

Cleanups ongoing as Mill Ponds see progress



By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Cleanups at the Mill Ponds in Seaside continued through last weekend as volunteers braved extended rain, and muddy, rutted trails to pick up trash from makeshift encampments.

The cleanups began over a year ago to clean up the Mill Ponds, the 26.5-acre park which goes from the Mill Pond to Neawanna Point.

Originally organized last year by Seaside's Jesse Anderson and Brady Chan-

der, 17 volunteers showed up Saturday morning to gather trash piled high in encampments.

Chandler began distributing free trash bags late last year to those living in the woods and provided a drop-off location for pickup.

"It's nice because I'm finally getting through to a lot of these people," he said. "They're starting to police themselves better, they're starting to clean up their spots. It's exciting. A lot of them are starting to appreciate what we're doing. Just having the ability to come to a fresh clean spot, it's way

safer for them to come and start their camp and not have to worry about feces, garbage and glass."

Another cleanup is planned this weekend and Chandler hopes to make them regular and more frequent.

He said he sees the cleanups as an ongoing process, at least until housing alternatives can be found for those living in the woods.

"Right now, allowing them to be out here and to avoid and evade treatment is causing a lot of others issues I can't really resolve," Chandler said.



Top, site littered with garbage before last Saturday's cleanup at the Mill Ponds, and below, afterward.

OBITUARIES

Vance (Butchie) Alan Hensala

Troy, Texas
Oct. 16, 1950 — Jan. 25, 2021

Vance (Butchie) Alan Hensala, 70, passed away on Jan. 25, 2021, at his home in Troy, Texas, surrounded by his family and friends.

Vance was born in Seaside on Oct. 16, 1950, to Alfred and Eula Hensala. He attended Seaside schools and graduated from Seaside High School in 1968. During high school, he and friends started a band they called Crystal Green, later called Fox, where he played lead guitar.

They played for several school events, even winning second place in a local battle of the bands contest. A band member, Peter Ter Har, recalls: "We had the amazing opportunity to open for rock-n-roll band, The Spiral Starecase." He enjoyed playing and listening to music all his life.

In addition to playing music, he learned how to drive log trucks, and was especially thankful to Dan Hess Ltd. and Howard B. Johnson Logging Companies for helping him acquire his truck driving skills. Unfortunately, the logging industry suffered a setback, and he instead worked in custodial and maintenance for the Seaside School District beginning in the 1970s.

He never lost the desire to someday drive a truck, and fulfilled that dream, successfully driving for 33 years with no at-fault accidents. He was a lifetime member of the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association. He earned the Driver of the Month Award twice, in January and March 2013, and a retirement award from the Army & Air Force Exchange Service in December 2013.

In between those driving years, he moved

to Texas, tracing his roots to where his mother grew up. It was in Texas where he met the love of his life, Cheryl, in February 2000, and later marrying on March 3, 2001. Cheryl says, "he was a very humble man. He believed in working for everything he got. He thoroughly enjoyed his life as a truck driver. He loved being able to see the country and meeting all types of people."

Some of Vance's hobbies were elk and deer hunting, cutting wood, farming and gun collecting. He was a member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Oregon Hunters Association and the National Rifle Association. He enjoyed taking care of their ranch in Moody, Texas, and visiting their vacation home in Colorado. He liked anything western, attending truck and gun shows, logging shows and sitting and talking with friends and family.

He cultivated his skills of making people laugh. He was a true friend, pure gold, and was always concerned with the needs of other people.

Left to cherish his memory is his beloved wife, Cheryl, of Troy, and his three stepchildren, Christy Beaird, of Troy, Marcus DePriest, of Killeen, Texas, and Mary Murphy, of Belton, Texas. He is also survived by seven grandchildren, Tyler and Braiden Pratt, of Temple, Texas, Gracie Pratt and Madelynn Beaird, of Troy, Remy and Declan DePriest, of Colorado, and Payten Troast, of Belton.

Graveside services will be held at Ocean View Cemetery on Friday at 3 p.m.

Please visit www.hughesransom.com to leave messages of condolence.



