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ONE DOLLAR



Colin Murphy/The Daily Astorian

The Southeast Seaside Urban Renewal Plan includes work to repair infrastructure such as sidewalks and roads in the community. The plan also identified a need for improvements to stormwater and sewage infrastructure as well as other transportation projects.

Southeast Seaside seeks a turnaround

Urban renewal plan still has hurdles to clear

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Round one of an urban renewal plan that would involve critical bridge and school improvements in southeast Seaside has moved a step forward.

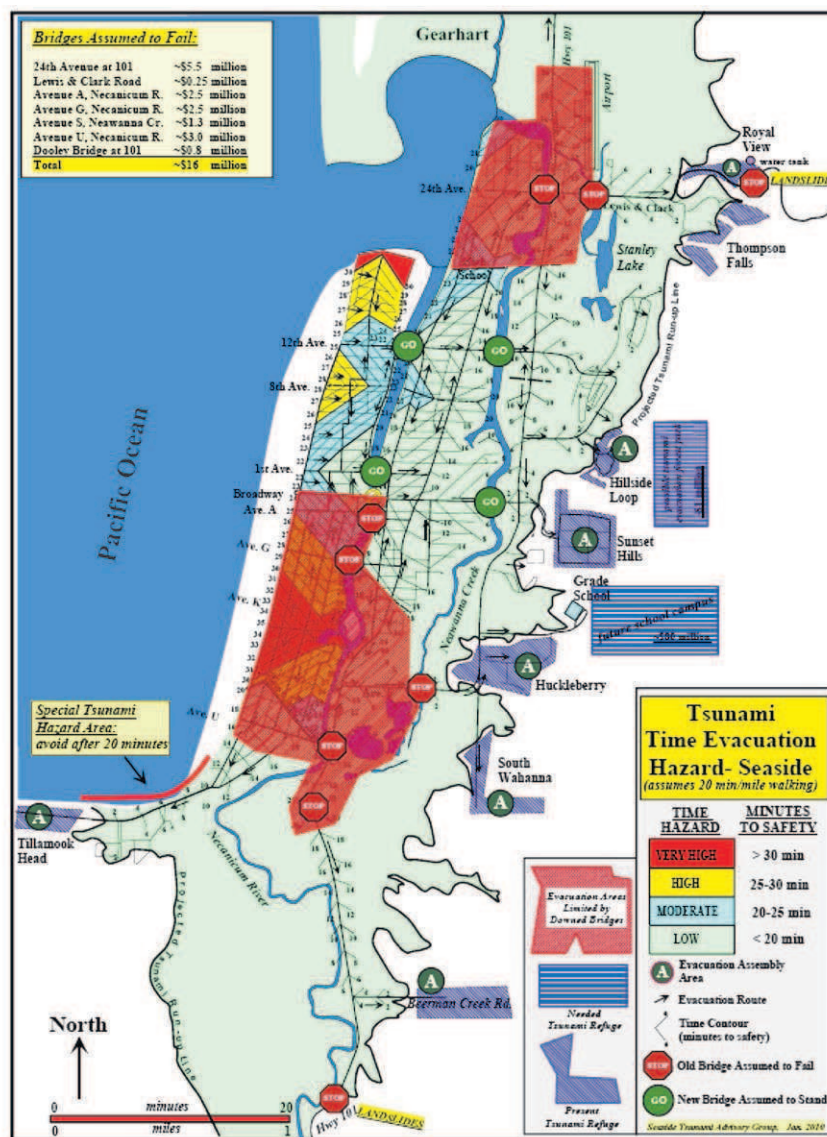
The Planning Commission determined this month that the report presented by Elaine Howard Consulting met the city's criteria as specified in the master plan. Next step is the City Council, which is scheduled to hear details of the report at the city's Aug. 14 meeting.

The report presents renewal area boundaries and provides cost estimates.

