

Seaside School District sees 1.8 percent budget increase

Hospitality teacher to be introduced next year

By R.J. Marx & Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

SEASIDE — The Seaside School District issued its nearly \$21 million 2018-19 proposed budget Tuesday, April 18, with a focus on real-world skills for students.

In her budget message to the community, Sheila Roley, superintendent of the district, announced the addition of a full-time culinary arts and hospitality teacher.

According to Roley, the position was lost several years ago and is now included due to the funds provided by the Ore-

R.J. MARX/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

The 2018-19 proposed Seaside School District budget.

gon Student Success Program, funded by state voters in 2016.

The program is being diversified to include instruction of skills to work in the hospitality industry as well as the

food industry.

The district will also be funding the addition of a full-time elementary physical education teacher. Currently elementary school students

receive only 30 minutes per week of physical education. The addition of the new teacher will double that, she said, moving the district closer to the state mandate of offering 30 minutes each day for students to promote student health.

The general fund increased by 3.8 percent from last year, leading to a total year-to-year budget increase of 1.8 percent.

The Seaside School District's fixed tax rate is \$4.4105 per \$1,000 of assessed value for the general fund.

The general fund does not include taxpayer costs related to the \$99.7 million bond levy approved by voters in 2016 for a new school campus in the Southeast Hills.

A local option levy of .52 per \$1,000 and bond cost of about \$1.36 bring the overall

amount to \$6.30 per \$1,000 for taxpayers.

Salary costs of \$10.2 million and associated payroll costs of nearly \$7 million make the largest portion of the budget. Other costs include purchased services, supplies and material and capital outlay.

The district has also been experiencing high workers' compensation claims. In four of the last five years, the district's workers' compensation carrier has paid out more per dollar than the premium amount with 51 claims totaling \$396,315 in losses, said the district's business manager, Justine Hill.

"The majority of our claims are related to slips, trips and

falls. Several of our total incurred losses due to claims. ... have been significant (i.e., surgeries, employee time lost)," Hill said in an email. "Our workers' compensation carrier has been working with our safety committee and we are trying to figure out ways to improve safety."

The budget committee's next meeting is Tuesday, May 15, at 6 p.m. at 1801 S. Franklin in Seaside. That meeting is the target date for approval by the budget committee. A June 19 public hearing as approved by the budget committee will be held to enact resolutions to adopt the budget, make the appropriations and to declare the tax levy.

Old answers, new discoveries

Theories still in flux about human settlement in the Americas

By Nancy McCarthy
For Cannon Beach Gazette

For awhile, Paisley, Oregon was No. 1 among archaeologists searching for evidence of the oldest inhabitants of the Americas.

Human DNA discovered in five caves in the southeastern Oregon location was determined to be 14,200 years old.

But, ultimately, Paisley became No. 3, behind Monte Verde, Chile, where evidence of human activity dated to 14,300 BP (before present) and, finally, to Buttermilk Creek, Texas, and 15,300 BP.



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Cameron Smith came to Cannon Beach to discuss migration of the first people to the Americas.

that first happens, but what are the cognitive mechanisms — what produced that? Oh, that's really tough — the evolution of cognition."

Eventually, Smith said, scientists will develop a process and will know why cave dwellers drew on the sides of their shelters.

Before the 16th century, Europeans looked to the Old Testament for answers about new discoveries. Native Americans, for instance were thought to originate from the lost tribes of Israel, Smith said. But in the 1550s, Jesuit missionary Jose de Acosta noted that their language had no hint of Hebrew, their burial customs differed and "nothing matched." He suggested that the native people, based on skin coloration and the shape of their eyes, were of northeast Asian descent.

The discovery of the Americas was a "big part of the abandonment of the Old Testament" by the Europeans for scientific explanations, Smith said.

"Today the evidence is clear: de Acosta was correct," Smith added. Three lines of evidence — genetic, linguistic and archaeological — prove there's a link from Northeast Asia.

They apparently traveled

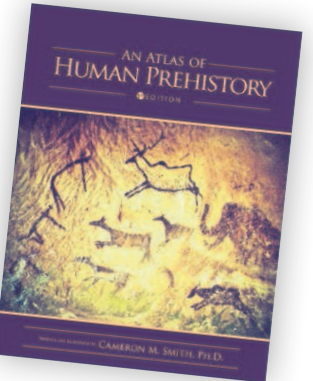
on ice sheets thousands of feet thick from Siberia to what is now Alaska on a land bridge across the Bering Strait. The bridge was about 50 miles long and over 600 miles wide. At the time, sea levels dropped, which made for a somewhat "dry" crossing. The northwest shorelines also could have been 10 miles beyond what they are now, allowing for more settlement. Smith said archaeologists are seeking artifacts in what might have been campsites along the Beringia route.

A woolly mammoth was discovered in the ice in the Beringia region, which is called the "mammoth steppe."

"You have marshes, you have dry land. it's a low topography, and it supports big herds of big herbivores. So on the great plains of the Americas, there were mastodons at one point, but later on there were bison," Smith said.

Along the way came snow lions from northern Asia, and, at the Paisley, Oregon site, an archaeologist in the 1930s found camel bones.

Archaeologists, however, are debating the dates that the ice sheets began to melt. DNA evidence of a brown bear in an Alaskan cave dates to 17,000 years ago, which means humans might have made an



even earlier appearance than originally estimated.

"If that environment could support brown bears, who are big omnivores like us ... if they could get enough calories to live, it means there's enough food, there's enough vegetation and other animals; presumably people could live there, too," Smith said. "It probably wasn't covered in a sheet of ice."

Why did human beings move? While foraging and hunting for food, as well as environmental changes may have been primary reasons for the earliest inhabitants to venture across a land bridge, down the Pacific Coast and into the Great Plains and beyond to Central and South America, there may have been other reasons, according to Smith.

"Spiritual survival was as important as cultural survival," he said. For others, who searched for new lands, their intent may have been "conscious exploration."

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and Seaside residents and visitors attend monthly meetings of Cannon Beach Reads for conversation, coffee or tea and cookies. New members are encouraged to participate.

For additional information about Cannon Beach Reads, contact Joe Bernt, 503-436-4186 or email berntj@ohio.edu.



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