

Batting facility to break ground Monday

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

A groundbreaking ceremony for an indoor training facility at Broadway Park takes place Monday at 9 a.m., Seaside School District head softball coach Jessica Garrigues said this week.

In March, Skyler Archibald, executive director of the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District district, and Chris Corder of Seaside Kids Inc., received city approval for the facility for youth and high school athletes to hit year-round.

The building, on city-owned land, will be used for

baseball, softball, football and soccer events, providing space for a concession stand, restrooms and storage. Access to the facility will be from Broadway.

Seaside High School students Kandice Flagg, Cash Corder and Jarred White are helping with the building process for their Pacifica projects, Garrigues said.

The project is managed by volunteers, with current funding of \$173,500. Total cost is anticipated to be \$244,000.

More than 300 Seaside Kids and 30 youth teams, from T-ball through high school, will have an opportunity to train in the facility.



Work has begun at Broadway Field on a new batting facility. An official groundbreaking ceremony takes place Monday.

Cafe: A social headquarters for locals

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“I called John at home and said the building’s for sale, I want it,” Lisa Allen said. “I had always dreamt of having a place people could walk to and ride their bikes to, have dessert, have a meal.”

The Allens opened their restaurant in 1988.

“We didn’t have table service in the beginning,” Lisa Allen said. “We had numbers people took and we delivered to the table. We had a 6-foot long dessert case, a deli case — the format was completely different.”

Eventually, the cafe began serving lunch, dinner and hiring their first chef, Gretchen Day. “It just grew from there,” Lisa Allen said. “The community, the locals really loved it.”

The Allens made local headlines in the late 1980s and early ’90s when Gearhart’s City Council moved to shut the cafe down, citing zoning rules that prohibited eating and drinking estab-



Some residents opposed operation of a downtown restaurant and sought its closure, here chronicled as it raged in 1989.

lishments in the downtown commercial district.

The Allens fought back in the courts and won, enabling the cafe to thrive for the next three decades. In those years, the cafe received write-ups in The Oregonian, Food & Wine, Saveur and other pub-

lications for their Pacific Northwest cuisine served with a French flair.

When the neighboring building, which housed the post office, became available, the Allens expanded and began serving pastries and coffee to crowds that would

line up before 7 a.m. for freshly baked marionberry scones, apple turnovers and veggie tarts.

The cafe became a social headquarters for locals, with visitors and regulars alike engaged in conversation and issues of the day.

The pandemic brought all that to a halt.

The cafe’s business plan is no longer sustainable, John Allen said. “We’re in the same situation practically all other restaurateurs are in right now — and I don’t see anything that’s going to change that.”

The Allens plan on reopening the bakery in a different format, serving baked goods, sandwiches and grocery items on a takeout basis. They hope to reopen for business in June.

“It’s heartbreaking to see it end,” Lisa Allen said. “But it can’t go on.”

“This has been pretty tough,” John Allen said. “Thirty-two years and the whole thing disappeared overnight.”

High school injury leads to kinesiology degree

Seaside Signal

Emma Hassan, a graduate of the Seaside High School class of 2013, earned her degree as doctor of physical therapy from the esteemed College of Health Sciences at Des Moines University in

Des Moines, Iowa.

In her freshman year at Seaside High School, an accident resulted in Emma tearing her ACL. The silver lining of that painful injury and physical rehabilitation was an introduction to physical therapy and a nascent interest in kinesiology.



Emma Hassan

Seaside’s Hague named to all-state first team

By GARY HENLEY
Seaside Signal

Clatsop County had a pair of first team all-state selections, with the release of the class 4A all-state basketball teams, announced in April.

Seaside senior Ryan Hague made the first team all-state boys team and Hague was co-Player of the Year in Cowapa League boys basketball, along with Banks senior Jacob Slifka, who was also a first team all-state selection.

Astoria senior Brooklynn Hankwitz was one of five players on the girls 4A first team, and Hankwitz was voted as Player of the Year in the Cowapa League and this week signed a letter-of-intent to play next season at Linn-Benton Community College.

She was joined on the first team by North Marion’s Katie Ensign (Sr.), Hidden Valley’s Kaiah Fisher (Jr.), Philomath sophomore Sage Kramer, and Baker’s Sydney Younger (Sr.).

Bart Pollard of Marist was the boys Coach of the Year, and Philomath’s Ben Silva was named girls Coach of the Year.

All-State Boys

Coach of the Year: Bart Pollard, Marist.

First Team: Ryan Hague, Sr., Seaside Sergio Jimenez, Sr., North Marion Matthew Neubert, Sr., Henley Jacob



Seaside’s Ryan Hague challenges the big front line of Gladstone in the state playoff game.

Slifka, Sr., Banks Nick Stice, Sr., Marist.

Second Team: Jude Ashpole, Jr., Gladstone Caden Long, Sr., Baker Michael Lundy, Jr., Philomath Jeovanny Marroquin, Jr., Woodburn Carson Molan, Jr., Cascade.

