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HOOD TO COAST: 'WE'RE EXHAUSTED BUT WE HAD A WONDERFUL TIME'



Photos by R.J. Marx

Crowds enjoy perfect weather in Seaside for Hood to Coast 2022.

Blue skies, mild temps for 40th annual event

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Who is more appropriate to volunteer at Hood to Coast than former Seaside High School track coach Neil Branson?

Branson goes back 40 years with Hood to Coast, when its destination was Pacific City. He remembers years when Seaside High School sent athletes from cross-country and soccer teams to the event — “just a hodgepodge of kids,” he said.

Branson started at the high school in 1979, continued teaching until 2010 and stopped coaching in the 2016-17 school year.

He continues as meet co-director for the cross-country three-course challenge at Camp Rilea.

The distance of 197 miles from Mount Hood to Seaside makes this run different from others, Branson said.

“It’s the camaraderie of the teams getting together with people. They’re so happy to be done and they’ve had fun.”

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ABOVE: Muu-Muu Crew members cross the finish line. RIGHT: Former Seaside High School track coach Neil Branson volunteering at the beer garden.

TOP FINISHERS

Running relay winners are

1. The Goodland; time, 17:32:55.1
2. Bowerman Track Club; time, 17:35:39.2
3. Performance Running EKINs; time, 19:26:36.0

Top Finishers: Portland to Coast Walking Relay

1. Loud and Proud; time, 23:48:02.9
2. Antiques Roadshow; time, 24:13:08.7
3. Reshod Between A Walk and A Hard Pace; time, 24:41:14.5.



Four candidates for council in Gearhart

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Gearhart’s two city council races will be competitive this November, as four candidates met filing requirements this week.

Gearhart City Councilor Brent Warren will seek to retain the seat in the November election. Warren announced his decision to run for Gearhart City Council Position 3.

cil Position 3.

Warren worked for Bank of America, Key Bank and Banner Bank, serving as a vice president of community development in Portland for 33 years before his move to Gearhart.

“I was appointed to the City Council by Mayor Paulina Cockrum almost two years ago,” Warren said in announcing his candidacy.

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Volunteers remove invasive plants from the Gearhart Ridge Path on Aug. 16 as part of a project to lay down new pollinator habitat that is being spearheaded by the Necanicum Watershed Council.

Work parties help improve Ridge Path

Volunteers make difference on iconic trail

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

The Gearhart Ridge Path is getting an ecological makeover, thanks to the leadership of the Necanicum Watershed Council and the efforts of dedicated community volunteers.

Since late spring, the council has hosted regular work parties to remove invasive plant species — such as English

holly, English ivy and Himalayan blackberry — from various sections along the 1.4-mile Ridge Path. They threaten natural vegetation and lower the quality of coastal pollinator habitat.

After the removal is complete, the project will progress to a second phase: laying down new soil and putting in resilient plants, including lupines,

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County delivers two parcels to city for housing, social services

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Clatsop County issued a quitclaim deed to two surplus county properties to the city of Seaside. The purpose of the deed is development of affordable housing and social services, Monica Steele, the assistant county manager, said at a meeting of the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners on Aug. 25.

The large portion of land adjacent to the former Seaside High School is to be developed into residential housing in the future, Jon Rahl, Seaside’s assistant city manager, wrote the county in seeking the transfer. Allowing the city to take possession of the county’s two surplus lots for the future development of affordable housing units fits with the residential character of the surrounding properties.

The two properties are part of 15 parcels specified by Clatsop County for transfer to local cities, special districts, local service nonprofits and nonprofit housing developers.

Although the properties are zoned for industrial usage, their proximity to the medium-density residential makes it a candidate for a potential zone change, allowing for development of 10 dwelling units per acre. “At 1.85 acres, there

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Last minute flurry brings competitive City Council races

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

A flurry of candidates greeted the Aug. 30 filing deadline in Seaside. All three council races are competitive; only mayoral candidate Steve Wright is running unopposed.

Marcus Runkle will seek the City Council seat for Wards 3 and 4, he announced this week. Runkle, who is self-employed at Runkle Consulting LLC, served as

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