



SOUTH COUNTY COVID UPDATE

Hospital limits visits; church sees outbreak

Hood to Coast sets virus safety protocols ahead of race

Seaside Signal

A surge of coronavirus cases has led to a new visitor policy at Providence Seaside Hospital.

No visitors will be allowed at the hospital's adult inpatient units, behavioral health inpatient units or hospital-based outpatient and procedural areas.

Patients with positive cases of the virus or suspected of having it will not be allowed to receive visitors during their stay, except for end-of-life care.

As of Monday, the hospital reported one inpatient with the virus.

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Gearhart presents details of \$13M firehouse bond measure

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Gearhart presented details of a \$13 million bond measure last Thursday, designed to meet the needs of a firehouse project near Highlands Lane and U.S. Highway 101. If the 20-year bond is approved by voters, the firehouse could see a four- to six-month design process in 2022 with construction starting in 2023.

In a special meeting earlier this month, the City Council voted unanimously to put bond Measure 964 on the Nov. 2 ballot. Bonds would cost property owners an estimated maximum of \$1.052 per \$1,000 of assessed value per year.

On a home assessed at \$300,000, the estimated property tax increase would be about \$316, and on a home assessed at \$500,000, \$526. The city will pursue any outside funding that comes available, staff said in announcing the measure.

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Jeff Gage in front of his hangar and plane. He returned to flying two-and-a-half years ago.

Photos by R.J. Marx

Airport hangars are hot properties

Seaside airport sees increase in interest

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Airport hangars are hot properties. The aviation industry has seen an upswing in the last two years with more pilots and a seller's market for small aircraft and homebuilt kits. There continues to be interest in hangar space at Seaside, airport committee chairman Randall Henderson said. This tracks with a nationwide trend.

The Seaside airport's five hangars were constructed in 2007. They are privately owned and may be sold or rented.

The need for more space comes from an increase in usage at the airport as a result of the local uptick in real estate, the availability of real-time weather and cameras, word of mouth and an overall recent rise in the amount of general aviation hours flown, Hen-



Beacon tower at Seaside Municipal Airport.

derson said.

The results of the Airport Support Network survey, published in Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, indicated that 71% of the airports nationwide surveyed have a waiting list for their hangars, and at those airports

with a waiting list, 72% of aircraft owners waited from six months to more than two years.

Part of the demand comes from an interest in home-built kits, Henderson said. Three of the planes in the hangars, including Henderson's, are from Van's Aircraft homebuilt kits. "I built my RV-6 over a period of six years and have been flying it for 21 years now," Henderson said.

According to a release from Van's Aircraft, based in Aurora south of Portland, orders for the company's RV aircraft kits have increased nearly 250% as new builders take advantage of the latest technology and designs.

Jeff Gage, of Gearhart, keeps his plane in Seaside and goes up about once a week. "I was in high school and junior high when I started learning," Gage said. "And then I got serious about it when I was a junior in high school and got my license in college."

Gage stopped piloting in 1974 before he returned to aviation two-and-a-half years ago.

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'It's OK to be you' at new Seaside music store

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

Kelly and Cary Ray have a clear vision for their new art and music shop in downtown Seaside. For them, it is intended to be a place that uses creative self-expression and self-acceptance to promote unity, diversity and joy — or, "everything it takes for us all to get along," Kelly said.

The name of the store, ItzOk2bU, a stylized version of "It's OK to be you," encapsulates that vision. Geared toward children, the driving purpose of the establishment is "exposing young minds to the creativity of their heart and their soul," Kelly said.

The Rays, who relocated to Seaside from Seattle about three years ago, moved into their current location on Holladay Drive on June 1, but their planning started much earlier.

'A unique, personal experience'

Several years ago, as the Rays were discussing what they hoped to accomplish in retirement, art



Kelly Ray, who recently opened ItzOk2bU with her husband Cary, custom-paints ukuleles.

and music came to the forefront. Cary has frequently taught music lessons in the past, and Kelly was returning to the visual arts again after a 20-year hiatus.

"We kind of put together our heads in terms of our talents, and what we wanted to do in our lives," she said.

The couple got intentional about establishing a shop in Seaside in 2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic led to local lockdowns and business restrictions across industries.

"We basically put everything to bed for a while," Kelly said.

This summer, they embraced their dream anew. With the COVID situation evolving, business've been open for walk-in, they've been on during past two months, primarily focusing on refining their vision, stocking product and scheduling private lessons.

Although the main purpose of ItzOk2bU is not retail, there are several instruments, as well as art

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Santos named to Seaside School District board

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

Scott Santos will join the Seaside School District Board of Directors, filling the vacancy left A.J. Wahl, who stepped down in June.

Santos, a local dentist, was one of several candidates who applied for the Zone 3 position, which requires the community member reside in Gearhart. Of the six applicants, only Santos and two other applicants — local business owner Chris Corder and retired educator Chuck Mattocks — met the resident requirement.

His term will be for two years.

According to Superintendent Susan Penrod, each applicant was asked to fill out a form with questions gauging their understanding of the school board's powers and duties, as well as the authority and responsibilities of individual members, and what they perceive as the biggest challenge facing the district at this time.

Santos stated he feels the most

pressing challenge is managing the coronavirus pandemic and "ensuring the kids prosper during it all," as well as the "transportation issues regarding getting students to and from school."

"I would like to be a voice and mind for the well-being of our leaders of tomorrow," Santos stated in response to why he was interested in serving on the board. "It is important to be a part of a community that desires to make a positive environment for the students in our school system."

Board members Brian Taylor and Michelle Wunderlich, along with Penrod and executive assistant Leslie Garvin, met to discuss the candidates and present a recommendation to the board at its meeting last week.

"I think they're all great choices," Taylor said, adding the team ultimately determined Santos was "a good fit for where we're at."

The board approved the recommendation and appointed Santos to serve the remainder of Wahl's term, who was elected in May.



Scott Santos

