

Coastal Occasions: Just in time for the holidays



Amanda and Travis Hanschew of Coastal Occasions.

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Amanda and Travis Hanschew of Coastal Occasions party supply and rental shop are the Seaside Outlet Mall’s newest tenants, opening three weeks ago in the former storefront of Bruce’s Candy Kitchen. And they are just in time for the holidays.

“We’ve only been open not even three weeks,” Amanda Hanschew told members of the Seaside

Chamber of Commerce at the group’s Wednesday morning meeting. “We’re still putting it together as we go. But we’re having a lot of fun with it. It’s been a blast.”

The Hanschews hail from Yakima, Washington, where they were born and raised.

“When we decided we wanted to move away, we said, ‘Why not move to the place that makes us happy?’” Amanda said.

The couple moved here about seven-and-a-half years ago with their two children, one now a fresh-

PARTY TIME

‘I always go overboard on parties.’

— Amanda Hanschew

man in high school and another in third grade. They chose Seaside because that’s where they went on vacation growing up.

Amanda started work at the Outlet Mall, before working as a front desk manager for the Tolovana Inn in Cannon Beach.

“I was there for several years until I came back to the mall,” she said.

The store offers party supplies, housewarming gifts, gift baskets and craft items, and everything for parties. “I like to make things,” she said. “I like to be crafty, playful, I’ve always liked parties — I always go overboard on parties.”

Coastal Occasions is open seven days a week, through the holidays, during mall hours, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; 1111 N. Roosevelt Dr., Suite 320; 503-717-5719

Shilo Inn: ‘The most expensive money in the world’

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these taxes, notwithstanding numerous demands” by the city.

In June, the city sued Shilo Inn for more than \$45,000 in lodging taxes for the period ending in April. With penalties and interest, the total sought was more than \$58,000.

That suit was closed in October after Shilo Inn paid the taxes and the penalty.

In 2016, Seaside sued the company for delinquent taxes of more than \$112,500. Shilo Inn paid out almost \$146,000 in back taxes and

IN JUNE, THE CITY SUED SHILO FOR MORE THAN \$45,000 IN HOTEL ROOM TAXES FOR THE PERIOD ENDING APRIL 30.

penalties.

Earlier this year, Warrenton sued Shilo Inn after more than \$130,000 in lodging taxes, penalties and accrued interest went unpaid.

Warrenton settled its case against Shilo Inn in August.

“When you see people doing this, it’s because they’re utilizing the city’s money,” Van Thiel said.

“This is not their money. This is what is an irritation to me. As I represent in the complaint, that’s what we categorize as a ‘fiduciary.’ They collect it, but they’re using our money.”

Seaside’s Shilo Inn is not the only Shilo property that goes into delinquency, Van Thiel added. “This is a recurring problem,” he said.

Seaside could eventually profit from the delinquency, Van Thiel said.

“If you have to pay us \$147,000 and you don’t pay us and then you’ve got to pay us another \$37,000-plus because you didn’t pay us on time, that’s a good deal for the city. I sue them periodically and I keep on telling them, ‘I don’t understand why you do this. It doesn’t make sense to me.’”

Van Thiel said he expected the case to be resolved quickly.

“I think it will be settled, and it will be settled before long,” he said.

Gingerbread: Pine garlands and holiday cheer

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now being introduced to this beloved Seaside tradition.

Later that afternoon, Montero said, they were expecting a group of 15 residents from Neawanna by the Sea, an assisted living facility in Seaside. It was the first time the two groups had made preparations ahead of time, selling tickets and arranging transportation, to facilitate the visit of residents and make it easier for them to attend the tea as a group.

The community spirit

According to Wright and Montero, the driving force behind the Gingerbread Tea — as with all the museum’s functions — is the small army of volunteers who assume every task, from making the fresh gingerbread and gingerbread cookies to decorating the cottage and serving guests.

“We couldn’t do the events we do without volunteers,” Montero said.

Brooke Terry, who was helping at the tea for the first time, sees volunteering as an avenue for “helping the community and getting to know people.”



Volunteers Tara Jarrett (standing, from left) and Brooke Terry, who work with U.S. Bank, serve gingerbread to Faith Allen, 14, and Susan McGregor, guests at the Seaside Museum and Historical Society’s annual Gingerbread Tea at Butterfield Cottage.

She was there with her colleague Tara Jarrett, manager of the U.S. Bank in Seaside, who added, “There’s just a satisfaction you get for helping.”

To encourage volunteerism in the community, the bank compensates its employees to volunteer up to 16 hours on the clock. Jarrett and Terry, who are both

proponents of the museum and its mission, have volunteered for its various activities throughout the year, going above and beyond the 16 hours. During the summer, they helped run the museum’s booth at the Seaside Farmers Market.

They felt the Gingerbread Tea was another opportunity to support the museum,

serve the community, and ignite the holiday spirit.

“There aren’t a lot of events that are this traditional,” Terry said.

The Gingerbread Tea at Butterfield Cottage will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. Dec. 21. Tickets are \$5 and available at the door. The Seaside Strummers will provide entertainment.

Puffins: Gearhart students to see new campus in fall

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Next fall, Gearhart students head to the new campus in the Southeast Hills in Seaside, at the new Pacific Ridge Elementary School. The school, as well as the middle and high school buildings, are expected to be complete.

The eagle, mascot of Gearhart Elementary, will be replaced by the puffin of Pacific Ridge.

The Gearhart campus sits on 8.4 acres one block west of the intersection of U.S. Highway 101 and Pacific Way, describes Norris & Stevens, co-representing the school district, with Popkin Real Estate.

Listed at \$1.9 million, the 32,000-square-foot elementary school building sits on 8.4 acres, and includes a main school with gymnasium, cafeteria, four modular buildings and covered outdoor basketball courts.

Baseball, soccer and softball fields and two bark chipped outdoor play areas offer recreational opportunities.

Designated public-/semi-public, zoning code limits uses to a government facility, community meeting

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