



Warren named to Gearhart City Council

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Gearhart Mayor Paulina Cockrum's first act after taking the oath of office at Wednesday's City Council meeting was appointing Brent Warren to fill her open council seat.

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.

His responsibilities included home mortgage lending for first-time home buyers, small business lending, low income housing tax credit investments, community facility financing and coordinating federal Community Reinvestment Act examinations. He has served on nonprofit boards, including Portland Habitat for Humanity, Portland Housing Center, Habitat for Humanity of Oregon and was asked to serve on Portland's Fair Contracting Forum. He

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Gearhart city administrator to enter treatment program

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Gearhart City Administrator Chad Sweet said he is going to an alcohol treatment program for two weeks after apparently violating the terms of an alcohol-related diversion agreement stemming from a February drunken driving case in Umatilla County.

"I am aware that I have a serious health issue, and over the weekend, I decided that I am going to treatment," Sweet said. "I will focus on my recovery, my family, and intend to come back better than I am now."

Sweet said he is going to a treatment center that specializes in help for emergency responders.

Reports from the LifeSafer Ignition Interlock device indicate Sweet entered his vehicle several times in September with test results detecting alcohol. In October, the Umatilla County District Attorney's Office filed a state notice of noncompliance with DUII diversion.

Sweet was driving a 2014 Toyota Tundra on Interstate 84 on Feb. 29 when he was pulled over for failure to stay in his lane. Police found an open container of alcohol in his vehicle. Sweet's blood alcohol content was 0.15%.

Sweet pleaded no contest in June to driving under the influence of intoxicants. As terms of the agreement, he is not allowed to consume alcohol.

"This is an order to show cause to show why (the diversion program) should not be terminated," Umatilla County District Attorney Daniel Primus said. "It's to show

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Festival of Trees



Photos by Katherine Lacaze

The "Ski With Me" tree, sponsored by Pam Cooper and designed by Maryann Smith, included a felt ski lift and small, handmade ornaments.

'The trees are as stunning as they are every year'

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

For many years, the Festival of Trees has ushered in the start of the holiday season for families throughout the Seaside community.

Wanting to preserve the tradition despite the challenges of 2020, the Providence Seaside Hospital Foundation provided "a reimagined event" that captured key elements from seasons past under the timely theme, "Home for the Holidays."

The vision for the Festival of Trees Committee was to keep it as much the same as they were able, Executive Director Kimberly Ward said.

Instead of inviting patrons inside the Seaside Civic and Convention Center for a fun-filled open house and lavish fundraising event, the organizers presented a scaled down version that involved a physically distanced community tree-viewing and virtual gala and auction on Dec. 5.

A challenging year
Instead of the usual 16 to 20 custom-designed

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"Ski With Me," one of eight trees auctioned off during the Festival of Trees virtual gala and auction Dec. 5.



The "Merry Christmas and Happy Howldays" tree, donated by the Mills family, included a trip to Great Wolf Lodge.

Lodging owner reaches out to businesses

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Masudur Khan, chairman of the Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association and owner of hotels in Seaside, wants to gather a coalition of Seaside hotel, business and restaurant owners to join him in reaching out to the city for possible grant programs or loans to help local businesses survive amid the coronavirus.

"A lot of businesses won't make it until March," he said. "I don't want the small business owner to disappear because they can't get through the winter."

It was through the state lodging association's efforts that restaurants won greater leeway in reopening guidelines while maintaining enhanced safety measures amid COVID-19.

"Our focus at ORLA is to save as many lodging and restaurant operations in Oregon as possible," Khan said. "We need policy changes to cap third party delivery fees statewide and to-go cocktails for restaurants, and we need an extension of the commercial foreclosure moratorium through June of 2021."

These policy changes, with passage of a new federal virus relief bill, can help save hospitality businesses, he added. "Without all of these items our industry landscape will see historic changes," he said.

Khan was named chairman of the state lodging association in October, a not-for-profit trade organization. The state lodging association represents approximately 2,600 members and advocates for more than 10,000 food service locations and 2,000 lodging establishments in Oregon.

Khan has five hotel properties in Seaside and has been reaching out to the city and local lodging operators to help meet their needs during the pandemic.

"All my businesses are in Seaside," he said. "I'd like to do something while I have access to the resources."

Two of his properties, the Inn at Seaside and the River Inn at Seaside are temporarily closed for deep cleaning and renovations. Guests are being upgraded to his recently debuted four-story, 65-room Saltline Hotel, the former site of the City Center Motel.

The co-owner and managing director of Seaside Lodging for more than a decade, Khan was named the state lodging association's 2015 lodging operator of the year.

Safety for COVID-19 is the only way

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Masudur Khan

Seaside surfer recovering after shark attack

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Cole Herrington suffered wounds to his foot, ankle and leg after he was attacked by a shark on Sunday near the Cove in Seaside.

"He got hit by a shark," eyewitness Casey Weyer said. "The shark came up from the bottom and came out from the water, and then came back down and pushed him underwater with him in his mouth."

Weyer and bystanders, including an off-duty Seaside lifeguard, helped pull Her-

ington to safety and applied a field tourniquet to the injured leg to slow the bleeding.

"I didn't know if we didn't put the tourniquet on him, he would have died," Weyer said.

Seaside Fire & Rescue arrived about 3:30 p.m., where they found Herrington being carried over beach rock to the parking lot by fellow surfers.

Another tourniquet was applied at the scene, Fire Chief Joey Daniels said. "That's not uncommon, to have two tourniquets put on," he said. "You never want to take one off."

Medix took Herrington, of Seaside, to Columbia



Responders at the scene of a shark bite Sunday afternoon.

City of Seaside



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