



CLEANING UP IN SEASIDE



IF YOU GO

The Facebook group Rolling Fortress recommends cleanup volunteers bring gloves, thick waterproof boots, trash grabbers, shovels, pitchforks, rakes, a heavy duty bag or bucket, sleds and clothes you don't care to get dirty. Please wear a jacket in case it rains. Chest waders and certified divers welcome. There is debris in the water.

Jesse Anderson cleaning the riverbank during a recent storm. Seaside Community Cleanup

One man's action takes on big-time problem

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Seaside's Jesse Anderson, a 37-year-old commercial fisherman, was walking his dog near the Tillamook Boat Launch on the Necanicum River south of the city in mid-January when he found used hypodermic needles littered amidst piles of trash.

An illegal encampment was occupied by three people and a dog, filled with trash and more needles.

"I know it floods out there," Anderson

said Tuesday. "I know needles float and end up on your beaches. I just ain't gonna have it."

He called Seaside Police to see what could be done about cleaning up.

Officers told Anderson he could start removing garbage, though he couldn't legally remove occupied tents.

Police ticketed the squatters.

Meanwhile, Anderson collected 20 yards of trash, using bags he brought himself and Sharps containers provided by police to handle used needles.

Seeking awareness of the problem, he turned to social media, posting pictures

of the encampments and their waste. Day after day in late January he picked up garbage, and while admittedly not tech savvy, conceived the "Seaside Community Cleanup" Facebook group.

On Jan. 29, he received assistance from city public works employee Jeremy Strimple, who worked with the department's director Dale McDowell to provide a backhoe and a dumpster.

"Dale was seeing the garbage and getting reports about it from the community," Anderson said. "I said, 'You guys are life-

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Annexation moves forward

Trailer park receives exemption

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Seaside took the second step toward bringing 45 properties in the southern part of town into the city.

After the reading of two ordinances and a unanimous vote Monday night, city councilors agreed to move ahead with annexation of county land on the east and west sides of U.S. Highway 101. A third reading will be required for each before the ordinances become law.

In a public comment period before the vote, officials heard a plea from

Trucke's 1-Stop and RV Park owner Lori Trucke for an exemption to the ordinance.

The exemption, which requires an additional code amendment, would allow her to operate her existing trailer park "in the manner and to the extent it operated prior to the annexation."

According to City Planner Kevin Cupples, the exemption is consistent with provisions of the Seaside zoning ordinance that regulate nonconforming uses.

"This is really just creating an exemption sticking the RV park under what would be the nonconforming use provisions of the zoning ordinance rather than dragging it into the trailer park ordinance," Cupples said. "This will put a Band-Aid on it and will proba-



Trucke's received an exemption from a proposed annexation ordinance in order to operate under existing trailer park rules.

bly satisfy their concerns that once it is annexed it won't be plunged into added regulations."

Trucke's will still be subject to the city's business license ordinance, he added.

Driving the adoption of

the annexation ordinance is the city's longtime goal to eliminate "checkerboard zoning," where neighboring parcels are served by different governments.

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Push for higher grad rates pays off

Grad, attendance initiatives paying off at high school

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

The Seaside School District's strategic efforts to improve four-year graduation rates have resulted in a positive trend, according to data from the Oregon Department of Education and the district.

Along with other districts throughout Clatsop, Tillamook, Columbia, and Washington counties, Seaside has seen recent improvements in the number of students who completed high school in four years.

Among all student demographics at Seaside High School, the four-year graduation rate increased more than 3%, from 73.4% in 2017-18 to 76.8% for 2018-19. Homeless students continue to have one of the lowest rates of on-time graduation, decreasing from 66.67% in 2017-18 to 53.85% in 2018-19.

When it comes to increasing graduation rates and the number of freshmen on-track to graduate in four years, "there's no magic bullet, we know that," Principal Jeff Roberts said during a presentation at the district's Jan. 21 board meeting.

But with the adoption of the district's five-year strategic plan in December 2018 and the passage of Measure 98, or the Student

Success Act, the district has experienced increased focus — and resources — to tackle the issue.

On track

One of the goals in the district's 2019-2024 strategic plan is that by June 2024, all students K-12 will be on track to graduate and be prepared with a plan beyond high school. One of the performance indicators aligned with that goal is 100% of freshmen will be on track for graduation by the end of freshman year.

According to state standards, students are considered on track if they finish a quarter of the classes required to graduate.

The Seaside district, however, has chosen "to hold ourselves to a little bit higher standard," Roberts said.

At the end of freshman year, students must earn at least 6.5 credits — or a quarter of what's required to graduate — but also not have failed more than one of their core classes. Otherwise, Roberts said, "we're playing catch-up."

According to the district's formula, 82% of freshmen were on track to graduate at the end of 2018-19, although the state reported the rate at 85% based on their standard. The target for the 2019-20 year is 88%.

After the first trimester in 2018, 92.9% of freshmen were on track to graduate, while at the conclusion of the first trimester for this school year, the

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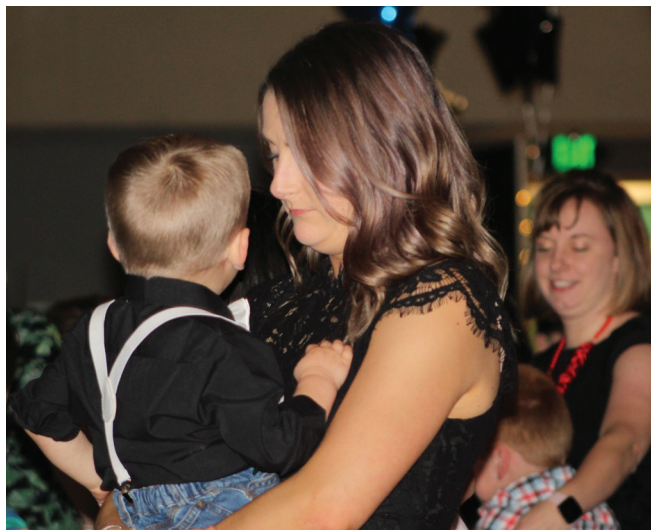
A DANCE WITH MOM

Taking to the dance floor at the Mother Son Dance

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

Referencing the common phrase, Allison Whisenhunt stated, "Dance is a universal language."

Along with other parents from around Clatsop County, she embraced the opportunity to have a special evening using the language of dance to create a memorable experience with her son at the second annual Mother Son Dance, hosted Jan. 31 by the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District. The



Colleen Larson and her 2-year-old son Bryan Larson enjoy a dance during the second annual Mother Son Dance, put on Jan. 31 by the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District.

following night, the district held its annual Father Daughter Dance, also at the Seaside Civic and Con-

vention Center. The Father Daughter

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