

Grants: Applications available through Monday

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The city will use \$250,000 from business license funds to provide grants of up to \$4,000 to businesses that have suffered economic harm from government restrictions during the pandemic. Funding applications are available online through Monday. After the city approved a relief package for local busi-

nesses and residents April 6, Leahy and Josh Heineman, Seaside director of tourism marketing, developed an application and screening process. “With this relief program, the city is trying to help in ways as comprehensive and realistic as possible given the tools available to us,” Heineman said. Applicants will be asked for business start date, number of employees and how

their employment situation has changed since March 15. A city business license and registration with the state are required. The program will be administered similarly to the city’s annual tourism grant program, Heineman said. The Visitors Bureau hosts the page, facilitates an advisory review board and ensures funds are disbursed correctly. Grant announcements

will take place at the April 27 City Council meeting, Assistant City Manager Jon Rahl said. Applicants will be notified of the final status of their request, along with a check for any approved funding, by May 1. The maximum relief grant award of \$4,000 can “make the difference” for many small businesses, Leahy said. “This adds some liquidity to their bank account.”

Memorial: Formal dedication set for September

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“We still have money coming in,” Hansen said. Hansen teamed with John Alto, Ky Jennings and others throughout the community to lead the fundraising effort and make sure each of Seaside’s Vietnam veterans received recognition. “My class had 16 who went to Vietnam, who enlisted or were drafted, which I think is the most,” Jennings said. “This memo-

rial is to acknowledge all of them with respect and to welcome them home.” Hansen said the key to getting the monument funded and installed so quickly was “keeping it simple.” “We probably would have never gotten it built if we had a committee,” he said. The city cleared the spot for the monument, Jennings said. The foundation was donated by Daryl Gosser

Concrete Construction. The granite was made, delivered and installed by O.M. Stone Co. in Hillsboro. With the city closed to visitors during the coronavirus pandemic, organizers delayed the formal dedication to September. Seltzer Park, on the east side of Sunset Boulevard in the Cove, was chosen for its historical connection to the community, view of the beach and accessibility to visitors.

“We really want to thank the donors,” Hansen said. “This thing wouldn’t have come together without them. We basically had a little pipe dream, we did it, and it all came to fruition.” Hansen said he anticipates the monument will provide a lasting legacy. “This has got everything on there you need to know about what happened at Seaside High School in terms of people that were in the military in Vietnam,” he said.

Connect: Preschools, daycare centers have stepped up

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For Crystal Neher’s son Dashel, staying virtually connected to his friends has become part of his routine. Twice per week, Dashel video chats with a friend who moved to Washington state about three years ago but he still sees somewhat regularly. The friend is teaching Dashel how to solve a Rubik’s cube. Then, Neher added, “Dashel can teach him some Boy Scout knots.” Allison Abbott, of Cannon Beach, has been simultaneously working and home-schooling her two young children — 5-year-old Odin and 3-year-old Maddox. She created a game involving colors, numbers and letters.

“Odin wrote letters and numbers on different colors of butcher paper, then we posted each piece throughout the house,” she said. “I call out a color or a number or a letter and they run to it.” She especially enjoys it when the kids decide “to take it upon themselves to name out different destinations.” “Learning is fun,” she said.

Evolving services For other parents and guardians, it is taking time to adjust to the new normal and figure out what to do with their kids all day. Local preschools and daycare centers have stepped up to help. “Truthfully, parents struggle to connect with their kids,” Owen said.

For the Learning Ladder Preschool, she and other teachers put together optional packets for families to pick up. The packets include very little curriculum, such as a few songs to learn, craft ideas and a calendar. “We wanted to provide what we would be doing and what we’re working toward with our kids,” she said, adding they also have connected with families who are struggling with the adjustment to find out what guidance they need.

Teachers at Charis Kids in Cannon Beach also put together educational videos for their roughly two dozen preschoolers and offered parents curriculum to use at home if they want. However, according to Jack Bello, the preschool’s director, they haven’t heard much from parents seeking guidance or educational resources or asking when they plan to resume caregiving services.

“There’s just a general feeling that everything’s closed,” he said, adding parents seem to understand “that no one is open, and they’re waiting this thing out until everyone can reopen again.”

Look ahead On the other hand, not all parents are able to work



Crystal Neher

Dashel Neher video chats with his friend in Washington state, which is one of the activities that’s part of his regular routine while being at home. Families throughout Clatsop County are adjusting to the new norm and exploring activities to fill their time while social distancing.

from home or spend extra time with their kids as they continue working “essential” jobs as first responders, healthcare professionals and grocery store associates, to name a few. As of Monday, the recreation district is open to assist the community’s essential workers, including those employed at Columbia Memorial Hospital, Provi-

dence Seaside Hospital, the U.S. Coast Guard, local law enforcement and emergency services. They can provide care to eight children who are six weeks to 30 months old and an additional nine children ages 31 months to 5 years old. Bello said that option is also on their radar, but there are no definitive numbers yet about who would need



Shirley Smith-Yates

Cars lined up near Suzanne Elise Assisted Living facility Saturday as part of a parade recognizing health care workers and responders.

Vehicle parade offers salute to first responders

Seaside Signal

Cars lined up Saturday along Shore Terrace near Suzanne Elise Assisted Living in Seaside.

Their message: a display of support to health care workers and fire responders. More than 20 vehicles lined up to honk horns, hold up signs and display balloons.

Nurses and staff “were all smiles,” waving and appreciative, said Shirley Smith Yates, one the pas-

tors serving the assisted living facility. Smith-Yates said early on, the facility had to discourage the potential spread of coronavirus. “It felt good to say in some small way how we appreciate all our first responders do and the caregivers at the hospital and our care facilities,” Smith-Yates said. “Also, I wanted to make sure those who live at the facilities know that we haven’t forgotten them.”

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