball since 2004. She attributes the growing popularity of the sport to its accessibility

and short learning curve.

“I’m a tennis person, and most pickleball people are former tennis players,” Lane said. “It’s a faster game. Tennis took years of lessons — pickleball is easy. Whole families can play, we play Wednesday and Saturday at Camp Rilea. The game draws people out of their shells.”

But not every family wants to come to the camp, and the two days per week the courts are open don’t accommodate every schedule. Other regional courts are strictly indoors or on asphalt, which isn’t ideal for older players or those with

knee injuries who often prefer the softer tennis courts for comfort, safety and health.

The game itself is similar to tennis. It’s an 11-point game and is described as a cross between ping-pong and tennis. Lane emphasized that there is room for both sports at the courts.

“We’ve been playing there since 2016, more and more people are playing and there is a real demand to play”, Lane said. “But tennis isn’t going away and there’s room for everyone.”

The fee to use the courts at Camp Rilea is \$3 per

two-hour session, and that includes the use of the court and the balls and paddles. Since the Gearhart court is public it will be first-come first-serve and the equipment won’t be provided. But there won’t be a fee either.

If you can’t wait for the new public Gearhart pickleball courts to be completed, the Camp Rilea courts are located at 33168 Patriot Way in Warrenton. To enter the camp you’ll need your driver’s license and at least \$3 but it’s a great place for beginners as the seasoned pickleballers will provide light coaching.

Fire Dept.: Fundraiser to enhance department’s equipment and training

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week, we have 100 calls over the number for the same time last year.” More calls means more equipment and more training.

The goal of the “Fire Up” fundraiser is to enhance the department’s equipment and training and update everything to bring it to the best possible standard.

In addition to fantastic food and a chance to check out fire trucks, there will also be drawing tickets on sale offering a chance to win great prizes ranging in value from \$100 to \$700, donated by community members and local businesses. Prizes included are a private tour of the fire station and breakfast with the chief; a helicopter flight for two; a hosted salmon

fishing trip, fine dining; and a live cooking competition. For more details about prizes and drawing tickets, log on to Seasidefire.com.

The planning committee of Dugan, Dennis, Barber and Diane Somers had fun working on the fundraiser and invite the public to come visit with the fire and rescue crew and see the equipment.

“I’m excited about this event because it’s an opportunity to show our firefighters, both staff and volunteers, how much we support and appreciate them,” Barber said. “This is an opportunity to step up for them.”

Since its inception in 1904, this department has always had the commitment of the community, Dugan added. “That’s what makes this a great department.”

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Hood to Coast: Relay gets high marks from council

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Council threatened to sever ties to the 200-mile relay event after complaints of bad behavior and traffic nightmares.

After workshops with local businesses, the public, city staff and organizers, the city and Hood to Coast collaborated to address local concerns.

In March 2018 the city and Hood to Coast inked a new contract, starting at \$25,000 and increasing 5 percent a year through 2022, when Hood to Coast will pay the city more than \$30,000.

After last weekend’s relay — highlighted by glorious weekend of weather and nearly 50,000 visitors — the City Council is singing a different tune.

“I didn’t hear anything coming across as a real negative,” Police Chief Dave Ham said at Monday night’s council meeting.

From 6 p.m. Friday night to 6 a.m. Monday, dispatch received about 108 calls for service, he said.

About half of those calls came in Saturday, with traffic complaints, a “couple of dog bites” in the downtown area, and a few disturbances over the weekend unrelated to the Hood to Coast event.

A parking issue was quickly resolved by the Hood to Coast organization, he said. A van with vulgarity painted on its sides was noted by race organizers and “they will not be invited back,” Ham said.

“It was very uneventful, believe or not,” Public Works Director Dale McDowell said. “It was very well organized. They did a great job.”

City Manager Mark Winstnley praised employees who kept trash emptied and responded to emergency calls. “Most cities don’t know how to handle an event that brings 50,000 people to town,” Winstnley said. “They handled it cheerfully and easily — and that’s not easy to do.”

Three years ago, councilor Randy Frank was a leading advocate for changes to the Hood to Coast relationship with the city.

This year, Frank gave credit to city workers and staff for their “amazing

work” and described the progress event organizers have made over the past three years.

Tita Montero called Hood to Coast “a great party of the beach,” but she did ask that in coming years, organizers provide an 800 number for complaints. “We still don’t have that 800 number that has been agreed to year after year after year. The Hood to Coast organization could have a lot more credibility if they did that. They did say they would provide that.”

Mayor Jay Barber worked with Chief Operating Officer Dan Floyd, Chief Executive Officer Jude Hubber and founder Bob Foote of the race series for their cooperation and communication.

“It was a great event,”

Barber said of this year’s race. “It makes our city proud. Forty countries were represented, and those peo-

ple will come back. People really recognize this as a seminal event around the country.”

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