

SignalViewpoints

Hillcrest Inn keeps family traditions alive

SEEN FROM SEASIDE
R.J. MARX



“People are excited not just to come to Seaside, but to come here to Seaside to see Ruth,” Brian Owen, CEO of the Seaside Chamber of Commerce, said.

Owen introduced lodging owner Ruth Swenson of the Hillcrest Inn and Cottages at last Wednesday’s morning meeting of the chamber. Swenson has owned the property for 16 years.

Part of the property, the 90-year-old Hillcrest House, was sold, she said.

Now the inn includes 25 hotel rooms and the three cottages, each with an old Cape Cod feel.

Cottage 105 is a two-bedroom suite with a 1950s diner-style decor, with original diner booths and a casual vibe.

Cottage 106 is the “game cottage,” Swenson said, geared to families. The room, which sleeps eight, comes with Monopoly, “Seasideopoly” and other games, with old-time video favorites like Pac-Man or Asteroids available to check out at the front desk.

Cottage 107 is lighthouse-themed, originating from a collection Swenson started when she was 3. She now has 750 of them.

Each cottage comes equipped with pots, pans and dishes. “Some of them even have crockpots and mixers,” she said. “We like to think that whatever you want to do when you’re here, you can do in these, whether you want to bake cookies or just walk downtown and eat.”

Visitors can picnic in the courtyard, with barbecue grills, picnic tables, disc golf and climbing toys.

“We have lots of families that have been coming for many, many years,” she said.

One family has been visiting for more than 50 years for family reunions, going from renting 10 rooms to renting the whole property.

“It’s almost like you can’t marry into the family unless you’re willing to come to Seaside,” Swenson said. “And maybe that’s the catch. If you get invited and you’re not married to one of them yet, let’s hope you pass the test.”



Photos by R.J. Marx
ABOVE: Inside the “game cottage” at the Hillcrest Inn.



LEFT: Ruth Swenson of the Hillcrest Inn.

BELOW: Designer style in one of the cottages at Hillcrest Inn.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Let’s work together to meet health crises

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact across the globe, with millions of lives and livelihoods lost, unlike anything we’ve experienced in decades.

The last time the entire world was this focused on a pandemic was over two decades ago, when HIV/AIDS was killing almost 4,000 people every day, and new infections were doubling every year.

Since then, the global response to AIDS has largely been a success story, with millions of lives being saved through testing, treatment and prevention efforts. The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to stop or even reverse this progress.

For World AIDS Day — Dec. 1 — it’s important to remember HIV/AIDS is still a crisis. In 2020, there were 1.5 million new infections, and 680,000

AIDS-related deaths. People living with HIV/AIDS are at more severe risk of COVID-19, and live in parts of the world with limited access to COVID vaccines.

Sub-Saharan Africa is home to almost 70% of people living with HIV, but less than 5% of the population has received at least one dose of the COVID vaccine. We have the power to beat both of these viruses. We just need the will.

That’s why it’s so important that U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley and U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, and Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici, show support for programs that are helping the fight against both COVID and AIDS, like the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, one of the most effective and efficient health organizations on the planet.

Michael Kalkofen
Beaverton

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Contact local agencies for latest meeting information and attendance guidelines.

MONDAY, DEC. 13

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

TUESDAY, DEC. 14

Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District, board workshop, 4 p.m., www.seprd.com.

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

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15

Seaside Tourism Advisory Committee, 3 p.m., 989

Broadway.

Seaside Library Board of Directors, 4:30 p.m., 1131 Broadway St.

THURSDAY, DEC. 16

Seaside Transportation Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

TUESDAY, DEC. 21

Seaside Planning Commission, 6 p.m., work session, 989 Broadway.

TUESDAY, DEC. 28

Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District, 5:15 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center.

OP-ED

Many opportunities to help patients of all ages

GUEST COLUMN
JUDY GEIGER



When I was young, I never thought much about becoming a nurse. I always wanted to be a National Park Ranger in Yellowstone National Park. After I completed a couple of years of college, I rethought becoming a park ranger. On a whim, I decided to apply for nursing school knowing full well if I ever had to give someone a shot, I would need to quit. Well, it’s now 37 years later. I have

given hundreds of shots, worked in a pediatric intensive care unit, managed that same 32-bed ICU and became a chief nursing officer twice. My first chief nursing officer job was at the Children’s Hospital in Salt Lake City. My second chief nursing officer job is as the vice president of patient care services at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria.

My story shows that there are many options for nurses including caring for patients on both ends of the age spectrum. I love being a nurse. Helping people when they are at their most vulnerable is such a wonderful feeling.

There are so many different opportunities for nurses to help patients at

CMH. A nurse can work on the traditional medical-surgical floor, in a critical care unit, in the operating room and all the other areas in surgical Services. They can work in the family birth center, the emergency department or hospice. They can work in the cancer center, care management, quality, in our outpatient clinics and in many more places.

We have lots of different positions open waiting for the right nurses to join our team. You never know who our next DAISY award winner will be. Please consider joining our outstanding team.

Judy Geiger is vice president of patient care services and nurse leader at Columbia Memorial Hospital.

NEWS NOTES

State discloses virus cases at local schools

The Oregon Health Authority has disclosed two new coronavirus cases at schools in Clatsop County.

Both cases were from Seaside Middle School, according to last week’s weekly outbreak report from the health authority. One was a student and the other was a staff member.

Northwest Piano Trio in concert in Cannon Beach

Sunday, Dec. 12, at 3 p.m., the Northwest Piano Trio return to Cannon Beach to present Classical Christmas, a free concert in Cannon Beach at Cannon Beach Community Church at 132 E. Washington St., in downtown Cannon Beach.

This holiday concert will include selections from Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker. The Northwest Piano Trio, founded in 2014, is based in Portland. Donations to NW Piano Trio may be made at the door.

Attendees are asked to wear masks and dress warmly, as windows will

be open for good air circulation. N95 masks will be available at the door.

December events at the Seaside Public Library

The Seaside Public Library presents live and virtual events throughout December.

Virtual Storytime on Thursday, Dec. 16, at 10:30 a.m. will feature the theme “Pajama Day!” Virtual Storytime on Thursday, Dec. 30, at 10:30 a.m. will feature the theme “2021 Favorite Books!”

Coast Guard rescues people, crab, from boat 3 miles off Gearhart

Four people and 9,000 pounds of crab were rescued about 3 miles off the Gearhart coast last Wednesday.

At about 4:40 p.m., U.S. Coast Guard Station Cape Disappointment learned that a 40-foot vessel had experienced a transmission failure while out to sea.

The station sent out a motor lifeboat that

towed the disabled vessel to the Warrenton Marina, mooring it at about 9:15 p.m.

No one was injured. “It’s another boat saved and people saved and, thankfully, their crab catch was also saved,” Steve Strohmaier, a Seattle-based public affairs specialist with the Coast Guard, said.

District wins security grant

The Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District has been awarded a \$3,300 grant for increased security by SDAO, the Special Districts Association of Oregon. Funds will go toward the purchase of security cameras at the Sunset Recreation Center.

Park district also received a \$2,000 grant from the Clatsop County Cultural Coalition and the Oregon Cultural Trust for audiovisual equipment and a sound booth to improve the performance space in the Sunset Recreation Center, as well as a \$2,000 grant from Pacific Power for an indoor walking track.



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