

# Gearhart Fire should consider elementary school location

Thank you for inviting me to comment on Gearhart's social media perspectives regarding the future of Gearhart's elementary school. I'm sensitive to Gearhart's social media having a deep and wide diversity of comments from longtime citizens, successful businessmen, engineers, biologists, geologist, workers and fire supporters.

I have monitored this commentary closely and at this point in time the Gearhart school has become, in my opinion, an increasing catalyst dividing the community between the proposed fire station and the school's future. While most of our community is keenly aware of Gearhart's leadership's well-funded efforts to build a 13,000-square-foot fire facility, many of us are perplexed. Perplexed with regards to the glaring absence of either a formal position or the void in effort to investigate our school as an alternative to the proposed fire station. While the current sale of the school is ignored, the city over the last three years has deployed thousands of dollars and copious amounts of time of paid employees and unpaid

## GUEST COLUMN

JACK ZIMMERMAN



volunteers promoting one of the largest public works projects in Gearhart's history.

Some in our community are frustrated. Many have expressed the school was their first opportunity as a child to launch their young identities; to form relationships and purpose; to have responsibilities, to create art and music and engage in life. Those who have stayed and those who have left and returned see generations of memories and do not want the school left to the vicissitudes of for-profit ventures. Further they believe the school has historically played a key role in shaping Gearhart's unique culture. Many of our participants see our school as a valid multifaceted and more economical alternative to the proposed fire station located on some of the most expensive land in the Gearhart area. Frustrated, because they are aware some city negotiators have dismissed the

school as a "million dollar tear-down," yet our community knows that currently there has been no effort to formally underwrite the integrity or the lack of integrity of the overall facility. We know there seemingly is little interest or intent to inspect the facility to rule out or rule in the veracity of the facility being a tear down candidate.

While city leaders are apparently willing to spend multiples of millions of dollars (some estimates as high as \$12 million to \$14 million), on the new fire station many believe the school could be purchased for a fraction of the rumored fire station land cost alone; and the repurposed construction costs of the school would be substantially less than the fire project construction costs.

We understand the fire stations proposed location will be argued as the city's only location to survive a major tsunami but once again our members have provided multiple models by independent agencies that show as far as serving all areas of Gearhart the proposed fire station faces similar challenges as the school as a service center located in a flood inundation zone.

Many see the school as a tremendous opportunity to provide a variety of services such as a center for city police, fire, administration and emergency medical offices; a large citizen assembly area; emergency storage; a training center for employees and volunteers; a convention center to promote local businesses, art and music events; social functions; public gardens; and community resiliency and communication center and much more. Cost savings can be transferred to the refurbishment of the existing fire and administration facilities to house fire engines and support equipment.

Additionally a repurposed school shows an actual commitment to the city's comprehensive plan by supporting the goals and ordinances regarding open spaces, land use, and hazardous mitigation efforts. Our participants believe a repurposed school in a flood zone can be insured for catastrophic events and from the savings in its acquisition and construction costs can provide Gearhart future incremental borrowing capacity towards multiple strategically placed evacuation staging areas which is in opposition to

the new fire station proposal. We understand very well the city will argue for the current proposal but, as stated earlier, many of us have reached out to outside agencies and found a divergence of opinion regarding the ultimate and final outcomes from future catastrophic events — the debate will be ongoing. While many would call this discussion obstructionist, I would like to convey to those interested that there are many who are quietly trying to insure Gearhart's historical culture is honored and that our residents are provided all possible alternatives such that when our taxpayers vote there vote will be placed with confidence that all options have truthfully been exhausted.

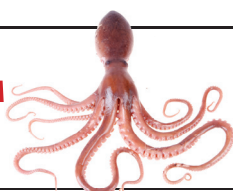
As other North Coast communities have done, I respectfully request our city officials not ignore but give our school an equal opportunity in effort; positive thought; and funding as they have unilaterally provided for the current fire station proposal, aka the High Point station.

Jack Zimmerman is a moderator and original founder of the Pacific Way Facebook group.

# When the surf gets high, make sure safety is your No. 1 priority

## SEASIDE AQUARIUM

WENDI AGALZOFF



October has brought crisp cool mornings and glittering ocean conditions to our Clatsop County Coast.

While sunny days and warmer forecasts may draw people to the beach, it is important to remember that sneaker waves can strike at any time. Sneaker waves are sudden unexpected waves that reach higher onto land without warning. These powerful deadly surges are able to move large amounts of sandy sediment, rocks, knock over adults and roll

large logs with only a few inches of water.

