

NEWS NOTES



File photo

North Coast Land Conservancy will pull, pile and stomp invasive policeman's helmet at the Circle Creek reserve.

'Pull, pile and stomp' at conservancy event

Help North Coast Land Conservancy pull, pile and stomp invasive policeman's helmet at Circle Creek Conservation Center, just south of Seaside.

Volunteers will remove policeman's helmet, also known as jewelweed or Himalayan balsam, an invasive plant species that thrives in moist areas and riparian zones, threatening native plants.

The event takes place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, July 16. Bring lunch, water, boots, gloves and sunscreen. Tools will be provided or bring your own.

Circle Creek Conservation Center is at the end of Rippet Road. Look for it on the west side of U.S. Highway 101, north of the junction with U.S. Highway 26.

Blodgett named to dean's list at George Fox University

Niquilla Blodgett of Seaside was among those who earned dean's list recognition at George Fox University for the spring 2022 semester.

Traditional undergraduate students must earn a 3.5 grade point average or above on 12 or more hours of graded work to earn a spot on the dean's list. Blodgett is a senior majoring in elementary education.

Surplus sale at the Sunset Recreation Center

The Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District will have a surplus sale at the Sunset Recreation Center on Wednesday, July 13 from noon to 5 p.m.

Visitors should enter through the northwest entrance of the SRC to view available items, which include lockers (sold as sets), basket locker system (sold in sets), white boards, file cabinets (tall and short), student desks, tables, chairs, rolling cabinets, and an upright piano. Prices range from \$1 to \$50.

Payment is due at the time of purchase, and due to limited staffing, loading assistance will not be available. Proceeds from sales

will benefit the Sunset Park and Recreation Foundation, which raises money for scholarships to increase access to child care and recreational programming.

Local students earn degrees at George Fox

Local students were among the undergraduate, adult degree and graduate-level students who received diplomas from George Fox University in the spring of 2022.

They include Seaside resident Niquilla Blodgett, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education and Sarah Eischen, who graduated with a Master of Business Administration degree.

Partnership for child care solutions

Columbia Memorial Hospital and Providence Seaside Hospital have partnered to find and sustain solutions for families.

The group found a need for a program providing stable support for current providers and incentives for new providers. It proposed the retention and expansion child care grant program, which was approved in June. The program will begin with \$500,000 in Clatsop County funding from the American Rescue Plan Act.

Along with the Columbia Pacific Economic Development District, the county, CMH and Providence Seaside are working together to find major grants that will be awarded and monitored. Licensed child care providers in the county can apply for small- or large-scale grants, and the Clatsop Small Business Development Center will provide business and economic support to them as well.

The grant review committee will include Providence's Alana Kujala, community partnerships liaison, and from CMH, both Williams and Mark Kujala, chair of the Clatsop County Commission and director of the CMH Foundation.

Demonstrating their commitment to addressing child care shortages, Providence Seaside recently pledged \$100,000 through its community health division to help with the grant program start-up and will consider additional funding in 2023.

Wards: Seaside's wards readjusted

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move around and new people move in and people move out and the wards will gradually change as far as the numbers of voters that are in those different wards," Barber said.

- Ward 1, with 1,783 residents, begins at the city's south end and covers much of the western part of the city south of Avenue F.
- Ward 2, with 1,786 people, covers from Avenue G and north.
- Ward 3, with a population of 1,796, covers the area west of U.S. Highway 101 and area east of Highway 101.
- Ward 4, with 1,789 residents, is mostly east of Wahanna Road.

The city has 7,184 residents overall. City Councilor Steve Wright serves Ward 1, or Seaside south. Tita Montero is the Ward 2 councilor and Tom Horning represents Ward 3. Ward 4 is represented by David Posalski. The city has two at-large positions, Randy Frank in wards 1 and 2, and Dana Phillips, in wards 3 and 4.

Wright, Montero and Phillips are up for reelection in November, as is Barber. The mayor is the only position decided by voters in all wards. A councilor or mayor must be a Seaside resident and have lived in Seaside for at least one year. To qualify for councilor office, a candidate must reside in the ward or wards which the council position represents, and continue to reside there during their term of office.

Those seeking to run must first file a letter of interest with City Clerk Kimberley Jordan. After that is approved, candidates gather must gather 20 valid signatures of registered voters within the city.

