



## AFTERMATH

### Blaze in Seaside destroys three homes, damages another



Homeowner Chuck LaDeRoute, in black cap, right, with firefighters and neighbors.

R.J. MARX PHOTO/SEASIDE SIGNAL

Stories by R.J. Marx  
Seaside Signal

**T**he fire that destroyed three homes on 11th Avenue in Seaside is thought to be caused by an electrical malfunction, Seaside fire officials said this week. In addition to the three homes, a fourth was badly damaged. Total losses are estimated at \$2 million to \$3 million.

“It’s such a large fire, there will be a lot of work as far as doing the investigation,” Seaside Division Chief Chris Dugan said Monday, Dec. 7. In the aftermath of the fire, properties and a portion of

the street were blocked off from pedestrian and vehicle traffic. The Clatsop County Fire Investigation Team was on-site, along with personnel from BELFOR Property Restoration and the Seaside Police Department.

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### Families devastated by the fast-moving blaze

Early Sunday morning, behind a cordoned off area, neighbor David Doney said he was awakened by smoke and sirens. “We came down here when we saw this, about 4:30 this morning,” Doney said. “There was a big gas fire going on. I think they had every fire truck in the county.”

Seaside residents Carl and Shirley Yates arrived at the scene overnight. Their relatives, Chuck and Carole LaDeRoute, own one of the homes destroyed.

“We had Fourth of July barbecues in the back with all the

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DAVID DONEY/FOR THE SEASIDE SIGNAL

Firefighters respond to a blaze in Seaside that destroyed three homes.

## Seaside may reduce growth projection time frame

### Members favor focusing on multiple sites to ‘disperse’ impact of urbanization

By Katherine Lacaze  
Seaside Signal

By state law, Seaside’s urban boundaries are required to expand to accommodate a growing population. But what will growth look like in 20 years? Rather than projecting two decades ahead, the Planning Commission is considering a more conservative approach to its proposed Urban Growth Boundary expansion by looking at a 14-year projection in regards to the city’s future land needs.

This approach would allow the city’s potential expansion to have less of an impact on the South Wahanna Road area, whose residents comprise a majority of the opposition to the project.

For a 14-year land-needs analysis, the city needs to apply for an expansion to bring an additional 141 acres into the Urban Growth Boundary expansion, consultant Don Hanson, of Otak, told the commission during its Dec. 1 meeting. To

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## ‘Make tomorrow better than today’

### Gearhart support classroom helps students succeed in new ways

By Katherine Lacaze  
Seaside Signal

Seaside School District teacher Jennifer Glasson and her team believe students can be successful, and it is the responsibility of educators to remove obstacles to achievement.

That philosophy guides the Learning Center Support Station, started this year in a portable classroom at Gearhart Elementary School to provide an alternative learning environment for kindergarten through fifth-grade students with challenging behaviors.

Everyday, Glasson and fellow teachers Mary Foust and Angela Dilley collaborate with each other and the students in the support station, a specially designed classroom, to discover “what is getting in the way” of a student’s success and then find “ways to make tomorrow better than today was,” Glasson said.

Primarily, the team is focused on building relationships with the students and being the relentless champions they need to change bad behaviors, she said.

“It’s a social competencies classroom, because that’s what the behaviors are impeding,” Glasson said. “Our ultimate goal is to give them tools to overcome the obstacles preventing them from being in the general education room.”

In the past, elementary students with behavioral or emotional challenges who were on individualized education programs were being suspended regularly, having their days at public school shortened or receiving a

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## ‘A SHOUT OUT TO ALL THOSE HEROES’

### Seaside honors ‘day which will live in infamy’

By Katherine Lacaze  
Seaside Signal

A day that will “live in infamy.” An event that served to “awaken a sleeping giant.” These things were solemnly remembered and tribute was paid to those who served during World War II at the annual Pearl Harbor Day of Remembrance in Seaside.

Residents gathered at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center Monday morning for a ceremony highlighted by the attendance of two Pearl Harbor survivors: Bill Thomas, who served aboard the USS Medusa, and Spurgeon Keeth Sr., a member of the U.S. Army’s

35th Infantry stationed at Schofield Barracks on Oahu.

“You are my heroes,” said guest speaker Steve Gibson, a retired U.S. Navy captain.

#### Strength and resolve

In his speech, Gibson focused on two memorable quotes inspired by the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor more than 70 years ago. The first was delivered by then president Franklin D. Roosevelt, who, when asking Congress for a declaration of war against Japan, described Dec. 7 as “a date which will live in infamy.” The attack killed more than

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JOSHUA BESSEK/EO MEDIA GROUP

Bill Thomas, a Pearl Harbor survivor aboard the USS Medusa, salutes as Boy Scout Troop 642 lowers the flag to half-staff during the Pearl Harbor Day of Remembrance ceremony at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center Monday. Thomas, a Seaside resident, was 20 at the time of the attack.

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