

**SignalViewpoints**

# Donation buoys spay and neuter shop

**SEEN FROM SEASIDE**

R.J. MARX



Two donations totaling \$9,000 to the Spay and Neuter Thrift Store in Seaside will offset a year of losses because of the coronavirus pandemic.

“This covers much of our COVID losses and also helps us install a much-needed water heater,” Patti Rouse, the store’s president, said. “We are so thankful for those who are remembering us in their estates, and with their donations.”

More than 800 dogs and cats benefited from the thrift store’s contributions in 2020. The shop provides owners \$50 vouchers for a surgery bill for cats and \$70 for dogs, to be redeemed for services at any veterinarian in Clatsop County. There is no limit to the number of animals per owner that may receive vouchers.

Last year, the pandemic all but shut down the shop, with limited revenue as a result and a drop in donations.

In November, the shop gave out \$3,150 in coupons. Despite good sales, it saw a loss of almost \$500. In December, the shop distributed almost \$5,000, but the loss after expenses was \$2,374. In January the shop gave out \$1,870 in coupons, with a loss of \$120.

“Our landlords forgave half the rent for two months, which was an amazing help,” Rouse said. “Then we reopened, but with less than half of our previous hours. Most volunteers were not wanting exposure to



R.J. Marx

**Spay and Neuter Thrift Store volunteers Patti Rouse, Jan Benfield and Annie Berge.**

customers. The few who were comfortable asked we have two-hour shifts since masks are required.”

Meanwhile, the need to spay and neuter pets continued, as well as cash donations to the South County Food Bank and the Clatsop County animal shelter.

“We give \$300 a month to the food bank for pet food,” Rouse said. “We give \$500 a month to the Clatsop County shelter to help

them pay for spaying and neutering.”

The shop also gives \$300 a month to the River Song Foundation, a group based in the county that spays and neuters feral cats, among other animal assistance programs.

“We are only open six hours a week, and we’re giving out over \$5,000 a month in coupons to spay and neuter your pets,” Rouse said. “To make that money up is huge.”

Volunteers process donations, clean, sort and haul things to Goodwill. Some volunteer just one day a week, Rouse said. “Our shifts are about three hours,” she said. “We are always looking for volunteers.”

So far this year, 185 animals have been spayed or neutered, Rouse said. The shop is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from noon to 2 p.m., and will open Fridays from noon to 2 p.m. starting March 26.

## Time for spring whale watching on the coast

**SEASIDE AQUARIUM**

WENDI AGALZOFF



Are you ready to catch a glimpse of a gray whale? A peek at a mottled gray dorsal hump or a glimpse of the 10-foot tale fluke as they dive back under the ocean surface? You are in luck, because March marks the beginning of gray whale watching season for our beloved Oregon Coast.

While approximately 200 resident gray whales live nearly year-round in Oregon’s coastal waters, a majestic parade of 18,000 migrating whales will swim past our coastline in small groups or individuals as the species moves northward to their summer feeding grounds along the British Columbia and Alas-

kan coasts. Preferring shallow waters, these baleen whales are able to filter food in a variety of ways. They are the only whale that filters mud by sucking sediment off the sea floor and consuming small invertebrates such as amphipods and zooplankton, but they are also able to eat small shrimp from the water column.

These mighty marine mammals grow to be 49 feet long, over 80,000 pounds and have an estimated lifespan of over 70 years. Calves are born after 12 months of gestation in the warmer waters of Mexico and will not reach reproductive maturity until over 6 years of age. Like many baleen whales, long-term bonds between individuals are uncommon.

Gray whales annually migrate 10,000 miles and are one of the longest migrating mammals on the planet. As they swim, whales will surface every 20 seconds and

will blow a spout of water nearly 15 feet into the air for about five seconds before they take another breath to submerge again. If feeding or frightened, whales can stay down for 30 minutes before they surface to replenish their oxygen.

There are 24 spectacular sites to whale watch along the coast of Oregon, but Ecola State Park and Neah-Kah-Nie Mountain are the best local options. Researchers have estimated that nearly six gray whales per hour can be seen during the northern migration. For best whale watching results, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife experts suggest picking a calm morning and practice good binocular technique, “Gaze out onto the ocean, focusing on medium distances until you see a puff of white. Then raise your binoculars while continuing to look at the place you saw the blow.”