Candidate filing dates run from July through Aug. 30.



Ward 1 covers much of south Seaside.

Retrofit: Seaside firehouse and police station are set to receive seismic upgrades

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Co. Records indicate that building started in 1977. The current dispatch and administration portion of the police station was built in 1990.

The Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program provides funding for the seismic rehabilitation of critical public buildings, particularly public schools and emergency services facilities.

According to the grant application, eligible activities include structural improvements, architecture, engineering and project management. The emphasis is on emergency responder buildings.

The seismic advisory committee considers many factors when making funding decisions, Gloria Zacharias, the program's policy coordinator, said.

"The program has consulting engineers who review the technical assessments submitted with the applications, and the committee attempts to priori-



R.J. Marx

The Seaside firehouse, built in 1989, will receive seismic retrofits after a grant from Business Oregon.

tize 'scary' buildings, unreinforced masonry, older masonry, older concrete, or very old or wood framed," she said. "They also consider the seismicity zone the project is located in, along with a benefit-cost analysis. The Seaside projects had vulnerable buildings and high seismicity."

With WRK Engineers in Vancouver, Washington,

the city applied for the seismic rehabilitation grant in November. Services included building site review, seismic evaluation, construction cost estimate and preparation and submission of the grant application to the state.

The awards for the firehouse and police station are based on square footage, Daniels said. Upgrades will include roof replacement on

both buildings, shear wall reinforcement and bracing. Projects will be done concurrently and the completion expected in 2024.

The grants fully cover costs and do not require city matching funds.

Previously ineligible for the seismic retrofit grant, the city benefited by a change by the seismic advisory committee in 2018. Prior to the rule change, if a project was located in a known tsunami inundation zone, the project could not apply for funds. After the rule change, a project located in a known tsunami inundation zone could apply after proof of consultation with the state Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

"We hadn't been eligible for them in the past because seismic grants were only for people out of the inundation zone," Daniels said. "It didn't make a lot of sense — some of us are stuck in the inundation zone just by geographic location. They changed the ruling and stated

that we could be eligible to apply for these grants."

The fire and police departments will continue to work through the retrofit process, Daniels said, although there might be some temporary relocations. Trucks would be moved outside during the day.

Business Oregon awarded 36 seismic rehabil-

itation grants in June for an overall 2022 award totaling more than \$80 million.

Daniels said he anticipates working with Public Works Director Dale McDowell to send a request for proposals out in July. "Then we meet with the architects and whoever we hire as the lead," he said.

Fourth: Fireworks, camping, water incidents reported

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Police received or initiated contact with many tents on the beach violations, camping ordinance violations, traffic complaints, parking complaints and disturbances such as verbal arguments, Ham said.

There were two driving under the influence of intoxicants arrests, five warrant arrests and one domestic assault arrest.

Responders in Gearhart answered fireworks complaints, calls for water rescue and came to the aid of a surfer in distress.

From Friday through the Fourth of July, the Gearhart Fire Department had a total of 34 calls, training officer James Hutchinson said Tuesday, 25 of those on Independence Day. These included two calls for assistance from Warren-

ton, one for a vehicle in a ditch and one for a fireworks injury to the hand.

The fire department responded to a subject who crawled ashore, wet and semiconscious, and found a group of people at a bonfire. He was transported to Medix on the 10th Avenue approach. The Gearhart Police Department is investigating the incident.

Firefighters responded to a report of four people in the water in distress on Del Rey Beach, Hutchinson said.

"All parties returned to shore where two individuals were evaluated as possible patients," he said.

One was transported to Providence Seaside Hospital for further care and evaluation and the second person declined medical treatment.

After following up with the family, all parties involved in the incident returned in good health from the hos-

pital, and were able to enjoy the rest of their Fourth of July, Hutchinson said.

Firefighters responded to another water rescue after a surfer went missing. The individual was located a mile south from where he entered, Hutchinson said. Lifeguards from Seaside assisting were able to make contact with the surfer and determine he was safe. The surfer and reporting party were reunited without incident.

Gearhart Police Chief Jeff Bowman reported a stolen wood pallet, which was recovered before it was burned {span} in a fire.

Bowman said there were "lots of illegal fireworks, complaints about legal ones, underage consumption of alcohol, trash being discarded or left behind, disruption of way of life."

There were no physical injuries or property damage, he added.

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