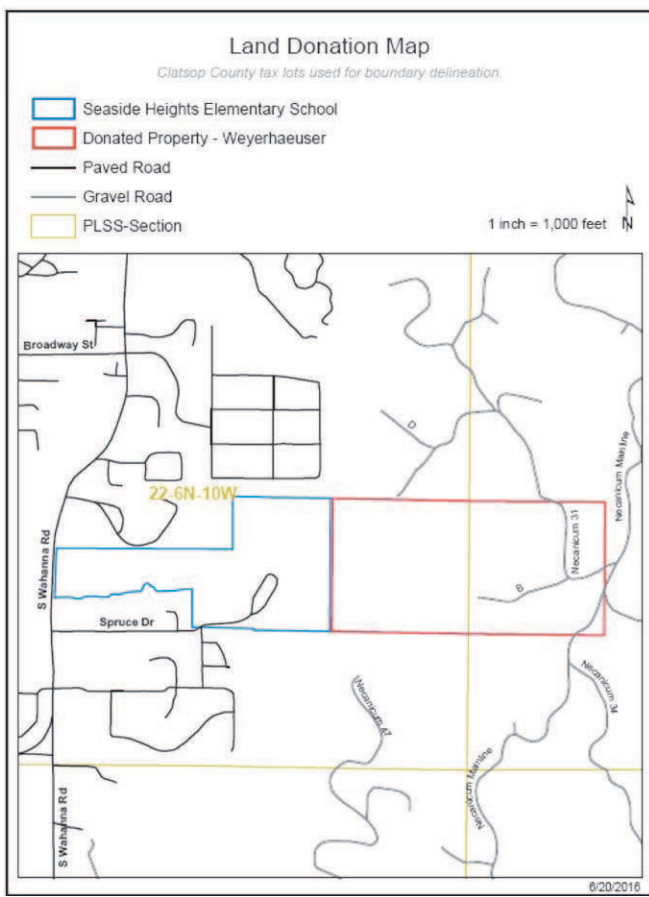




CANNON BEACH GAZETTE/FILE PHOTO

Seaside School District Superintendent Doug Dougherty and geologist Tom Horning at Seaside Heights Elementary School in April. The Weyerhaeuser land site can be seen behind them.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Map indicating donated portions of land to the Seaside School District from Weyerhaeuser Co.

Building new school could take four years

Gift from Page 1A

A 2013 bond to move the Seaside schools out of the inundation zone failed at the polls when voters rejected a \$128.8 million bond proposal.

According to Dougherty, there are only four public K-12 schools in Oregon within the tsunami inundation zone. "Weyerhaeuser understands that Seaside School District has three of these four schools and that there is no other suitable land available," Dougherty said. "A Cascadia earthquake off of our coast will cause large portions of these three antiquated schools to collapse and then be submerged by the Pacific Ocean. The average age of these schools is over 63 years and they have outlived their useful lives."

Seaside School District commissioned state researchers to conduct a comprehensive research study to verify a safe elevation to relocate the schools. Researchers recom-

mended schools be relocated to stable land that would not liquefy during an earthquake. Since tsunami waves could rise as high as 90 feet, researchers recommended a

term monitoring equipment. After analysis, engineers determined that the property directly east of Seaside Heights Elementary School contains land that best meets the state

al communities in which we operate. Helping the school district keep its students safe and out of harm's way is the right thing to do," said Jim Bunker, senior manager of Weyerhaeuser Co. said in the district statement.

The school district will now consider asking residents to support relocating its three schools out of the tsunami inundation zone through a bond measure. The district is gathering community feedback as they develop the proposal, Dougherty said.

In April, he said the process of building a new school could take four years. Costs and whether students would be transferred at one time or year by year were not determined.

The district will gather community feedback, Dougherty said Friday. "We will be conducting polling to inform the price and components of the bond."

A vote would take place Nov. 8.

'We have had many geotechs evaluating that hillside. They strongly believe that is the very best piece of property to relocate the school district.'

Doug Dougherty
Seaside School District superintendent

site at least 80 to 100 feet in elevation.

According to Dougherty, Weyerhaeuser allowed Seaside School District to study approximately 1,000 acres of hillside to the east and south of Seaside. Geotechnical engineers evaluated potential slide issues, conducted site core drillings and installed long-

recommendations. Weyerhaeuser Company owns the only suitable property in Seaside, Gearhart or Cannon Beach.

"We have had many geotechs evaluating that hillside," Dougherty said in April. "They strongly believe that is the very best piece of property to relocate the school district." "We are a part of the coast-

McKirdy to retire from Broadway Middle School

Teacher brought history to life for three decades

By Katherine Lacaze
EO Media Group

What could students expect when they took a class with Broadway Middle School social studies teacher Kelly McKirdy?

Mock elections, out-of-state and overseas trips, interviewing a grandparent and learning strange facts, figures and tidbits not often found in conventional history books, to name a few.

"I always try bringing in things that are sort of different," said McKirdy, who is retiring this month after 30 years at Broadway Middle School. "I try to, if I can, relate it to something in their life. Anything, even if it's a small thing, so they can make a connection somehow."

For instance, when teaching local history, he shared

about the 1960s riots that occurred in Seaside and were, in fact, one of his first introductions to the town.