Southeast Seaside's infrastructure goals, prepared in a May goal-setting session, include a pedestrian bike bridge, parks projects and upgrades to unincorporated properties in the area.

Covering almost 560 acres of land along South Holladay, Avenue S from U.S. Highway 101 east and the southern section of Highway 101, the urban renewal district would make up about 21 percent of the city's total acreage and 22 percent of Seaside's assessed value. "One of the places where urban renewal agencies can be very effective is in matching money," City Manager Mark Winstanley said. "If the Oregon Department of Transportation, as an example says, 'We are going to give you money for the Avenue U Bridge, but we are only going to give you 90 percent of the money,' the urban-renewal agency could pay for 10 percent of the project. You might be able to build a bridge early because you are only providing matching money, not the major portion."

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The city's former Tsunami Advisory Group prepared this map showing Seaside's most endangered areas including the south part of Seaside.

There goes the sun

Eclipse could bring chaos to Oregon's forests and mountains

By ZACH URNESS
Statesman Journal

Whoever scheduled the solar eclipse for Aug. 21 should be fired.

That's the joke, at least, among land managers bracing for the tidal wave of humanity expected to descend on the nation's public lands for the once-in-a-lifetime event.

Millions of visitors are projected to swarm the forests and mountains in states within the eclipse path of totality, at the same time wildfire danger and summer tourism is reaching its apex.

"It literally could not be happening at a worse time," said Jean Nelson-Dean, public information officer for Deschutes National Forest in Oregon, the first state that will get eclipse views.

"It's the peak of fire season. Our emergency responders are going to be spread thin. And the forest is going to be filled with a lot of people who don't camp very often and might have little experience with the outdoors," Nelson-Dean said.

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AP Photo/David Zalubowski

The annular solar eclipse is seen as the sun sets behind the Rocky Mountains from downtown Denver in 2012. Hotels and campsites are sold out as some communities are preparing for unparalleled numbers of visitors.

More of the same weather on the way

Rest of summer as dry and warm as first half

By TOM BANSE
Northwest News Network

If you liked the warm, dry start to our Northwest summer, you'll probably like the rest of it. There's no change to the dominant weather pattern in sight.

The National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center released newly extended forecasts on Thursday for one month and three months out. For the Pacific Northwest, the outlook includes a good chance of above normal temperatures in August and it stays dry.

Weather Service Meteorologist Ted Buehner in Seattle said the rest of summer and early fall look much the same.

"Really good odds on warmer than average temperatures during this 90 day period," he said. "It doesn't mean that it will always be warm, but the overall average will tend to be warmer."

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AP Photo/Charlie Riedel

Kids play on rocks in Sunset Bay as the sun sets over the Pacific Ocean on Sunday in Coos Bay.

A writer in the genre of the weird

Donihe a star of bizarre fiction

In the world of bizarre fiction, Kevin Donihe is somewhat of a superstar. The wiry, 40-year-old author has published more than 10 novels and twice won the nascent genre's top annual book award.

Trying to escape writer's block, Donihe left his home state of Tennessee several months ago for Astoria, where he has quickly settled in and begun work on two new books.

Donihe hails from Kingsport, a small city in the hills of northeastern Tennessee. By age 5, he said,

it was clear he would be an author. By his mid-20s, he'd published his first novel, "Shall We Gather at the Garden?" about a commune of circus midgets with supernatural powers who are infiltrated by the book's protagonist.

Donihe said he was inspired by Victorian and Edwardian horror and modern and postmodern authors such as Franz Kafka and William S. Burroughs. He started out writing horror fiction, which he felt had a market he could tap into.

"But what I really wanted to write was strange, idiosyncratic stuff, that really didn't have a niche, or didn't



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian
Bizarro fiction author Kevin Donihe stands in front of a sculpture modeled by friends after Muninn, a raven from Norse mythology belonging to Odin, used in Fort George Brewery's Festival of the Dark Arts.

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