



GINGERBREAD TEA

Pine garlands and holiday cheer



Katherine Lacaze

Volunteers help drive the Gingerbread Tea, assuming responsibilities that include baking the gingerbread and serving guests.

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

Featuring fragrant pine garlands and gingerbread decorations, live music, and the offer of warm beverages, the Seaside Museum and Historical Society's annual Gingerbread Tea is a tradition that appeals to all ages.

On almost any given Saturday afternoon in December, the quaint Butterfield Cottage on Necanicum Drive plays host to everyone from infants and children to older adults who come together to celebrate the holiday season with a touch of Victorian charm.

"I never know who is going to walk through the front door," museum board member Tita Montero said.

She was joined last Saturday by museum president Steve Wright and a handful of volunteers who welcomed guests and served warm gingerbread topped with whipped cream, tea, cider, and hot cocoa. Local musician Shirley Yates provided live entertainment, frequently inviting young children in the audience to join her in singing carols while playing the keyboard.

According to Montero, the museum sees several families year after year, but also gets a notable number of newcomers who are either visiting the coast for the holidays or residents who are just

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Musician Shirley Yates, accompanied by a young guest, performs on the keyboard Dec. 7 at the Seaside Museum and Historical Society's annual Gingerbread Tea at Butterfield Cottage.

Katherine Lacaze



The Seaside Museum and Historical Society's annual Gingerbread Tea at Butterfield Cottage provides guests an opportunity to celebrate the holidays with a touch of quaint Victorian charm. The holiday tea will be held again from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday.



R.J. Marx

The city of Seaside is seeking delinquent tax of \$148,579 and an additional penalty of \$37,144 from Shilo Inn Seaside Oceanfront.

Seaside takes Shilo Inn to court for taxes, again

'The most expensive money in the world'

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

The city took action against Shilo Inn this month in Clatsop County Circuit Court.

The city is seeking almost \$150,000 in unpaid lodging taxes for the quarter ending in September, with an additional 25% penalty of more than \$37,000.

Taxes from the period were due Oct. 15. "I've dealt with (Shilo Inn owner) Mark Hemstreet for years," City Attorney Dan Van Thiel said. "I don't understand him. This has got to be the most expensive money in the world to fool around like this. But it's his money, not mine."

Representatives of Shilo Inn did not respond to requests for comment.

The lawsuit covers taxes on \$1.7 million in room rental revenue.

According to the complaint, Shilo Inn "continues to withhold the payment of

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When Gearhart Eagles become Puffins, will school spirit remain?

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

The city of Gearhart and the Seaside School District will meet in coming months about the soon-to-be vacated Gearhart Elementary School.

Topics include potential sale plans, progress on the new campus and how to maintain the local school spirit, Sheila Roley told city councilors at the December council meeting.

"A lot of us have a close emotional connection to that place," Roley said. "We didn't go into the decision to build a new school lightly. But overall, we thought this was definitely in the best interests of our kids and our community."

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Ukrainian exchange student shares heritage

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Ukrainian foreign exchange student Maksym "Max" Matviyenko came to Seaside City Hall Monday night, Dec. 9, to introduce himself to the community and share the heritage of his homeland.

Wearing a traditional Ukraine hand-sewn shirt, the Seaside High School senior described Ukraine as a land filled with color, with a blue and gold flag symbolizing the blue sky and the yellow-gold color of wheat.

Ukraine is situated in central Europe, bordered by seven countries.

Dating back to the 11th century, Ukraine boasts a long history and remnants of old villages, churches and farms "even now," he said.

The nation's president, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, offers a "better and better future rather than the dark years of the Soviet Union," he said.

Matviyenko also shared descriptions of his favorite Ukraine dinners, including beet and potato soup with sour cream. "People like sour cream a lot," he added. "Meat inside of cabbage leaves is pretty good too."

Matviyenko will spend the semester at the Seaside home of Chris and Kellie Dugan.



R.J. Marx

Foreign-exchanged student Max Matviyenko shares his story with members of the Seaside City Council. In the background, host Chris Dugan and assistant city manager Jon Rahl.

