

PICKLEBALL CRAZE SWEEPS GEARHART



R.J. Marx
Pickleball advocate
Wally Hamer, right, on
the court in Gearhart.

Pickleball big in Seaside, too

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

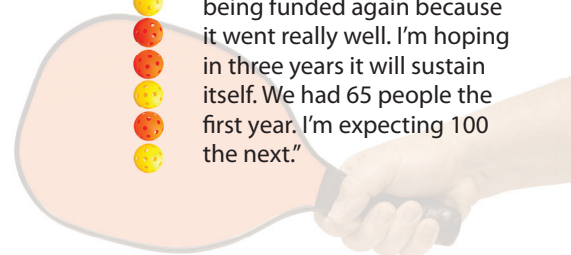
Pickleball is big in Gearhart but don't underestimate its popularity in Seaside.

Along with pickleball, sports popular at the rec district for adults include a coed softball league, open gym basketball and drop-in soccer. Numbers are staying the same or staying even, she said, with the exception of one sport: pickleball.

That's on the rise, according to Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District's Grace Lee, manager of recreation and community programs.

Two new courts were installed in the spring of 2018, located just behind the Seaside Youth Center off of Broadway. Nets, paddles and balls are available for check-out at the front desk of Sunset Pool. Drop-in games take place every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon.

"This pickleball tournament in April 2020 will be our second year," Lee said at the Tuesday, Nov. 19 district board meeting. "We wrote a grant to the city of Seaside that gave us \$5,000 to run it the first year, this year it's being funded again because it went really well. I'm hoping in three years it will sustain itself. We had 65 people the first year. I'm expecting 100 the next."



By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Camp Rilea was closed for the day and pickleball players sought an alternate place to play.

They found it in Gearhart last Wednesday, Nov. 20, a decidedly chilly but bright and sunny day, filling the new pickleball courts as tennis players volleyed on the tennis court to the west.

"We usually go to Camp Rilea on Wednesday mornings, but Camp Rilea

is closed," enthusiast Wally Hamer, wearing shorts and carrying a racket, said between matches. "Since the weather is good, we're out here taking advantage of our courts. We've had over 80 people in the last few months on these courts."

Pickleball, similar to tennis, is an 11-point game and described as a cross between ping-pong and tennis.

The sport first came before the council when Hamer and others approached the City Council in May, proposing alterations to Gearhart's two existing tennis courts to facilitate pickleball play.

In August, the council unanimously voted to modify the tennis courts, keeping both tennis while adding lines for two pickleball courts to the east court. Two rollaway pickleball nets create a multiuse court.

Hamer had high praise for the new Gearhart courts. "They're fantastic. The surface is really nice. It's true."

Hamer will continue to pursue options for pickleball courts at Gearhart Elementary School. "Pickleball is a great recreational game. We're just looking to get people out and playing."

SEASIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

New targets for performance

Goal to put students on graduation path

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

After a "do-over" for sixth- and ninth-grade students, the Seaside School District set new targets for performance in mathematics and literacy.

The district previously adopted goals based on the strategic plan for the 2019-20 school year in August with the exception of the math and reading targets for the sixth and ninth grades, which they reviewed at the Tuesday, Nov. 26 board meeting.

"The results we got on our baseline assessment at the end of the year just didn't make sense,"

Superintendent Sheila Roley said during the board meeting Nov. 19.

Roley added when they gave the first test to students, staff were still learning to use the new system and not confident they had administered the assessment "in the way we needed to."

To reach the first goal of the strategic plan, which is that by 2024 all students will be on track to graduate and be prepared with a plan beyond high school, the district is setting more specific performance indicators for each school year.

They readministered the assessment and "the results made way more sense," Roley said. "We also had a much better sense of working with the program."

Based on the results of the new assessment, the administration recommended a goal for the

2019-20 school year of seeing the percent of students meeting academic targets increase from:

- 61% to 72% in sixth-grade math;
- 40% to 60% in ninth-grade math;
- 57% to 65% in sixth-grade literacy;
- 44% to 64% in ninth-grade literacy.

The third-grade targets — which include increases from 53% to 63% in math and 36% to 51% in literacy — stayed the same for the 2019-20 school year, and students were not reassessed.

According to Roley, the district is exploring its curriculum and instructional practices for mathematics and working to make improvements.

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Beacon on Broadway is city's newest event space

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

The building at 735 Broadway first went on the tax rolls in Seaside 100 years ago, in January 1920, Neighbors at clothing store Selnes and Wheatley were offering a special sale on underwear and shoes. Down the street at the Strand Theatre, filmgoers were watching "Woman in the Suitcase" and "Cannibals of the South Seas."

The 3000-square-foot event space sits on the second floor of Beacon on Broadway, which first opened as the Beacon Hotel a century ago. The Moose Lodge occupied the space for many years before purchase by owner Ron Hoxie.

"It was a bigger project than we



R.J. Marx

expected it to be, but it turned out really beautiful," Beacon on Broadway manager Angi Wildt said at the

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New names for the schools on the hill

Broadway becomes 'Seaside Middle School'

By KATHERINE LACAZE
Seaside Signal

The deafening cheers of more than 700 elementary-aged students permeated the gymnasium at The Heights Elementary School on Wednesday, Nov. 20, during a joint assembly with Gearhart Elementary School at which the school's new name, mascot and colors were revealed.

Effective July 1, the Seaside School District's elementary school at the new campus will be called Pacific Ridge Elementary School, while Broadway Middle School is being renamed Seaside Middle School to reflect the relocation.

CONFIDENTIAL BALLOT

"I had a second-grader say to me, 'I can't tell you what I voted on because it's my personal choice and I keep it to myself.'"

— Susan Penrod

The new elementary school's colors, as approved by the Seaside School District's board of directors during their Nov. 19 meeting, will be turquoise, black and silver, while the middle school will transition to white, black, and Columbia blue.

During the joint assembly, led by Seaside School Board member Brian Taylor and fifth-grade teacher Brett Deur, it was also revealed that the new

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Katherine Lacaze

The new mascot for Seaside's elementary school, which will be renamed Pacific Ridge Elementary School effective July 1, is the puffin. The new Seaside Middle School will retain the sharks as their mascot.