Tiffany Boothe/Seaside Aquarium

**Individual whales can be identified by unique markings, especially on their tails. Scientists use pictures to identify and track individual whales.**

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Trump administration responsible for ‘irreparable damage’**

Congress has finally passed legislation to provide much needed and long awaited assistance that Americans have been desperately waiting for since last year. Not one Republican voted for this legislation. Not one.

This disaster exists because the Trump administration and its supporters chose to do nothing

and allow it to happen. Nearly 30 million Americans have been and/or are sick and nearly 550,000 Americans dead.

Additionally, each state and the country as a whole is struggling to vaccinate the population and keep the number of cases and deaths not just contained, but from increasing.

This is significant and must be at the forefront of all discussion regarding Republicans. What exactly are their priorities? Why

do they care so little not only about the people they supposedly represent, but also this country as a whole?

If Republicans want to walk out of their jobs, want to support secession, want to violate the oaths they took to uphold the Constitution and the laws of this country, and most of all want to endlessly betray the people of this country by doing nothing but obstruct any and all legislation that does not serve them person-

ally and financially, they need to go.

This country is going to be forever changed by the irreparable damage done by the Trump administration and every Republican who supported it.

It is beyond time for this country to get rid of the Republicans responsible for destroying this country by any and all means possible.

**Christina Buck  
Seaside**

**A thank you to health care workers**

I want to extend a huge thank you to the health care workers and staff at Coastal Family Healthcare, who volunteered their time on Sunday so that I, along with many others, could get the Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccination.

Thank you and bless you for the important work you do.

**Marti Waje  
Seaside**

**BRIEFS**

**Windermere gives to coastal charities**

Through the Windermere Foundation, Windermere Realty Trust gave a total of \$244,670 was given to charities in the Portland metropolitan area that support low-income children and families in 2020.

The \$244,670 in donations from the Windermere Foundation benefited the following charities through-

out the Portland-metropolitan area and the northern Oregon coast: Oregon Food Bank, St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together Portland, Food 4 Kids Seaside Oregon, Sherwood Helping Hands, The Autism Society of Oregon, Raphael House of Portland, Sunshine Division, and Portland Shed, among many others.

In lieu of its annual com-

munity service day, Windermere hosted a Neighbors in Need fundraiser to immediately help food banks whose operations, and the people they serve, were heavily impacted by the pandemic. In just 13 days, realtors with Windermere, including those throughout the Portland metropolitan area, raised nearly \$170,000 for approximately 50 food banks across Oregon and southwest Washington.

**Volunteers needed for Day of Caring**

The United Way of Clatsop County is calling for volunteers to sign up for Day of Caring from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 17. Volunteers will receive water and a light lunch; social distancing and mask wearing will be observed. The event takes place at three locations:

- Hilltop Apartments, Niagara Avenue between

11th and 12th Streets, 30 volunteers needed. Project includes planting flowers and trees, gardening, yard maintenance, sign installation and other landscaping tasks.

• Camp Kiwanilong, 595 S.W. Ridge Road, Warrenton, 50 volunteers needed. Project includes skimming the lake to remove Styrofoam and debris, collecting storm debris and clearing trails throughout camp,

power washing docks and buildings and cabin spring cleaning.

• Seaside community gardens, 1001 to 1099 S. Irvine Place, Seaside, 30 volunteers needed. Project includes various gardening opportunities, garden box rebuilding, paver and fence installation.

For information, and to sign up, go to ClatsopUnitedWay.org and click on “Events.”

**PUBLIC MEETINGS**

Contact local agencies for latest meeting information and attendance guidelines.

**MONDAY, MARCH 22**

**Seaside City Council**, 7 p.m., cityofseaside.us.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 23**

**Seaside Airport Committee**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway, Seaside.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 30**

**Gearhart City Council**, 6 p.m., work session, cityofgearhart.com.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7**

**Gearhart City Council**, 6 p.m., work session, cityofgearhart.com.

**MONDAY, APRIL 12**

**Seaside City Council**, 7 p.m., cityofseaside.us.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 20**

**Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board of Directors**, 5:15 p.m., 1225 Avenue A.

**Seaside School District**, 6 p.m., www.seaside.k12.or.us/meetings.

**Gearhart Small Business Committee**, 6 p.m., cityofgearhart.com.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21**

**Gearhart Parks Master Plan Citizens Advisory Committee**, 5:30 p.m., work session, cityofgearhart.com.

**MONDAY, APRIL 26**

**Seaside City Council**, 7 p.m., cityofseaside.us.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 5**

**Gearhart City Council**, 6 p.m., work session, cityofgearhart.com.



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