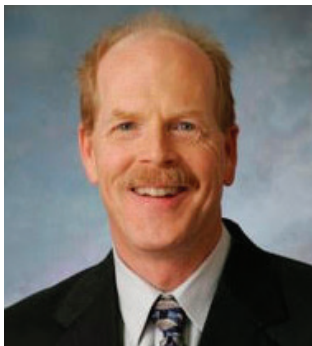




Stelson to leave school board

By KATHERINE LACAZE
Seaside Signal



Hugh Stelson

After serving on the Seaside School Board for nearly two terms, Hugh Stelson resigned Oct. 21 to accommodate his increasing out-of-state travel and pass the seat to another, more accessible community member.

"When I ran for my second term, I really didn't know I would be leaving the community on a regular basis," Stelson said.

In retirement, he added, he's been spending several months at a time in Arizona. "If we could find someone whose eyes and ears are in the community, that would be preferable."

Stelson started his board position more than seven years ago. A couple of the district's major accomplishments during that time include getting the new cam-

pus built on Spruce Drive and hiring Susan Penrod to serve as assistant superintendent for the 2019-2020 school year and take over as superintendent this school year. Stelson described hiring a superintendent as "the most important thing a school board can do."

"I think we made a good choice," he added.

This year has presented an unprecedented challenge

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'Rules of decorum' approved as board addresses policies

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Three minutes to speak, once during a meeting. Speakers shall use civil and courteous language. Insults, profanity or vulgar language are not allowed. Comments, questions or jeering from the audience are not allowed.

These are among the new guidelines for those speaking during public comment periods at meetings of the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District.

Last Tuesday, the board of directors approved the public rules of decorum, along with a community commitment improving the

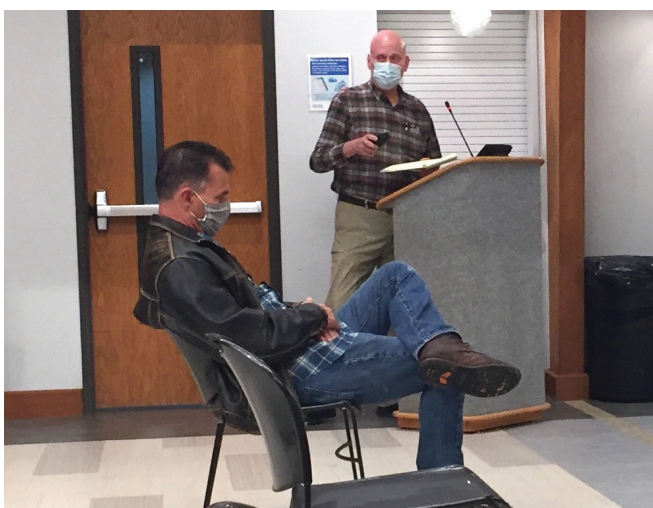
board's self-governance and to provide transparency in board policies and practices.

The public comment rules were developed after a series of board work sessions designed to consider public and staff complaints and to analyze how feedback is delivered.

At a work session earlier this month, board members said while the district welcomed public comment, there had been some "serious issues" involving personal attacks, threats directed the members of the board, park district staff or members of the public.

The public comment rules of decorum are

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R.J. Marx

John Huismann, at lectern, and Patrick Duhachek, both object to the purchase of Broadway Middle School by the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District.

Pushback as critics oppose middle school purchase

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

A small but vocal group of residents came to the Bob Chisholm Community Center last Tuesday to show opposition to a purchase of Broadway Middle School.

Speakers reacted to the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District's purchase

of the property, vacant after the school district moved the campus to a new location on Spruce Drive outside the tsunami inundation zone. Board members approved the process after a previous board had rejected a potential purchase in June.

"Why are people just now receiving information on the survey for their opinions if the purchase is already in the works?" Lindsey Morrison, a former member of the

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FALL FUN FEST!



Photos by Katherine Lacaze/For Seaside Signal

During Fall Fun Fest on Oct. 24, participants young and old took part in the cake walk, one of the long-standing traditions of the event.

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District's Fall Fun Fest looked a little different this year. Instead of taking place at the Bob Chisholm Community Center, it was held Saturday at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center, which gave families "the space to have some fun safely," according to Director of Marketing Promotions and Special Events Melissa Ousley.

Face masks were mixed in among costume masks and each person had their temperature taken before being admitted to the event. Booth attendants used gloves and grabbers shaped like skeleton arms to distribute candy and prizes from a distance.

These various precautions enabled the recreation district to still offer one of its most beloved annual traditions despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's a very special event," Ousley said, recalling how she used to attend with her children who are now in their teens. "We've got some very nice feed-



Entrance was staggered throughout the afternoon during the Fall Fun Fest to make sure the Seaside Civic and Convention Center's 100-person capacity wasn't breached and to allow for better social distancing.

back, folks saying they were happy to have a seasonal event."

This year's festival included many of the staples, including a cake walk and carnival games run by staff members and a few volunteers from Seaside High School's Key Club. Additionally, the Seaside Public Library and Wildlife Center of the North Coast had booths for handing out books and informational coloring pages about spooky sea creatures, in addition to candy.

"I have a lot of passion for both those groups," Ousley said.

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Children dressed up and took part in a variety of carnival-style games during Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District's Fall Fun Fest on Oct. 24.

Pacific Ridge librarian receives state honor

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

More than 12,000 books and library materials made the move from Gearhart Elementary School to the new Pacific Ridge Elementary School on Spruce Drive, part of the district's efforts to relocate students to a campus outside of the tsunami inundation zone.

Librarian Laura Stewart guided the library's effort, and this month, she won a state award for her work, earning the Oregon Association of School Librarians award, Library Paraprofessional of the Year 2020 award.

As full-time librarians in the state are cut from city and school payrolls, paraprofessionals like Stewart are asked to step up into positions left vacant.

"I was surprised and very honored to receive this recognition in a year that has been filled with challenges every day, in every facet of our lives," Stewart said. "It was a bright surprise to receive this news."

Stewart and her husband, Jay Stewart, owned a potter gift shop, House of the Potter Inc., in Cannon Beach, for 34 years. Her husband died in 2011. She closed the store in 2013, deciding it was time to make changes in her life.

Stewart considered leaving the North Coast to live closer to her children, but in October 2013 a position opened up at Seaside Heights Elementary as a Title I aide.

"My plan was to sell my house and decide what I wanted to do with the rest of my life," Stewart said. "But

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Chapter FE, PEO Astoria

Pacific Ridge Elementary School librarian Laura Stewart.