Honorable Mention: Jacob Cook, Jr., Klamath Union Jarred Evans, Sr., Banks Darius Hall, Sr., Henley Ethan Hutsell, Sr., Phoenix Ben

Morehouse, Jr., Marist.

All-State Girls

Coach of the Year: Ben Silva, Philomath.

First Team: Katie Ensign, Sr., North Marion Kaiah Fisher, Jr., Hidden Valley Brooklynn Hankwitz, Sr., Astoria Sage Kramer, So., Philomath Sydney Younger, Sr., Baker.

Second Team: Cam-

ryn Collman, Jr., La Grande Matty Ladd, Jr., Cottage Grove Josie Napoli, Jr., Valley Catholic K.J. Nyquist, Sr., Stayton Emma Pankalla, Sr., Philomath.

Honorable Mention: Ella Dunlap, Jr., La Grande Mya Hammack, Jr., North Marion Teryn Powers, So., Hidden Valley Mia Rust, Jr., Philomath Jiana Smith-Francis, Sr., Madras.

City forgoes downtown tax increase

Money for downtown maintenance

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

It’s not a good time for a tax increase, downtown business owners told the Seaside City Council Monday, April 27. Council members agreed.

They voted to forgo a 5% tax increase to pay for sidewalk cleanup, litter pickup and maintenance in the downtown core.

“We know this is a tough time, but we have a responsibility to make sure we can continue to maintain the services that this district brings, the sweeping contract and care of the downtown gardens,” City Manager Mark Winstanley said in proposing the hike.

The city pays two contractors about \$97,600 a year to sweep and take care of city gardens in the downtown maintenance district, an area bordered from east to west by U.S. Highway 101 and the Prom and from north to south from First Avenue to Avenue B.

The proposed increase would have raised the cost to property owners to \$9.60 per linear foot. With the increase, the city would have collected \$102,000 two contract workers.

Terry Bichsel, chairman of the board of Best Western Hotels and Resorts and

owner of Best Western Plus Ocean View Resort and Rivertides Suites Hotel, said this is “a terrible time to do this in respect to the community.”

Bichsel urged the city to reconsider the increase. “I would ask you to go back to those contractors and see if you can just cut a better deal,” he said. “That’s what all of us are doing in the business world right now.”

While calling the district “one of the biggest assets” for the city’s downtown, business owner Jeff Ter Har asked the city to avoid the increase.

“With everything going on, every one of us in our business is finding ways to cut down and go without for a year,” Ter Har said.

With contracts for next year’s sweeping and litter services already in place, the city will ask contractors to forgo “some or all” of the increase, or to alter the scope of services.

“It’s not the right time to be putting in a tax increase,” City Councilor Seth Morrisey said. “I can’t support it.”

Council members voted to continue the 2019-2020 rate of \$9.15 per linear foot.

The council will vote on the ordinance in its third and final reading at the city’s Monday meeting.

Seaside schools approve special services contract

Meeting the needs of all students

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

The Seaside School District approved participation in a regional plan to receive support from the Northwest Regional Education Service District in the upcoming school year. Services come in the form of administrative, instructional and technology assistance.

The school district’s board of directors approved the service plan during its regular meeting held remotely April 21. The plan must be approved by at least two-thirds of school districts from Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook and Washington counties under the umbrella of the regional service district.

The regional service district provides services for students with special needs, including evaluation to help design individualized education plans, Superintendent Sheila Roley said. They provide internet infrastructure for school districts within the region and programs in professional learning “to help our teams be current on best practices in instruction.”

The service plan for the upcoming school year includes an allocation of about \$281,000 for Clatsop County, a \$25,000 increase over the \$256,000 allocated in 2019-20. The allocation is based on regional student population. Individual school districts within the county do not receive a specific allocation.

Seaside will also receive \$572,000 in service credits, dollars from the state’s school fund allocation that flow through the regional service district, according to the regional service dis-

trict’s chief financial officer Tami Montague. This is a \$62,000 increase over the 2019-20 service credit allocation of \$510,000. Each school district allocation is put in an “agency fund,” Montague added, and can be used to purchase services from the service district.

Twenty school districts, including Seaside, participate in the regional service district programs to ensure students have access to early learning, professional educators and special education opportunities.

Fourteen staff members provide school-age special education support in Seaside, some of which also support other Clatsop County districts. Among positions are a school psychologist, occupational, physical therapists and a teacher that works with hearing-impaired students.

According to the annual report presented at the school board meeting, the service district completes an average of five early intervention and early childhood special education evaluations monthly, with an average of 60 Seaside children active in those programs.

Last year, Seaside had 113 students participate in the service district’s outdoor science school, a multiday, overnight experience where elementary and middle school students get learn in the outdoors while participating in hands-on, interactive and experiential activities that are taught mostly in small groups at one of five sites in northwest Oregon. Seaside students regularly attend the Cedar Ridge site near Vernonia.

This year, about 110 students were scheduled to attend outdoor science school in March, but the program was canceled because of COVID-19.