Different ocean conditions can manufacture sneaker waves. Coastal storm conditions are often easier to identify as dangerous with indicators such as rough surf and high swells. Winter storms can induce sneaker waves that run up the beach over 150 feet, topple over rocky outcrops, and destabilize cliffsides. However, danger also awaits on calm days when high-energy wave sets occur after a long period of small surf with smaller waves. Sneaker waves are perhaps most dangerous when people underestimate the risk they are in, lulled into safety by seemingly calm surf and sunshine it is easy to become distracted with recreational activities or assume the high-water line is farther out.

According to the National

**ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, ALONG THE WEST COAST SNEAKER WAVES KILL MORE PEOPLE THAN ALL OTHER WEATHER HAZARDS COMBINED.**



Tiffany Boothe/Seaside Aquarium

Weather Service, along the West Coast sneaker waves kill more people than all other weather hazards combined. If an individual is knocked over, sand content can weigh down already saturated clothing and make escape

from an undertow current difficult or impossible. Logs and driftwood can come in with the wave, be dragged back down towards the ocean from the high-tide line and potentially roll over individuals caught in the surge. Cold ocean

temperatures in the Northwest also place any individual dragged off the beach in immediate danger of cold-water paralysis. Cold water will quickly drain energy and inhibit an individual's ability to swim within minutes.

Local beaches are incredible places to spend time and enjoy, but be sure to remain cautious and "play it safe" with a few guidelines for ocean safety:

1) Never turn your back on the ocean.

2) Do not sit or play on logs or large pieces of driftwood near the tide line.

3) Visually note how far the ocean has previously come by spotting the divide between wet and dry sand.

For additional guidance, be sure to check out local weather and surf advisories for your area!

# October is sweepstakes month, and Seaside is the big winner

It's been another busy month on the advertising front with new print ads appearing in metro publications like Portland Monthly and even Oregon Business, as well as in Washington's 1889 Magazine and Seattle Met's October issue and annual Newcomers Guide. Seaside is also making an appearance in email newsletters this month for Travel Oregon, Seattle Met, and Portland Monthly, not to mention the website-wide banner ads and Instagram takeovers for multiple publications on the schedule.

We've also got a few far-reaching sweepstakes in the mix right now.

The Oregonian recently wrapped a weeklong sweepstakes to encourage read-

## DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

JOSHUA HEINEMAN



ers to visit our website, order a visitor guide, sign up for our monthly emails, follow our Instagram, and check out our Facebook page and YouTube channel for a chance to win a two-night stay in Seaside with dinner, coffee, candy, bike rides, and other fun included. The promotion reached 14,039 Facebook accounts in the metro area organically (there was no paid boost for this item) and resulted in 1,114 entries. Thank you to Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Seaside

Brewery, Seaside Coffee-house, Phillips Candies, Wheel Fun Rentals, and the Seaside Aquarium for partnering with us to provide goods and services for this sweepstakes.

Entercom Radio is also in the process of running not one but two sweepstakes for Seaside. The smaller, more-targeted contest is focused on supporting the Seaside Downtown Development Association's upcoming Fall Wine Walk on Nov. 9. We've cut two radio spots promoting the event and contest, as well as an email blast and social media paid post that will push to a custom contest landing page. Additionally, we're running a three-month-long "Winter is the New Summer" sweep-

stakes to encourage off-season visitation from the station's listener base. Thank you to Ebb-Tide Oceanfront Inn, Holiday Inn Express & Suites, everyone at SDDA, End of the Trail Public House, Finns Fish House, Rascals, Brew 22, Seaside Inverted Experience, Wheel Fun Rental, and the Seaside Aquarium for partnering with us on these two sweepstakes.

The community participation in these from local businesses is so appreciated as it helps us directly illuminate the attractions and experiences available here in Seaside in conjunction with our advertising efforts. Ken Heman, our senior visitor information specialist at the VB, does the heavy lift in putting together compre-

hensive packages for contests and sweepstakes. Get in touch if you'd like to discuss being part of future promotions.

