



# SEASIDE Signal

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## SUNSHINE AT THE FINISH LINE

### Blue skies welcome Hood to Coast runners, walkers

#### Runners celebrate achievement

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

Clouds started the morning in Seaside, but lifted as runners crossed the finish line.

"Things are going really well this morning," Hood to Coast Chief Operating Officer Dan Floyd said last Saturday morning. "The weather's beautiful. And it seems like people are really happy to rediscover being in Seaside and the North Coast."

The Hood to Coast Relay from Mount Hood brings teams of eight to 12 runners 198 miles to the finish at the beach in Seaside. The Portland to Coast Walk Relay brings teams 130 miles to Seaside.

The first team arrived at 4:48 a.m.



Photos by R.J. Marx  
**TOP: Run With the Winners consists of team members from Cleveland, Ohio. ABOVE: One of the many team vans in Seaside during Hood to Coast.**

Saturday morning, and the last was set to pull in at about 9 p.m., Floyd said.

It was pouring rain when runners from Girls Run Wild from Salt Lake City left Mount Hood 3 a.m. Friday morning.

"We left Mount Hood without seeing Mount Hood," team member Amy

Roskelley said. "And when we arrived at the ocean this morning, you couldn't see the ocean."

By mid-morning the weather changed for the better and even with a wrong turn, the team of 12 made up the time and were in Seaside by early Saturday.

The team Buffalo Shampoo left from OMSI in Portland in the PDX to Coast Walk Relay. The team of 11 walked 130 miles strumming guitars and rattling tambourines, spreading good vibes and winning the relay's congeniality award in the process.

Last year's event was canceled because of the pandemic, and with a surge of COVID cases in Oregon, health and safety protocols remained at top of mind, Floyd said.

See Hood to Coast, Page A6

## Residents challenge Gearhart firehouse bond

### Complaint filed in Circuit Court

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

Two residents who oppose the city's plans for a new firehouse have filed a complaint in Clatsop County Circuit Court asking that a bond measure on the November ballot be suspended or rewritten.

The bond measure would deliver up to \$13 million for a new firehouse off Highlands Lane. The project would replace the aging facility on Pacific Way that is vulnerable to a tsunami.

Jack Zimmerman and Harold Gable claim the ballot title and text are insufficient and vague. "To leave the proposed ballot as (is) puts all Gearhart voters at a profound disadvantage and renders (Gearhart) voters uninformed to material facts that may shape the votes and future of Gearhart," they wrote.

In the complaint filed last week, Zimmerman and Gable asked the court to suspend the bond measure until the final costs of the project are determined or order the measure be rewritten to reflect that the costs are preliminary.

A hearing is scheduled for Sept. 9. Zimmerman ran unsuccessfully for City Council in 2020 and 2018 and opposed the new firehouse as part of his campaigns.

See Firehouse, Page A3

## Park district to require employees to get vaccinated against virus

### Several virus cases have been reported

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

The Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District will require employees to receive vaccinations against the coronavirus, with the exception of those who have religious or medical exemptions.

"I understand that there's controversy around it, but it is part of our role to role-model health and well-being in our community," Celeste Bodner, the park district board's vice president, said at last Tuesday's board meeting. "All the science tells us that vaccination is the way to do that."

Implementing a vaccine requirement for staff would likely limit the spread of the virus, Skyler Archibald, the executive director of the park district, said at the meeting.

Since the start of the pandemic, about 10 park district employees have tested positive for the virus.

See Park district, Page A6

## School district zeroes in on September construction end date

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

Almost six years ago, Seaside School District voters approved a \$99.7 million bond to bring a new campus out of the tsunami inundation zone.

Plans were delivered in March 2018 and since that time hundreds of contractors, staff and consultants have endured COVID-19, labor shortages, material delays. Their work is coming to an end this fall, project manager Brian Hardebeck told the district's board of directors.

In July, crews finished exterior paint-



R.J. Marx  
**Construction at Seaside High School is expected to be complete in September.**

ing at Pacific Ridge Elementary School. They added Americans with Disabilities Act-accessible ramps, landslide mitiga-

tion buttressing and a four-way intersection at the school.

At the high school and middle school, the west parking entrance and athletic field were completed. Landscaping and maintenance projects are complete.

"Items moving forward for the remaining part of the summer will include the added gym vestibules," Hardebeck said. "They're in final design now." Drainage piping at the track, delayed by labor shortages, will be completed by Sept. 15.

BRIC Architecture is designing new vestibules at the south facing gym doors

See Construction, Page A6

## Furnish remembered, and with asteroid joins the heavens

Seaside Signal

Jim Furnish died earlier this year, but will forever be remembered not only for his life in Gearhart, but thanks to friend James Young, in the celestial skies with an asteroid named in his honor.

"This is a permanent honor," Young said. "This is not something to last for 50 years. This is going to last forever."

The asteroid is No. 313892.



Jim Furnish

Young, an astronomer, discovered the object in May 2004. Young has discovered 256 of the objects and named 40. The name has been approved by the

Committee on Small Body Nomenclature of the International Astronomical Union of the Minor Planet Center.

Furnish, a commercial fisherman, died at 70 in January.

He was described at a memorial last week at the Sons of Norway as the owner of the Hylah Ruth in Astoria. He fished from California to Alaska, and the Columbia River for salmon, tuna, crab and halibut. He



James Young, who discovered the asteroid in 2004 and named it after Jim Furnish at a ceremony in Gearhart.

was also a digger of razor clams.

He 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.

His favorite job, after fishing, was the years he spent as a fixture at Bell

## FURNISH

Named in honor of James F. Furnish (1950-2021). He was a commercial fisherman and owner of the 'Hylah Ruth' of Astoria, Oregon. He fished from California to Alaska, and the Columbia River for salmon, tuna, crab, halibut, and a digger of razor clams. A citizen of Gearhart, Oregon who actively helped with community government and school issues.

IAU

Name and citation proposed by the discoverer.

### ASTEROID 313892

2004 JF

Discovered May 8, 2004 by J. Young at the Table Mountain Observatory

IAU

August	Semimajor Axis: 2.61 AU Eccentricity: 0.23 Inclination: 13.21 degrees Diameter: 1-2 Km	2021
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Named approved by the 'Committee on Small Body Nomenclature' of the International Astronomical Union/Minor Planet Center

Asteroid 313892 is now known as "Furnish."

Buoy in Seaside.

A social media influencer, he founded the social media pages Million Friends of Gearhart and the Pacific Way Group on Facebook.

The memorial was a great opportunity to see friends of

his father, both old and new, son James Furnish said. "He would think having an asteroid named after him would be an extremely high honor, and it would probably joke that it would destroy Earth one day," he said.



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