

# Gearhart looks at three potential sites for new firehouse

**Firehouse** from Page 1A

safety building to 12,760 square feet.

Estimated costs for the building and construction run to nearly \$5 million, Sweet said, with an additional \$2.7 million in interest.

Potential property tax increases were estimated at \$.78 per \$1,000 of assessed value. For a \$300,000 home, that would figure \$234 a year. A \$500,000 home would see taxes increase about \$390 per year.

**Rating properties**

Each of the proposed sites is either owned by the city or would be available to the city at a minimal cost.

Gearhart Park offers compacted sand for advantageous foundation and a higher elevation,

geologist Tom Horning said. “The park site is a good site,” he said. “High enough, and it’s near enough town to provide great services.”

Disadvantages include loss of parkland and effects on neighboring homes.

A public safety building would take up “about half the park,” Sweet said.

“There’s obviously an aesthetic aspect that would be negative,” Speakman said.

The Trail’s End location offers a central location and the city already owns some of the land.

But low elevation and concerns from neighbors who hope to preserve that property could be downsides.

The current firehouse site, while built “fairly stoutly,” according to Horning, is likely



Co-chairwoman Sue Lorain speaks. From left, Building Official Mark Brien, Tom Horning and Jay Speakman.

**‘The time has come to upgrade our capabilities here so we can maintain a first-grade fire brigade. The need is not going away.’**

Firehouse committee co-chairman Jay Speakman

ly to flood even in a moderate tsunami.

“If you’re going to relocate here, you’ll have upwards of

20 feet of water,” Horning said. “You can’t do anything with the equipment because it will be inundated by the water. After the town is flooded there will be fires. They will break out, in a fireplace, natural gas line that sparks — and if you can’t use the local water to pump onto the fire, how will you put it out?”

**Community need**

Tuesday’s meeting ended without resolution, but the issue will now head to the City Council for discussion.

“The ultimate decision about this will be up to the council,” Speakman said. “We have a new mayor, Matt Brown, who’s very passionate about this, and we all feel very confident that hopefully we can convince the population

that even though this is going to be a costly venture, the time has come to upgrade our capabilities here so we can maintain a first-grade fire brigade. The need is not going away.”

Fire Chief Bill Eddy made an appeal for Gearhart’s volunteer firefighters.

“Everybody talks about the equipment in here,” Eddy said. “The biggest asset we have are the firefighters in our department. The amount of money that each one of these firefighters is worth dwarfs what these apparatus are worth. Part of the station is for them. They’re the ones that have to come here to drill, to respond. To have a facility that’s current and up-to-date when it comes to training and all the other aspects of it — it’s needed.”

# Program is more than a beauty contest

**Princess** from Page 1A

## More than beauty

The annual scholarship program — celebrating its 67th year — is far more than a beauty contest.

Program director Sandy Newman said judges evaluate the “overall package,” with winners serving as ambassadors for the county at parades, charitable and special events.

Judges seek “somebody who’s likable, can go with the flow,” Newman said. “Great speaking skills are very important.”

Garhofer entered her first contest while an eighth-grader at Broadway Middle School in Seaside. She was named Miss Clatsop County Teen in 2013.

“Over the past six years I’ve evolved into the woman I am,” she said onstage after the show. “I am so thankful for this organization.”

She was chosen among four Miss Clatsop County contestants, joined by Anna Kaim, Hayliehe Bell and Kayla Warwood.

Garhofer is a student at Northwest Christian University. During her winning talent display, she tap-danced to “Emergency” by Icona Pop and described her platform as “Live Your Dash — Leave Your Legacy.”

Garhofer also won service above self, fitness and congeniality awards.

Outstanding teen Sims wowed judges with an emotional rendition of composer Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah,” while Ramsdell’s performance of J.P. Cooper’s “We Were Raised Under Gray Skies,” and a platform of promoting school and community music programs contributed to her success.

**Scholarship funds**

Along with recognizing the talent of the county’s young women, Miss Clatsop County Scholarship program distributed thousands of dollars in scholarship funds.

“I think the experience of interviewing with a panel of judges for 10 minutes is invaluable,” Newman said. “You have



Hannah Garhofer walks the runway after her crowning as Miss Clatsop County 2017.

no idea what questions they are going to ask. They are applying for a job of Miss Clatsop County. Potentially Miss Oregon, potentially Miss America.”

Contestants gain self-confidence and skills in interviewing and public speaking, Newman added. “Some of these girls have been competing as teens and now onstage today. In fact, all four Misses competed as teens. Seeing them grow is just amazing.”

Next up for competitors: the Miss Oregon and Oregon’s Outstanding Teen competition in Seaside at the end of June.