## Oregon Film Trail in Ecola

Fans of the "The Goonies" and (especially) "Point Break," take note! The burgeoning Oregon Film Trail installed two signs and a map panel at Ecola State Park earlier this month to commemorate filming locations of those now-classics (plus "Twilight" but no comment). The signs can be found at Indian Beach and the Ecola State Recreation Site parking lot just south of Seaside and were a collaboration between the Oregon Film Office, Ecola State Park,

Oregon State Parks, and the Oregon Coast Visitors Association.

If you're wondering whether people actually come to the North Coast looking for the iconic site where Keanu Reeves finally shackled rogue surfer/criminal Patrick Swayze before letting him go out to surf his one last wave instead... well, how do you think I got here? I'm only half-kidding.

Got a tourism-related comment or question? I'd love to hear from you. Write me at [jheineman@cityof-](mailto:jheineman@cityof-)

## IN BRIEF

### Providence Seaside gives community grants

Providence Seaside Hospital and its advisory council members, support local charities and organizations with grants totaling \$110,000.

Organizations receiving grants include Clatsop Community Action Regional Food Bank, Foster Club, Helping Hands, Lower Columbia Hispanic Council, National Alliance on Mental Illness Clubhouse Model Project, Restoration House, and The Harbor.

The community health improvement plan seeks to be responsive to the needs of the poor and vulnerable, with the goal of access to preventive and primary care; mental health and substance use; chronic conditions and disease management; oral health; and basic needs.

### Inaugural Arts Summit coming on Nov. 12

The Arts Council of Clatsop County presents "The Business of Art: Art-

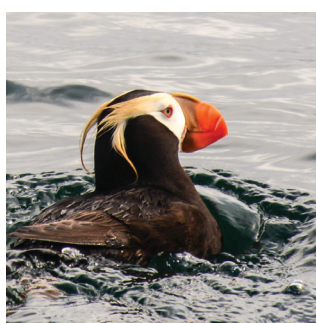
ists Teaching Artists," 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12, at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center. Doors open at 12:30 p.m.

Participants can attend two workshops from a selection of six that cover several topics, including business essentials, exploring income streams, marketing, and copyright issues. The event will conclude with a roundtable discussion, followed by a free viewing of Wes Anderson's "Moonlight Kingdom" at the Times Theatre and Public House in Seaside at 6 p.m.

For more information or to register for the event, email [artscouncil@co.clatsop.or.us](mailto:artscouncil@co.clatsop.or.us).

### Gearhart November ArtWalk

Trail's End Art Association has an exciting new show opening on Saturday, Nov. 2, in their gallery during the Gearhart ArtWalk. The show features our talented Kitty Paino, a renown local painter, and is entitled "Kissed by Wax."



Tiffany Boothe

The tufted puffin is the subject of a lecture by Dr. Scott Pearson at the Haystack Rock Lecture Series.

All of the pieces demonstrate different hot and cold wax media. Everything from hot wax encaustics and hot wax on plaster to oil and cold wax and wax over collage are used to explore the natural world on the coast of Oregon. A reception in her honor will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. The gallery is located in Gearhart.

Paino lives in Astoria. She is a retired community college dean who also previously taught art on the secondary and post-secondary level. Kitty paints in acrylics, but utilizes mixed media

using palettes that include found and organic materials.

For more information go online at [trailsendart.org](http://trailsendart.org) or call us at 503-717-9458 or send an email to [trailsendartassociation@gmail.com](mailto:trailsendartassociation@gmail.com). Our winter hours are Wednesday-Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Tufted puffin topic of first Haystack lecture

Friends of Haystack Rock and the Cannon Beach Library present the World of Haystack Rock Library Lecture Series 2019-20, recurring lectures with different speakers and topics on the second Wednesday of every month from November to May.

On Wednesday, Nov. 13, at 7 p.m., Dr. Scott Pearson presents a lecture on the conservation status, population trends, and natural history of the tufted puffin. Pearson is a senior research scientist at Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife where he supervises the west-side research team.

The lecture takes place at

the Cannon Beach Library, 131 N. Hemlock St., Cannon Beach.

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## 11th Annual Halloween Dance and Costume Party

1st Place \$100 Gift Certificate

2nd Place \$75 Gift Certificate

3rd Place \$50 Gift Certificate

2 Honorable Mentions \$10 Gift Certificate

Dance Music: "It Takes 2"

Oct 26th Music starts at 8pm



Killer Burgers anyway you want them with onion Rings/Fries • Served 5pm-10pm

only \$6

Public Event at Seaside American Legion Post 99 • 1315 Broadway  
Proceeds go to support our military Veterans

