

NEWS NOTES

Clatsop County Master Gardeners honor Seaside's Marion Sefren



Marion and John Sefren celebrate Marion's 93rd birthday at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds.

The, Clatsop County Master Gardener Association March 29 work session became a festive party as well, complete with cake, recollections, and well wishes for one of the organization's longest serving veterans, Seaside resident and avid gardener Marion Sefren, who turned 93.

Marion and her husband John, 97, have been married 72 years.

She was selected the group's "Behind the Scenes Master Gardener of the Year" in 2014 and Master Gardener of the Year in 2016. While having a hand in almost every major program the group as initiated over that time, the demonstration garden at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds, with its array of flowers, trees and bedding plants on display, remains her favorite.

Eleven fellow master gardeners were on hand at the fairgrounds for the celebration, along with pulling weeds, mulching, nurturing the perennials, bedding plants and trees, many of which the Sefrens helped plant.

Author Williams Brown at Seaside Library

On Saturday, April 16 at 2 p.m., the Friends of Seaside Public Library will host New York Times bestselling author Kelly Williams Brown. She will discuss her most recent book, "Easy Crafts for the Insane: A Mostly Funny Memoir of Mental Illness and Making Things." This event will be held in the Community Room of the Seaside Public Library with a Q&A and signing following the book talk.



Author Kelly Williams Brown

Williams Brown is an author and reporter living in Salem with a large loud dog named Eleanor. She is also the author of "Gracious", and "Adulthood: How to Become a Grown-Up in 535 Easy(ish) Steps." She's also worked as a reporter and columnists for daily newspapers and magazines, an ad copywriter, nonprofit communications manager and as a cocktail waitress. Born in Louisiana, she attended Loyola University New Orleans, and has worked in New Orleans, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Washington, D.C. and Oregon.

The Seaside Public Library is located at 1131 Broadway. For more information call 503-738-6742 or visit us at www.seasidepubliclibrary.org or www.facebook.com/seasidepubliclibrary.

'Take Back the Night' comes to Seaside on April 28

The Seaside AAUW honors Shannon Symonds at "Take Back the Night," on April 28 at 7 p.m. The event will be held at the Turnaround by the Prom.



Shannon Symonds

Symonds has worked for over 20 years as an Advocate serving survivors of abuse alongside law enforcement and as a home visitor supporting new mothers. She has been a hybrid author since 2014. She has authored more than 250 articles for Deseret Digital Media, blogs for Hilary Weeks Billion Clicks project and the Operation Underground Railroad's volunteer newsletter between 2017 and 2020.

Symonds received the Oregon Trial Lawyers Public Justice Award 2002 for the Tiffany Alvera Case that changed housing nationally, and the 2002 Star Advocate Commendation from the Oregon Department of Justice.

In 2020, Symonds was the Operation Underground Railroad Volunteer of the Year for the Authors for Freedom Event.

For more information contact Karen Beck, co-president of the Seaside AAUW at Karal1946@gmail.com.

Symphonic band features movies, musicals and marches

The North Coast Symphonic Band continues its 42nd season with a concert titled "Movies, Musicals, Marches, and More" at 2 p.m., Sunday, April 24, at the Liberty Theater in Astoria. Terry Dahlgren of Warrenton will make a return appearance as guest conductor.



Conductor Terry Dahlgren of the North Coast Symphonic Band.

The concert includes a delightful mix of music, including movie tunes like "How to Train Your Dragon" and "Music for a Darkened Theater," musical theater tunes like "Selections from Les Miserables," and marches like Karl L. King's "Circus Days," the popular "Lassus Trombone" and an arrangement of the very familiar tune, "Funiculi, Funicula." The MC for the afternoon will be Brian Bergman.

Dahlgren recently retired after a 32-year career as a public school music educator. He has been actively involved in community music programs as a performer, teacher, and conductor since 1986.

Most of Dahlgren's career was spent in the Seaside School District, and his award winning high school program consistently served over eighty students annually. Dahlgren was a previous guest conductor with the symphonic band in 2015.

Guitarist Dave Drury will perform concert prelude music from 1:30 to 1:55 p.m. while the audience gathers. Regular admission is \$15 and student admission is \$8.

Advanced tickets can be purchased at the Liberty Theater Box Office Wednesday through Saturday from 2 to 5:30 PM or online at www.libertyastoria.showare.com. Tickets will also be available at the door starting at noon the day of the concert. The Liberty is located on the corner of 12th and Commercial Street in Astoria. Check the Liberty website for current COVID requirements.

The North Coast Symphonic Band offers local musicians of all ages the chance to network, learn from each other, and maintain their skill level in a positive and supportive environment. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Charlene Larsen Center for the Performing Arts in Astoria. Musicians interested in joining should email personnel director Lee Stromquist at encore1@charter.net or call 503-861-1328. Potential new members should read music, own their own instruments and have advanced high school level performance skills or higher.

For more information on the North Coast Symphonic Band's 42nd season, visit www.northcoastsymphonicband.org, e-mail cablebri@charter.net, or call 503-298-1087.

Yes, they're cute and fuzzy, but do not touch the seal pups

SEASIDE AQUARIUM
TIFFANY BOOTHE



Tiffany Boothe/Seaside Aquarium

It's seal pup season on the Oregon and Washington coasts. It is important to remind folks to leave pups (or any marine mammal) found on the beach alone and to contact their local marine mammal stranding network.

Fuzzy, plump and cute enough to squeeze, newborn harbor seal season is in full swing. While their big brown eyes might look irresistible we all must remember: Do not touch seal pups! It is important to remember that it is normal for a seal pup to be resting, relaxing and soaking up the sun alone. However, the mother may not return if humans or other animals are too close so experts advise 'don't touch seal pups!'

Oregon and Washington welcome harbor seal pups well into the summer months and it is common for mother harbor seals to leave young pups safely on beaches, docks or

rocky outcrops along familiar coastlines. Time spent on land is critical for the young seal to regulate body temperature and rest while the mother seal is close hunting. Harbor seals live on land for nearly half their lives breeding, molting (shedding their fur coat), resting and raising their offspring. As such, human and domestic dog interactions are obstacles for the health and well-being of both young and mature seals.

Baby seals often double in size from birth in 4-6 weeks on a regular diet of mother's milk with 40% milk fat. While the extra layer of fat makes the pups adorable, the pups depend on that stored body fat to survive foraging on their own as they become more independent. Any interference from humans that could cause early

separation between newborn pup and mother could be detrimental to the pup's ability to survive.

If you spot a seal pup and feel the urge to assist it, remember to give it plenty of space and call the Marine Mammal Stranding Network.

Local wildlife officials will respond as quickly as possible to assess the situation and obtain information or observations about the animal in question. In most instances the animal is healthy and responders will post educational signs that encourage onlookers to keep a safe distance away while the situation is monitored by experts. Last year the Seaside Aquarium responded to and placed signs on 24 seal pups all of which successfully left the beach.

The Marine Mammal Stranding Network responds to sightings of pups and other injured or dead marine mammals. For our region in northern Oregon, Seaside Aquarium is the local responder for the Marine Mammal Stranding Network and can be contacted at 503-738-6211. If a stranded mammal is found elsewhere the Oregon State Police reporting line can be called at 1-800-452-7888.

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