James Franklin Furnish

Gearhart
Sept. 8, 1950 — Jan. 30, 2021

James "Jim" Franklin Furnish passed from this world on Jan. 30, 2021, in Gearhart, surrounded by family.

He was born in Portland on Sept. 8, 1950, and came to the North Coast when the family moved permanently to Gearhart in 1959.

A bright and eloquent raconteur, he became an encyclopedia of North Coast history and knew stories he was happy to share with anyone interested. Many people did listen, and knew they were hearing or reading the real stuff.

Jim graduated from Seaside High School in 1968 and went on to work as a commercial fisherman and clammer extraordinaire; he herded cattle and sheep on the family ranch outside of Pilot Rock and worked as a drug and alcohol counselor in Astoria, something he was proud of.

Perhaps his favorite job, after fishing,



was the years he spent as a fixture at Bell Buoy in Seaside.

He is survived by his children, James and Hylah Furnish, who were born in Astoria; his granddaughter, Emelia; his brother, Jeff; his sisters, Myra Lee and Laura Furnish Stewart; and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins all over the world. He is also survived by a legion of friends and compadres, some of whom called him "Mr. Gearhart," and will continue to do so.

A public celebration of Jim's life will be held as the coronavirus pandemic and weather allow.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the American Cancer Society or an account being created at U.S. Bank to fund a Jim Furnish memorial bench in Gearhart. You can also donate to the North Coast Land Conservancy or a charity of your choice.

PUBLIC SAFETY LOG



Jan. 22

1:16 a.m., N. Prom: Police speak with a subject who hotel employees say is making guests uncomfortable. Subject agrees to move along.

6:29 a.m., Chamber restrooms: A transient man sleeping in front of the bathroom doors and blocking access is advised to move along.

Jan. 23

1:13 a.m., 700 block Tenth Avenue: Structure fire.

2:42 p.m., Shore Terrace and Wahanna: Caller reports a person walking a horse down a city street. Police contact horse and owner who advises a trailer is on the way to pick them up.

Jan. 24

3:54 p.m., 1200 block S. Holladay: Caller reports a man with duct tape across his mouth banging on the wall at the side of a business. Subject recently displayed similar behavior earlier at police headquarters. The subject advised his duct tape was his COVID mask. He agreed to move along.

Jan. 25

2:32 p.m., 900 block Avenue S:

Property crimes are reported.

Jan. 26

5:44 a.m., Post Office: A transient sleeping and blocking the entrance to the post office is advised to move along.

8:52 a.m., Peter Iredale Road: A park ranger locates a reported stolen vehicle.

4:52 p.m., 400 block Third Avenue: A disturbance is reported.

Jan. 27

12:02 a.m., 2100 block S. Edgewood: Suspicious circumstances are reported.

5:20 a.m., Holladay and Avenue G: A person is cited for careless driving.

8:05 a.m., Cooper and Huckleberry: Police and other agencies on scene at the scene of a crash.

10:35 p.m., 700 block S. Wahanna: Police respond to a report of someone causing a disturbance at the hospital. Police stood by while patient waited for a cab and left the premises.

Jan. 29

2:52 a.m., City Hall: A transient on the property was advised to move along.

1:55 p.m., Subway parking area: A person is arrested and charged with possession of heroin.

8:39 p.m., Ocean Shore: Gun-

shots or fireworks are reported. Police canvass the area with negative results.



Jan. 22

11:31 a.m., 400 block N. Holladay: Fire investigation.

2:19 p.m., 1200 block S. Wahanna: Emergency medical response.

8:08 p.m., 3000 block Sunset Boulevard: Emergency medical response.

Jan. 23

2:01 p.m., Indian Beach: Water rescue.

Jan. 24

Fire: 1:34 p.m., Avenue A and Beach: Fire investigation

Jan. 25

10:48 a.m., 1300 block N. Holladay: Emergency medical response.

Jan. 27

2:45 a.m., 300 block Fifth Avenue: Emergency medical response.

7:08 a.m., U.S. Highway 103 and U.S. Highway 202: Water rescue as vehicle veers off roadway into river.

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