McKirdy started his teaching career straight out of college — where he majored in political science — at Canyonville Christian Academy, previously Canyonville Bible Academy. He spent five years there, took a temporary job in Brookings for a year and then landed his job in Seaside. He said when he told people where he was moving, they often responded, "That's where they had the riots."

Not to be deterred, McKirdy still took the job and incorporated information about the incidents into his curriculum for students.

Using old newspaper clippings and images from the Oregon Historical Society, he put together a slideshow and collages about the riots, which involved "a bunch of college kids going crazy, doing all sorts of things," McKirdy said. They took place Labor Day weekend and lasted three years, before the U.S. Nation-



KATHERINE LACAZE/EO MEDIA GROUP

Broadway Middle School social studies teacher Kelly McKirdy.

al Guard was dispatched to dispel the problem.

McKirdy invited a former policeman who served during the riots to present for the students.

McKirdy also led a project during which students selected a state and gathered information such as the state capital, population and when they might want to visit. This year, he "jazzed up" the project by giving students the route he intends to follow during a 22-week road trip with his wife

that starts the day after classes are over. The route includes New England, Tennessee, Georgia, California, Arizona and many states in between.

McKirdy also introduced his students to the world of politics, voting and persuasive debate. Since the 1980s, McKirdy held mock elections each year that varied based on current events and what races and topics were on the ballot at the time. Over the years, eighth-grade American history students debated about and voted on congressional races, presidential primaries, the U.S. general election and major measures, such as those regarding marijuana and gay marriage laws. "We've had some pretty hot topics on the ballot over the years," McKirdy said. Generally, the students' voting results mirrored the actual results from each election. For instance, presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders received the most votes from students and also won the Oregon Democratic primary.

"Sometimes I think they end up knowing more than their parents do," he added.

District to feed elementary school kids for free

Middle- and high-school students could see slight increase

By Nancy McCarthy
For EO Media Group

There's a saying that there's no such thing as a free lunch, but for Seaside students in kindergarten through fifth grade, both breakfast and lunch will be free next year.

Students at Broadway and Seaside High schools, however, will see a slight increase for meals. Breakfast prices will rise by 5 cents, and lunch will be 10 cents higher, unless the meals are bought by students in the federal free and reduced meal program.

The Seaside School Board voted unanimously June 21 to participate in a new provision offered by the federal School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program. The provision is meant to simplify the district's paperwork, decrease food service costs, streamline meal service and increase the number of students eating school meals, according to Justine Hill, the district's business manager.

During the first year of the provision's four-year cycle, the district will offer free breakfasts and lunches to all elementary students. Usually, free and reduced-cost lunches were provided only to students meeting federal economic requirements.

At least 70 percent of Seaside Heights Elementary students and 50 percent of Gearhart Elementary students were receiving free and reduced-cost meals.

By following the provision and providing free meals to all elementary students, a "significant" decrease in labor costs to collect, track and record applications, verifications, payments and meal categories is expected.

However, the district must make up the difference between the federal reimbursement and the meal costs. The increases in the prices at the middle and high school could offset that difference, Hill said.

In other business at the June 21 meeting:

The school board renewed the district's contract with Chartwell's food service company. Hill said that

since the district contracted with Chartwell's five years ago, the district has made "great strides" in reducing its deficit in financing school lunches. The company also is making changes to increase efficiencies, she said.

Dougherty told the board that the district, if it pursues a bond measure to move its schools out of the tsunami zone, could be eligible to participate in a drawing for state funding toward seismic upgrading. About \$4 million, which became available after the last legislative session, will be spread among districts selected from the drawing, Dougherty said. So far, he added, federal funding isn't available.

Dougherty also told the board that a new proposal will be submitted from the Cannon Beach Academy board to start a charter school in Cannon Beach.

After hearing an appeal from the academy's board, the state Department of Education asked the school district and the academy board to discuss the issue again. Dougherty said the state department questioned whether it could act as a sponsor of the charter school since the Seaside School District receives no state funding; the district is financed by property taxes and timber revenues.

The Seaside School Board several months ago turned down the academy's proposal, citing concerns about the charter school's budget and curriculum. Dougherty said the district will assist the charter school in applying for state funds that recently became available for charter schools, and the academy board will work with the state education department to align its curriculum with state education standards. The charter school must show it complies with state and district requirements by next March if it plans to open in September 2017.

The board approved a request by Dougherty, who is retiring as district superintendent July 1, to work full time until Dec. 31 to oversee a bond measure to be submitted to voters in the Nov. 8 general election. The bond would finance the relocation of Seaside's schools to a hillside east of Seaside Heights Elementary School. The amount of the bond measure has not yet been announced.

Wine appreciation workshop in Tolovana

Destiny Dudley presents Wine Tasting and Appreciation 101, Saturday, July 9, 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Tolovana Hall in Cannon Beach. Dudley, a certified sommelier and long-time wine-educator, will lead a small group through an informational tasting session. Wine and palate-cleansing snacks will be provided. Dudley works

as sommelier for Jonathan Hoffman, two-time defending champion of Iron Chef Goes Coastal. As well as a sommelier, Dudley is a certified wine educator by the Society of Wine Educators. Tickets are \$45; RSVP to tolovanaartscolony.org, email: tolovanaartscolony@gmail.com; 541-215-4445.

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