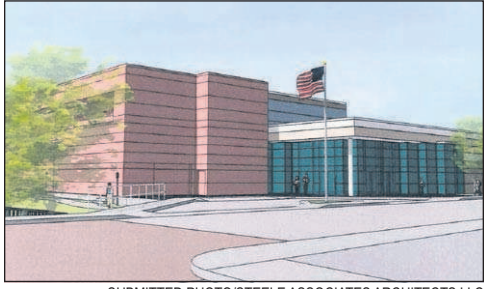




City to consider convention center renovation



Proposed renovation plans for the exterior of the Seaside Convention Center.

After 25 years, director says the center must grow to compete

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Seaside Civic and Convention Center General Manager Russell Vandenberg went before the Seaside City Council Tuesday to present a nearly \$15 million dollar renovation plan.

Another plan at more than twice the cost

fell flat last year after residents and businesses objected to a proposed sales tax to fund its purchase. A sales tax is “off the table,” according to Vandenberg, who said funding options would be discussed at future meetings.

The need for a renovation is a result of the center’s age and to keep up with the times, he said.

The center, which holds 1,200 people, was built in 1971 and renovated in 1991.

“We have a 45-year-old building, built in 1971, and it’s a little tired,” Vandenberg said.

“But she’s done her job, provided economic impact for 45 years.”

The majority of convention centers renovate or increase size about every 15 years, according to Vandenberg. “We’re now going on 25 years since that time.”

Vandenberg and Jon Rahl of the Seaside Visitors Center said the renovated center would significantly increase capacity, urgently needed to accommodate regional events.

See Center, Page 6A

A BALANCING ACT



Hobby becomes a phys ed activity

By Katherine Lacaze | For the Seaside Signal

When thinking about physical education at elementary school, one practice that likely will not come to mind is unicycling. An exception can be found, however, in the Seaside School District.

Each fifth-grade physical education class at Gearhart Elementary School and Seaside Heights Elementary School recently completed a five-week unit focused on the unicycle.

See Unicycles, Page 10A

Cannon Beach Academy still fighting for a fall opening

Charter school claims district set ‘artificial barriers’

By Lyra Fontaine
EO Media Group

Cannon Beach Academy representatives said they were “extremely disappointed” by the Seaside School District’s decision to withdraw approval for the charter school’s opening this fall.

They say the district erected unreasonable, “artificial barriers” to the academy’s operation and should reconsider the decision.

Eight academy board members objected in a letter received by the school district last week. The school district withdrew approval last month based on the academy’s failure to meet financial, enrollment and English as a Second Language requirements agreed upon in October.



The Cannon Beach Academy’s logo, designed by Croworks of Cannon Beach.

The conditions, which were to be met by March, were intended to ensure that the academy would be “financially, structurally and academically ready” to open in the fall.

While acknowledging these conditions had not been met, academy board members asked the school district to “accept a certain level of uncertainty” relating to enrollment and staff.

The academy board offered to meet with the district to “further discuss how we can move forward to commence Cannon Beach operations for the 2016-17 school year.”

The public charter school is prepared to appeal the district’s decision and seek sponsorship by the Oregon State Board of Education if an agreement is not reached by April 11, board members wrote. An appeal has not been filed to date.

Long road

In 2013, community residents sought to bring a charter school to Cannon Beach, with the goal of hosting kindergartners through fifth-graders.

See Academy, Page 7A

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 97
ASTORIA, OR

Short-term rental owners fear impact of rules



Katherine Schroeder and Nancy Marshall say the city should not burden short-term rental owners with regulations.

Vacation homeowners say it’s a matter of ‘survival’

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Opponents of limits on vacation rentals in Gearhart say they are not getting equal time in the debate and the city has already decided to enact rules, overriding their input.

Gearhart property owners Katherine Schroeder and Nancy Marshall, in a discussion at Schroeder’s home April 6 said vacation homeowners could effectively regulate themselves.

They oppose the city’s plans to seek changes in the zoning code to regulate short-term lodging of 30 days or less.

Schroeder’s North Marion Avenue home was rented by the previous owners, and rented continuously for

For more on Gearhart’s short-term rental issue, see pages 5A and 7A

about 65 years.

Marshall, a North Marion Avenue resident, arrived in Gearhart in 1989.

“We’ve had the beach house since 1989,” Marshall said. “We needed to rent it, and continue to rent it. We’re not opposed to the tax, but to have the city tell me how I can use my property really irritates me.”

Schroeder and Marshall vigorously oppose restrictions.

“Those who want to regulate think it’s for the good of the community but those of us who don’t want regula-

tions, think it’s to survive,” Schroeder said. “The regulations are not simply regulations, they are restrictions, also, which I think is a big distinction.”

“People think we’re making money hand over fist,” Marshall said. “We’re not.”

Renting their homes out on a short-term basis allows property owners to use their own properties for part of the year, Schroeder said.

Gearhart is different than other cities, Schroeder and Marshall both said.

Schroeder, Marshall and several other Gearhart families began meeting in 2014 when the topic first came on the horizon.

They say short-term rental owners should be self-regulating, with the first step education.

See Rentals, Page 7A