

Seaside revives inclusivity resolution

Resolution will return to City Council

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — In late March, Seaside tabled a politically volatile debate over immigration. The topic will likely return before the City Council after a Tuesday night workshop indicated a consensus of councilors in support.

“Practically, it’s not a legal action, but it states to the whole community, regardless of your ethnic background, you are considered an essential member of the community and we accept you into our community,” Mayor Jay Barber said after the meeting. “We want to state that affirmatively.”

The resolution reads: “Every Seaside resident should be treated with compassion and respect regardless of national origin or citizenship status. The city resolves that Seaside is an inclusive city that embraces, celebrates and welcomes its immigrant and refugee residents and their contributions to the collective prosperity of all residents.”

Other cities on the North Coast, including Astoria, Cannon Beach and Gearhart, issued similar resolutions this spring.

“I really pride myself on living in a community that is inclusive,” City Councilor Dana Phillips said during discussion. “I think a lot of us have spent a lot of time making people feel comfortable from all walks of life. I’m all for it.”

Inclusivity resolutions allow cities to support and recognize the contributions of immigrants without the national political implications of immigration enforcement. Seaside’s resolution eliminates some of the more contentious aspects of the debate, including a desire for sanctuary city status. Sanctuary cities — like Portland and Seattle — risk losing federal grant money by not cooperating with federal immigration agents.

“There’s no request from the community for that, and no will by the council to move in that direction, but at the same it was our intent to state to that community our doors are open to all people,” Barber said.

The inclusivity resolution will be scheduled at a future council meeting.

Prosecutor issues warning on new synthetic drug

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

A local man who died in April overdosed on a new synthetic drug. The cause of death was only recently discovered due to the time required to detect the drug.

Anywhere from 20 to 30 people across Oregon have died as a result of this drug, commonly referred to as

Pink, but this is the first death in Clatsop County, according to the state medical examiner. The drug likely came from the Portland area, according to the Clatsop County District Attorney’s Office.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency has declared the drug illegal, and it often is disguised as a painkiller. It typically is much more powerful than morphine.

Car catches fire on Lewis and Clark Road



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Firefighters with the Lewis and Clark Fire Department hose down a hillside after a vehicle crash Wednesday about 10 miles south of Warrenton on Lewis and Clark Road started a fire that spread.



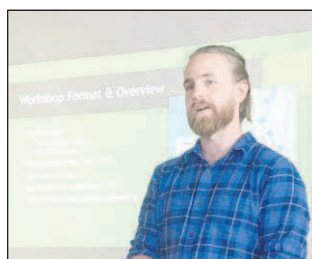
Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

The driver of a vehicle that crashed on Lewis and Clark Road Wednesday was not seriously injured according to authorities on the scene. The accident started a small fire that spread to the adjacent hillside and had to be suppressed.

Student leaves his mark on Seaside parks plan

Focus on green space, accessibility

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

Christian Montbrand presents a look at Seaside’s parks.

SEASIDE — Christian Montbrand will be leaving Seaside at the end of July, but not before he leaves his mark on the city and its future.

Montbrand led a parks master plan open house at the Seaside Library Wednesday night, sharing a vision for the city’s parks in years to come.

Praise, criticism, goals and opportunities were also shared by about 40 residents gathered to find ways to improve the city’s recreation area at the parks system update.

Montbrand has spent a year of service here as part of the RARE (Resource Assistance for Rural Environmental) AmeriCorps program, helping to develop tsunami education outreach and the parks master plan in Seaside.

The plan gives the city a look at where the city’s parks will be in the next 20 years.

“Unfortunately, I will not be able to see the updates all through,” he said. “I’m trying to get them on the best foot forward so they can go through and finish up this project.”

He said he hoped to identify the data from the parks inventory to synthesize into the capital improvements program.

Taking comments

Montbrand’s work has been overseen by Public Works Director Dale McDowell.

McDowell said he plans to summarize the findings at Monday’s City Council meeting.

“From there it goes back to the parks advisory board,” McDowell said. “With all of the recommendations, it will come back eventually to me at Public Works and will go through everything, what’s feasible and what’s not. This will all be plugged into an updated master plan.”

“What can’t get done and

what will be done, I’ll find out after we have the discussion,” McDowell said.

Montbrand urged residents to let their thoughts be known, either at upcoming meetings or online.

“The online survey is still open, so we encourage people to provide input,” he said. “Last night I checked, there were 83 responses, which is more than I expected.”

This fall, Montbrand heads to the University of Oregon for his graduate degree.

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