



## Rental owners ready to battle

Vote, legal action could result from Gearhart decision

By R.J. Marx  
Seaside Signal

GEARHART — As a result of this week's City Council decision, new short-term rental rules could be coming to Gearhart, residents are likely to challenge it at the polls or in the courts, or both.

"I implore you to sit back, reflect and engage forward thinking and clear vision to avoid a prolonged battle which could drain resources and further divide this community," Jim Whittemore said in opposing proposed rules regulating short-term rentals. "Working together to resolve this issue will be far more productive than a prolonged civic and possibly legal battle that could have lasting effects on the future of this city."

The council convened at the firehouse Tuesday night to hear public comment on short-term regulation in Gearhart, a process initiated by the Planning Commission. The zone code amendments address transient properties renting for 30 days or less in Gearhart, requiring property owners to license their properties and observe health, safety and parking regulations, 24-hour contact information and neighbor notification, among other conditions.

Two of the most contentious items debated at length were a proposal to limit one permit per resident and the length of time to apply. Councilors altered the language to allow multiple licenses for an owner of multiple properties; they also requested an extension of the 30-day application period to 60 days, with an additional 180-day period to allow short-term property owners to bring their properties into compliance.

Councilors also revised a Planning Commission proposal to limit the number of guests in a short-term property to 10. If other conditions are met, that number could be higher.

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# MEET MISS OREGON

ASTORIA NATIVE ADVANCED TO PAGEANT AFTER EARNING TITLE OF MISS PORTLAND EARLIER THIS YEAR

MATHER WILL NOW TRAVEL TO NEW JERSEY TO COMPETE FOR THE TITLE OF MISS AMERICA



JEFF TER HAR/FOR SEASIDE SIGNAL

Miss Oregon 2016 Alexis Mather

By Eli Stillman  
EO Media Group

In its 70 years of existence, the Miss Oregon competition has brought bright gowns, flashing smiles and, for one young woman, the most coveted headwear in the state.

At the end of Saturday evening, a packed Seaside Civic and Convention Center saw Alexis Mather join the "Miss O Sisterhood." The Astoria native advanced to the pageant after earning the title of Miss Portland earlier this year.

For Mather, the moment of being crowned came after years of preparation, as she has been competing in pageants since 2009. She was fourth runner-up last year as Miss Clatsop County.

"The credit goes to the volunteers of the organization," Mather said after claiming the crown. "I've always looked up to Miss Oregon and looked up to all the volunteers for what they do."

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## Budget unanimously approved as city looks ahead

By R.J. Marx  
Seaside Signal

Teamwork, strong revenues and a road construction project nearing completion led to unanimous approval of the Seaside budget at Seaside's City Council meeting Monday, June 27.

The budget calls for expenditures of about \$18.7 million, an almost 20 percent reduction

from this fiscal year's budget of almost \$23 million.

The decrease comes from the near completion of a North Holladay Drive reconstruction process as crews finish curbs and paving before power crews install underground utilities. Construction crews will vacate some areas by the July 4 holiday to accommodate parade visitors, Public Works Director Dale McDowell said, although

the parade route has been altered because of the construction.

With North Holladay Drive renovations complete, the city could address other building needs, City Manager Mark Winstanley said after the meeting. These include construction of the Avenue U bridge and a proposed renovation of Holladay between First Avenue and Avenue A.

The city is in the design phase to replace the Avenue U Bridge, at an anticipated cost of about \$3.5 million.

"We'd love to get some money from the Oregon Department of Transportation to help us with that bridge," Winstanley said.



Mark Winstanley

The next phase of the Holladay Drive renovation has yet to be scoped, but it is a much smaller area. "We expect that will be much more affordable," he said. "The North Holladay project was a huge project and we're not going to be doing anything like that for a few years."

If a proposed \$15 million Seaside Civic and Convention Center renovation is ap-

proved, the budget could be adjusted to get the project up and running before the end of this fiscal year, Winstanley said.

The city could also play a role in the development of a new Seaside High School campus, he added. If district voters approve a bond to relocate geographically at-risk

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## A star-spangled Fourth in downtown Seaside

Parade kicks off day of festivities

By Katherine Lacaze  
For Seaside Signal

The downtown streets of Seaside came alive with rousing music, flamboyant colors and human activity Monday morning as Seaside's annual Fourth of July Parade wound through the city's core.

Hundreds of spectators lined the sidewalks from Holladay Drive, down Broadway, to Columbia Street and across First Avenue to watch the parade, formed from several dozen North Coast businesses, families and organizations. Four drum and bugles corps — the Santa Clara Vanguard, Oregon Crusaders, Spokane Thunder and the Battalion from Salt Lake City — were spaced among other floats and vehicles to contribute a high-caliber musical performance to the traditional event.

Parades are a highlight of Fourth of July festivities, not only in Seaside but in towns across America.

"It's just an American thing," said Julie, a visitor from Kelso, Washington, describing Seaside's Fourth of July experience.

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KATHERINE LACAZE/FOR SEASIDE SIGNAL

Seaside's annual Fourth of July Parade brought out a sense of patriotism in participants and spectators.



KATHERINE LACAZE/FOR SEASIDE SIGNAL

Sasquatch made an appearance at Seaside's Fourth of July Parade.