

SignalViewpoints



The Heights gym plans to see a wood floor installed the first week of March. The green board is impact-resistant sheet rock. The gym is scheduled to open after spring vacation.



Seaside School District Superintendent Sheila Roley, project manager Jim Henry, and oversight committee member Margene Ridout inspect work in "C" pod at The Heights.



Pipes connecting the middle and high school are designed and clad to withstand seismic events.

GOING UP

School construction reveals activity everywhere

SEEN FROM SEASIDE
R.J. MARX



A trip on the hill reveals activity everywhere: at The Heights, in driveways and up the gravel road to the middle and high school, where the three-story structure recently received electricity, generator power, retaining walls and painting. Members of the Seaside School District Construction Oversight Committee received their monthly campus tour on Feb. 11, with an opportunity to see the work, with a project budget of more than \$123 million, in action. Work is scheduled for completion in late July.



Duct work in the middle and high school building.



Above the high school and middle school, the city is building a reservoir to serve the school and surrounding residential area. This will be the highest elevation of the city's three reservoirs. In coming weeks the city contractor will be pouring a tank foundation and completing the north transmission line to Sunset Hills.

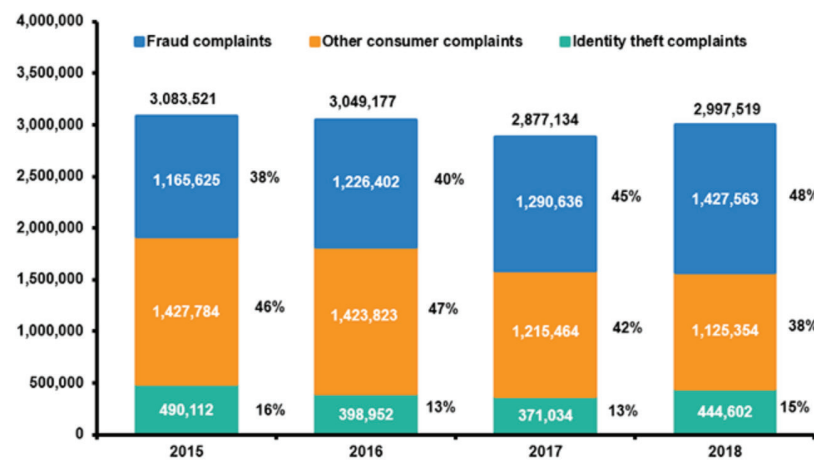
Don't get played by cheats, scammers, flimflammers

VIEW FROM THE PORCH
EVE MARX



I'm a police blotter junkie; for my own entertainment I read police logs from everywhere. Currently I'm obsessed with criminal scams. Cheats, flimflammers, hoaxers, swindlers, and rip-off artists love targeting older folks. There's no end or bottom to the creative tricks scammers use to get senior citizens to part with their life savings or monthly social security benefit. The problem is so endemic the office of Social Security sent out a mass email advising how to beware of scams. Incidents of folks getting scammed figure prominently in police blotters. Most commonly, the scammer opens a credit card in somebody else's name, frequently in another state. There are PayPal scams, and scams hacking mobile payment apps, and complex identity theft scams that are truly mind-boggling. The No. 1 fraud reported to police last year were imposter scams; police say imposter victims lost \$667 million to scammers pretending to be government employees, a family member in distress, or, saddest of all, a romantic interest. When people lost their money, they most often lost it with gift cards. Last week I read about a scammer who took a 72-year-old man in New York for \$8,500. The scammer identified himself as a member of Apple tech. The man was advised his computer was hacked. It was

Identity Theft And Fraud Reports, 2015-2018 (1)



(1) Percentages are based on the total number of Consumer Sentinel Network reports by calendar year. These figures exclude "Do Not Call" registry complaints.

Insurance Information Institute/Federal Trade Commission

recommended he purchase a security system Apple would remotely install for his future safety; he was directed to purchase the system through a series of gift cards the caller said he had to buy from three different online retailers. The man complied with the directions, but a few hours later got scared. He called Apple who told him he'd been had. Then he called his local police. Aside from making a report, it didn't seem there was a heck of a lot he could do about it. I personally receive at least six phishing emails designed to entrap me every day. I'm told there's an outstanding invoice for something I've not bought, or a package of something I didn't order scheduled for delivery. For months I got emails claiming to be from a well-known delivery service. Nearly every morning I get a voicemail or

text from a credit agency I don't do business with. Valentine's Day scams are common among the elderly because the elderly are extra vulnerable to the prospect of true love. That makes widows and widowers easy targets for those who take advantage of the victim's loneliness and ready-to-love-again heart. Here's a true story: An 80-year-old Oregon widower was scammed out of \$200,000. According the Oregon Division of Financial Regulation, which reported the incident, an unidentified scammer stole a Florida woman's identity and used it to befriend an Oregon man. The scammer used an online dating service to target and contact him; after leading the man on with weeks of sweet texts and emails, the

SPAM!

Nearly every morning I get a voicemail or text from a credit agency I don't do business with.

scammer convinced the man they were in a long-distance romantic relationship. Once the connection was firmly established, the scammer persuaded the man to send money for a business opportunity in development. The scammer pretended to seek investors and reported on imaginary meetings. Documents were fabricated. Trusting the documents, and the scammer, the widower kept paying and paying. Then the scammer disappeared. The money's gone. He was played. You know that's got to hurt. The Oregon Division of Financial Regulation published a few tips to avoid getting catfished. Don't send money to anyone you've not met in person. Be cautious about sharing personal or financial information. Don't transfer money to unknown people or intermediaries. If you must use a third party to send money, use a licensed money transmitter. Keep copies of all communications with scammers and report them to the division, online dating services, the FBI, the Federal Trade Commission, and local police. If you do fall prey to a scam, know it's unlikely you'll get your money back. And if anyone calls you from a number or name you don't recognize, don't answer, or just hang up.



PUBLISHER
Kari Borgen

EDITOR
R.J. Marx

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Jeremy Feldman
ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Sarah Silver-Tecza
MULTIMEDIA ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE
Kim McCaw

PRODUCTION MANAGER
John D. Bruijn
SYSTEMS MANAGER
Carl Earl

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Skyler Archibald
Darren Gooch
Joshua Heineman
Rain Jordan
Katherine Lacaze
Eve Marx
Esther Moberg

Seaside Signal
The Seaside Signal is published every other week by EO Media Group, 1555 N. Roosevelt, Seaside, OR 97138. 503-738-5561 seasidejournal.com Copyright © 2020 Seaside Signal. Nothing can be reprinted or copied without consent of the owners.

Letter policy
The Seaside Signal welcomes letters to the editor. The deadline is noon Monday prior to publication. Letters must be 400 words or less and must be signed by the author and include a phone number for verification. We also request that submissions be limited to one letter per month. Send to 1555 N. Roosevelt Drive, Seaside, OR 97138, drop them off at 1555 N. Roosevelt Drive or fax to 503-738-9285, or email rmarx@seasidejournal.com

Subscriptions
Annually: \$40.50 in county • \$58.00 in and out of county • e-Edition: only \$30.00
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Seaside Signal, P.O. Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103. Postage Paid at Seaside, OR, 97138 and at additional mailing offices. Copyright © 2020 by the Seaside Signal. No portion of this newspaper may be reproduced without written permission. All rights reserved.