“I will be going to Miss Oregon at the end of June,” Garhofer said as she enjoyed congratulations from organizers, family and friends. “I am so thankful for this opportunity! And I cannot wait to represent Clatsop County!”



Miss Teen Peyton Sims is crowned by Miss Clatsop County Teen 2016 Caitlin Hillman. Taryn Miller, Miss Columbia-Pacific’s Outstanding Teen 2016, at right.

# Foster, Snow to be saluted at Liberty Theatre event

ASTORIA — Prominent Astorians Michael Foster and Hal Snow died in late 2016. To honor them and their legacies, the Liberty Theatre will host A Gathering of Gratitude at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 19.

At the event, which is free and open to the public, people will talk about the roles that Snow and Foster played in the lives of many area nonprofit organizations.

“Hal and Michael did so much to make the Liberty’s restoration happen,” said former Liberty president, Steve Forrester. “Our board feels obliged to honor them publicly.”

“Hal Snow was corporate secretary from the mid-1990s until about 2006,” Forrester added. “Michael Foster was a board member from the moment we began to envision a new performing space, at the Liberty or somewhere else in Astoria.”

Through the Snow Family Foundation, Snow made a succession of gifts to the theater — for the chandelier restoration, the canopy manufacture and the box office restoration.

“Hal would sit back quietly observing, and then, when he spoke up or gently planted ideas for other to act upon, everyone listened,” said Cheri Folk, previous and current theater board member. “I loved hearing him tell of his mother work-

ing in the ticket booth as a young girl.”

Foster brought gold from his foreign travels to gild the theater’s plaster ornamentation. “Michael was our dreamer,” said Folk. He also floated the idea of creating the second-floor reception area that later become the McTavish Room, underwritten by Shawn Teevin.”

“Michael was patient in helping the board find a chandelier for the McTavish Room,” said Forrester. Jerry Gustafson underwrote the purchase in honor of his wife, Marilyn.

According to Forrester, “Without the contributions of Michael and Hal — financial, emotional, and intellectual — the restoration would have been much different.”

Other organizations that will speak are the Astoria High School Scholarships Fund, Lower Columbia Youth Soccer Association, Friends of Astoria Column, Clatsop County Historical Society and the Oregon Community Foundation.

Following the 3 p.m. finish of the event, there will be refreshments and conversation in the McTavish Room. The theater is located at 1203 Commercial St.

Those wanting to speak should notify Liberty Theater Director Jennifer Crockett by calling 503-325-5922, ext. 33.



Hal Snow



Michael Foster

# Fundraiser to support library reading outreach

The Libraries Reading Outreach in Clatsop County program will be holding its second annual fundraiser on Thursday, March 23, at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center in Seaside.

As part of the fundraiser there will be a Little Free Libraries live auction. Little Free Libraries are a free exchange community library that people may place in

their yards or businesses. Libraries Reading Outreach in Clatsop County is accepting donations of little free libraries built by community members and businesses. For more details on building and donating a little library, contact your local library.

The ticket price of \$15 includes light desserts, refreshments, and a silent and live auction.

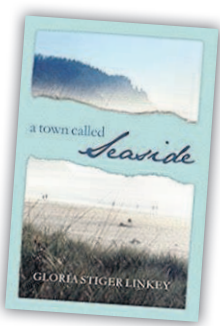
# A look back at Seaside’s past with local author

Delve into the history of Seaside on Saturday, March 25, at 1 p.m. with local author Gloria Linkey as she discusses her new book, “A Town Called Seaside.” The event, sponsored by the Friends of the Seaside Library, features book sales and signings.

The town of Seaside isn’t very big. It boasts 6,500 full-time residents but gains an enormous boost in population every summer. Thousands flock to its beaches, restaurants, and art galleries.

In “A Town Called Seaside,” author and historian Gloria Linkey will be tour guide as she takes the audience through Seaside’s origins as a summer resort town in the 1940s to the thriving tourist attraction the town has become today.

Linkey’s research conjures up beautiful images of pre-World War II bygone



days, where people walked the Prom in fine attire, and went to the state-of-the-art aquarium. Families could also spend an afternoon watching Lone Ranger serials at one of Seaside’s two movie houses as well as participating in a variety of events that befitted a summer destination.

While Linkey preserves Seaside’s past, she also demonstrates how the town has grown and changed for the better. She shows how city government and the chamber of commerce changed the town’s status from strictly a summer destination to a year round resort.

Seaside Library is located at 1131 Broadway. The event takes place in the community room. For more information call 503-738-6742 or visit [www.seasidelibrary.org](http://www.seasidelibrary.org).

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