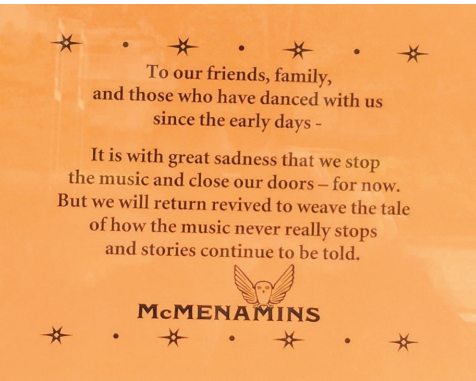


PHOTOS FROM SEASIDE, GEARHART

SEEN FROM SEASIDE
R.J. MARX



Seaside and Gearhart reeled this week as impacts from closures and reductions of businesses large and small hit home, the side effects of COVID-19. With only essential workers and visitors remaining and beaches closed, residents wondered when it will all be set right again. For many, it was the signs of hope and perseverance and countless tales of generosity that provided a sense of solace as we endure a time like no other.



Photos by R.J. Marx
Sign at McMenamins Gearhart Hotel, March 24.



The Gearhart Hotel and the Sand Trap Pub are closed.



Signs at the 10th Street entrance to the beach prohibit traffic on Oregon's beach highway.



Twilight sky, March 24.



Sign on U.S. Highway 101 south of Seaside, March 29.

A message from Mayor Jay Barber: Looking forward to look back

Seaside Signal

Let's imagine that it is March 25, 2025 and we are looking back to remember the Great Pandemic Coronavirus Epidemic.

How will we feel about how we pulled together as a community to not only survive the epidemic but what we learned about caring for each other in a tight-knit community like Seaside?

First, we will remember that we survived and are now thriving because we were willing to make significant sacrifices during a time of crisis. We listened to the medical and pandemic experts about social distancing, we scrubbed our hands until we thought the skin would come off, but we came through the COVID-19 crisis with very few cases in our neighborhoods.

Second, we got to know our neighbors like never before. We became aware of those just down the street we hadn't met before because they never seemed to come outside. Then we discovered that they were either elderly or infirm, had no local family and were completely depended upon others to get them through the crisis. Then we began to organize our neighborhood, make shopping trips to the grocery store, and preparing meals to share, taking care of yards, rolling the trash and recycle bins out to the street. In short, we began to look after each other in ways we had never done before and the wonderful thing about that, looking back is that today we can actually thank the "crisis" for helping us to really understand and practice what being a good neighbor is all about.

Third, we became aware of how blessed we are as a community to have amazing first responders that served during the crisis with little regard for their own health and safety to be sure we were all safe. Some of us learned that our fire department is largely made up of volunteers who give generously of their time for training and responding to emergency calls,

GUEST COLUMN
JAY BARBER



24/7. We learned that our police force were on the job throughout the crisis with little time off to assure the safety of our citizens. We learned that our health-care providers at our hospital and clinics were pushed to the breaking point to treat those who were infected by the virus. We look back now and wish we had been more attentive to the needs of those serving us at such a great level of sacrifice.

Finally, looking back now, we realize that our elected and local government officials had to make some very difficult and unpopular decisions to lock down our city to protect us from the possibility of persons coming into the city as carriers of the COVID-19 virus. We realize now it was not a good time to be in their shoes, but we now know they did their best with the advice and counsel that was available to them at the time. Some of us learned that throughout the county and in our villages and cities, all of the elected officials are "volunteers," they serve without pay our remuneration.

You may remember, our mayor at the time always adjourned the council meetings with a relevant quote. The minutes of that meeting on March 23 recorded a quote from the second president of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, who spent nearly 20 years in jail with Nelson Mandela. The quote is still relevant to us today: "Gloom and despondency have never defeated adversity. Trying times need courage and resiliency. Our strength as a people is not tested during the best of times."

Here we are in March of 2025 and we remember our leaders, our elders, our pastors, our parents telling us over and over again, "We will get through this and when we do, we will be better for what we have endured."

As always, they were right!
Jay Barber, Mayor
Seaside

Seaside High principal Roberts delivers student goals, expectations

By JEFF ROBERTS
For the Signal

School Community:
First I would ask you all to take a deep breath and think about one thing you are grateful for today. Today I am grateful for finding all of the border pieces on a 1,000-piece puzzle I am working on and mustering the courage to get on my daughter's horse for the first time ever.

As we prepare to move forward with our distance learning there are some things I wanted to share with all of you prior to kicking things off on April 1. Most importantly, Broadway Middle School and Seaside High School have set these goals as our priorities for our school community for the remainder of the year:

Goals for the remainder of the school year

- 1. To maintain connections with students and support their social and emotional health.
- 2. To perpetuate and solidify our sense of school community.
- 3. Support students academically to make progress towards graduation.

Before outlining some answers to what this looks like and answering the most frequently asked questions I wanted to share some things with you to consider as we navigate this together.

Your teachers teach because we all want to have a positive impact on your future and help you realize success in your life. Remember, this is new to all of your teachers and administrators as well. We are going to be learning a lot together as we work alongside you. None of us (students, parents, and teachers) have prepared for these circumstances.

All of us will do the very best that we can. Your school staff is here to be partners with you and your family during this time. Patience and grace will go a long way as we work through this together. If there is a challenge, please communicate directly



Katherine Lacaze
Seaside High School principal Jeff Roberts.

with your teacher or building administrator.

Again, be assured that we all want the best for you, airing grievances on social media isn't effective, so please reach out directly to a teacher or building administrator for help. It's OK to be frustrated, angry, and upset at times. Reach out to one of us to see if we can help. And finally, stay in touch with each other — frequently. Check in with classmates or teachers to offer or ask for help or just to say hello. No one at school is going to tell you to put your phone away.

The following are guidelines and expectations for distance learning:

Distance learning guidelines and expectations

It is NOT an expectation that students follow the same daily schedule as if they were physically in class. Students should establish a routine that works for them and their family. Academic work will be available to students on April 1.

Students should check their school email daily for updates from teachers and staff.

For students that don't have

access to technology: we will make contact with you to determine how we get materials in your hands.

All students should join the Google classrooms they have been invited to by their teachers. A master list of teachers, "office" hours, contact information, and Google classroom codes will be sent to all students and parents and posted on the Broadway Middle School and Seaside High School websites.

Students should take advantage of "live" lessons that are presented online by their teachers but will not be required to be in attendance; we will work towards recording and posting all "live" lessons to the respective Google classroom sites for replay purposes.

All middle school grades will be pass/fail for the remainder of the year and that standard will be communicated clearly to all students from teachers. There will not be elective coursework for middle school students.

Teachers will set due dates for assignments and projects. If a student is unable to meet those due dates they must communicate with their teacher prior to that due date.

Our outreach team is working on a plan to make sure we serve all students to the best of our ability.

If students still need access to technology (e.g., checking out a ChromeBook) they will need to coordinate to pick up by the end of the day Tuesday because our buildings will be closed. Contacts are as follows:

Broadway Middle School: Steve Sherren, assistant principal, ssherren@seasidek12.org.

Seaside High School: Jason Boyd, assistant principal, jboyd@seasidek12.org.

We miss you all and look forward to kicking this adventure off with you this week.

Regards,

Principal Jeff Roberts and all of the Broadway Middle School and Seaside High School staff