



SEASIDE Signal

OUR 114th Year

SEASIDESIGNAL.COM

July 9, 2021 \$1.00



R.J. Marx photos

Crowds lined the streets on the Fourth for the return of the annual parade.

Gearhart residents celebrate Independence Day parade return

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

“What would the Fourth of July be without the traditional parade of kids and bikes, led by the siren-sounding Gearhart Volunteer Fire Department engine?”

So wrote historian Bill Berg, author of “Gearhart Remembered,” who died in May at the age of 82. Berg is gone, but the parade lives on. The annual event, which began as a Kid’s Day Parade on July 4, 1980, returned as the state reopens after more than a year of restrictions because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Parade watchers filled the streets early, staking out the best location to view the show, running as in years past on North Marion south to Pacific Way before turning east to the firehouse.

Just after 11 a.m., the engine gave the signal. Mayor Paulina Cockrum waved from the lead engine. The Tiki Bar, hokey-pokey dancers, and Bob McEwan and his donkey, “Pancho,” posed for a thousand pictures. Kids jostled for taffies and Tootsie Pops, sometimes fighting off their parents.

Final destination: the firehouse, where families lined up for hot dogs courtesy of Gearhart firefighters.



LEFT: The Tiki Bar is back. RIGHT: Accompanied by family, Logan found many admirers as she rode in style in the parade.



Paraders do the hokey-pokey.

A quieter Fourth of July in Seaside

Police confiscate illegal fireworks

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Seaside police reported a “relatively uneventful” July Fourth compared to years past when fireworks drew thousands to the beach.

Seaside canceled its fireworks show earlier this year because of the pandemic.

The beach was active with lots of people and with that came many illegal fireworks, Police Chief Dave Ham said.

“Additionally, there were illegal fireworks being displayed throughout the city,” Ham said. “Officers confiscated illegal fireworks when they came upon them.”

Police received 52 calls for service, including 19 fireworks complaints and three theft reports.

Traffic congestion at the end of the night was light, presumably due to no sanctioned

fireworks show, which would have tied up traffic after the show.

Seaside Fire and Rescue responded to 21 calls Sunday night, Fire Chief Joey Daniels said. There were two fireworks injuries and 10 fires.

“One deck on fire that was on the second story of a hotel that our firefighter extinguished quickly could have been really bad,” Daniels said.

See Fourth, Page A2

Seaside considers wastewater investment

New system could help city turn profit from sludge

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

A new, \$3.1 million press and drying system for Seaside’s wastewater treatment plant could increase capacity and lower costs.

The proposal was presented by Dale McDowell, the city’s public works director, and Tony Biamont, the treatment plant operator, at last Monday’s City Council meeting.

Public works is seeking a better solution for the treatment plant as the drying and processing plant has seen better days, McDowell said.

The proposal he and Biamont presented could also provide U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Class A biosolid product suitable for agriculture purposes, which the city could turn a profit from.

Class A designates dewatered and heated sewage sludge that meets the federal agency’s guidelines for land application with no restrictions.

“This stuff is super absorbent of water,” Biamont said. “It pulls the water out of the ground. It’s far better than we could have ever imagined.”

The city’s wastewater drying system faces frequent downtime, McDowell said. “The used dryer has worked great for a few years. But we’re spending more time working on it, repairing it,” he said. “Parts are no longer available and staff are struggling to keep it clean. Now it’s time to look beyond this dryer.”

The city’s Fenton Fenix dryer, purchased in 2012 when it was already 10 years old, could be sold for \$50,000 to \$60,000, because it’s very sought after, McDowell added. The dryer may have some parts that are of value to someone that has the same unit.

The system processes 365,000 gallons a week. The proposed Centrisys system does that in three days, Biamont said.

According to product specifications, the unit works using centrifugal force to push heavier particles through the liquid collected on the inner wall of the bowl. The high-speed rotation of the bowl separates the solid and liquid materials to create biosolids.

Low-temperature drying reduces potential injuries and fire hazards, McDowell said. Parts are readily available from the company, based in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

The \$3.1 million cost includes the dryer and centrifuge, Biamont said, with an additional \$300,000 to \$400,000 for construction.

After processing, the sludge can be sold for agricultural purposes. Seaside’s biosolids are so rich in nutrients that it would not require watering or nitrogen pellets to produce higher yields.

While the city doesn’t charge for biosolids now, the sewer plant has the potential to create a revenue stream, Biamont said, with customers throughout the

See Wastewater, Page A6

Take aim and throw the hatchet

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Got a yen to throw a hatchet? You can do about anything in Seaside, and now Scout Northwest Trading Co. offers the opportunity to try your target skills in their axe-cage. Located in the Seaside Outlets, that’s only one of their many features.

“We went from being an outdoor store with kayaks and paddle boards and BMX bikes and fishing poles to a BMX lifestyle store, which is what we have now, Lincoln City and here,” manager Pam

Holmes said.

The business is family-owned, with all of the clothes printed in store. “We make the decals, button patches, posters, stickers, the hats, we do the engraving on the glasses and stuff,” she said. “Ninety percent is made by family and friends.”

Scout carries products from Green State Wearables, Black Salt Co., Harney and Sons, and Pioneer Joe Coffee Co. Need a beard elixir? Try Mad Jax.

The Seaside location recreates the look and feel of Scout’s Lincoln City location, featuring T-shirts, stickers, home goods, artwork — and axe-throwing.

“They put an axe-throwing cage there and they now have people pur-

posely visiting Lincoln City just so they can do axe throwing,” Seaside Outlets’ manager Kendra Lounsbury said. “Five bucks gets you three throws, \$10 gets you 10 throws.”

Scout Northwest Trading Co. is a member and compliant with all regulations of the World Axe Throwing League. Because of limitations in size in the Seaside location, hatchets, which are smaller than axes, are the projectile of choice.

Anyone wearing a close-toed shoe who has signed a waiver can get a few throws at the target. Young people under 18 may participate as long as they are accompanied by an adult.

After you throw, consider a “Tap That Axe” T-shirt or “Kiss My Axe” sticker.



R.J. Marx

Pam Holmes, of Scout Northwest Trading Co., gives Russ Vandenberg, general manager of the Seaside Civic and Convention Center, instructions on how to throw a hatchet.



7 29467 20040 1