



Lou Solitske

Karl Marlantes addresses the crowd at Saturday's dedication.

## Vietnam War memorial dedicated in Seaside

### Small town made large sacrifice

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

Veterans, their families and residents gathered last Saturday under a downpour at the Cove for the dedication of the Vietnam War Veterans Memorial in Seltzer Park.

The granite monument stands at the south edge of the park and pays homage to the 113 people from Seaside who served in the war.

"These are all veterans that went to Vietnam, and the families of veterans and families of the KIA (killed in action)," Mark Hansen, who helped organize the project, said.

Ky Jennings, the co-organizer, said he was among 17 students in the Class of 1963 to serve in the war.

"We lived in a time of peace, being post-World War II kids, and we like to say, 'it was magic,'" Jennings said. "We knew each other so well, most of us having gone through 12 years of school together when Seaside was a small town community.

Many of us are close friends 70 years later.

"When the war in Vietnam got really intense the guys were being drafted or they enlisted in various branches of the service. Out of 54 boys in my class, 17 of them were sent to Vietnam. The war was very unpopular, but they did their duty and came back to a hostile country where they were blamed and shamed. They've come through it and they deserve the respect and gratitude they needed. This is what we've given them through the memorial."

See Memorial, Page A8



R.J. Marx

Co-organizer Mark Hansen addresses the crowd at last Saturday's dedication of Seaside's Vietnam War Veterans Memorial in the Cove.



R.J. Marx

Seaside's Lou Solitske plays Taps in honor of Vietnam War veterans fallen.

## Hood to Coast splits community

### Some residents upset after relay's return

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

The return of Hood to Coast in Seaside has triggered a new round of complaints from residents that the regional event is too large and disruptive for the city.

The iconic 198-mile relay from Mount Hood to the Prom, which was suspended last year because of the coronavirus pandemic, brought thousands of people to the coast in late August.

Several residents told the City Council that some runners were rude, that organizers failed to enforce virus precautions and control traffic and that hosting the event compounded the public health risk during a surge of new virus cases.

But city councilors questioned whether the complaints are unique to this year's Hood to Coast or are being driven on social media by residents with long-standing objections. Hospital administrators also said they have not detected an increase in local virus cases linked to the event.

"They are not a good fit for the city of Seaside," Jeff Jarrett, a resident, wrote in a letter to the City Council. "I lived on 14th Avenue for eight years watching these runners go by. I received hostile flak from them each year trying to get my vehicle in and out of the street. Eventually, I just leave town each time they do this event. I was not the only one."

Runners "just run into town, eat their own food on the beach, have their own party and then go home," he said. "They have no interest in engaging in any coastal activity. No interest in seeing the sights. They are not here to be tourists, they are here to run and go right back home because most of them are only an hour away. ... Enough is enough. Hood to Coast should host their event elsewhere."

The complaints appeared on Facebook and other social media during the event and grew in intensity over the past few weeks.

"We are all aware that there are a variety of opinions about the event, and all things having to do with the event," City Councilor Tita Montero said at last week's council meeting. "There are a lot of things that people purported to be true, that I knew were not true. So that puts that in the realm of rumors."

While new virus cases were surging in late August, Seaside was not in a state of emergency, City Councilor David Posalski said. "There's no reason for us to have added additional regulations beyond what

See Hood to Coast, Page A7

## RVs near park draw complaints

### Residents want the city to take action

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

After a city crackdown on Necanicum Drive near 12th Avenue earlier this year, residents in Seaside say that people living in RVs have moved across the street to Goodman Park.

The park's popularity as a place to shelter grew after overnight street parking prohibitions and increased ticketing.

"We all came here in the spring to see most of you here," Robert Clark, a resident, told the City Council last week. "We got a lot of nodding that you would be doing things. ... Now, it's worse than it was."

Karl Schorr, a resident, said most of the vehicles are uncensored or have licenses that are expired. "Those living in the vehicles are dumping sewage on property and streams," he said, "as well as using the bathroom in the park."

See RVs, Page A5

## Firefighters return from Cougar Peak fire

Seaside Signal

Clatsop County Task Force 49 returned from the Cougar Peak fire in Lakeview last week.

Seaside Fire and Rescue sent four firefighters and Gearhart Volunteer Fire Department sent a wildland firefighting apparatus

and four firefighters. In addition, the Lewis and Clark Fire Department sent three members, Knappa sent two and Astoria sent one firefighter.

"That's our round number for us for Lakeview this year for different fires," Seaside Fire Chief Joey Daniels said.

While at the blaze, firefighters worked with forestry personnel "to try to get in more of the seat of the fire and lay a lot of hose line around it."

To battle the 25,000-acre fire, Gov. Kate Brown invoked the state's Conflagration Act, which allows multiagency structure protection resources to be mobilized from throughout the state to protect homes, businesses and critical infrastructure threatened by the fire.

Along with Clatsop County, task forces have arrived from Lane, Linn, Yamhill, Clackamas and Marion counties.



Office of Oregon Fire Marshal  
Firefighters fight the Cougar Peak fire.

