

Gearhart will reconsider video poker machines at brew pub

City Council had voted against gambling

By Katie Frankowicz
Seaside Signal

The Gearhart City Council will take a second look at its decision to deny a permit that would have allowed video poker machines at a new brew pub in a neighborhood down the road from City Hall.

At an emergency meeting Wednesday night, the council voted unanimously to reconsider its denial of a permit application submitted by Terry Lowenberg, owner of Gearhart Crossing.

The Planning Commission denied the permit in January and the council upheld the denial in April, citing concerns about maintaining the neighborhood character and saying there was no proven need for the machines at the pub. Lowenberg, who had appealed the Planning Commission's decision, appealed the council's decision to the state Land Use Board of Appeals.

The city then had the option to let the appeal go forward or to bring the application back for reconsideration.

City Attorney Peter Watts recommended the council reconsider the permit application. While the council and the Planning Commission came to the same conclusion



The new look at the Gearhart Crossing Pub & Deli.



Terry Lowenberg

to not allow video poker machines at Gearhart Crossing, city councilors had slightly different reasons for their "no" votes, Watts said. Currently, the findings the state would see only reflect the Planning Commission's reasoning. If the council brought the permit back, this would give them a chance to make sure the official findings represented the opinions and conclusions of both groups.

In reconsidering the permit, "obviously the City Council could come to a different conclusion (about the

permit)," Watts said. "They could come to the same conclusion. I'm not sure what will happen. It would be a reconsideration but whatever conclusion the City Council comes to we would make sure that the findings (reflect) that conclusion."

"I still question why we're expending so much political capital, if you will, fighting this," said City Councilor Dan Jesse. He was the only one to vote in the permit's favor in April.

"Well I think the good news is it's for reconsideration," Mayor Matt Brown said. "So we have a lot of choices depending on what happens in the reconsideration."

The five councilors voted unanimously to bring the per-

mit back and review it a second time.

The city is now required to hold another public hearing, something it plans to do as soon as possible — likely in late June or early July. Anyone who testified at the previous hearing, whether for or against the lottery machines, can speak again.

Lowenberg and his lawyers believe the city's denial of the permit ignores state law and that Lowenberg does not need the city's approval to install the lottery machines.

"The denial does not appear to be based on any relevant fact, but rather on a prejudice against gaming and the people that participate gaming," Lowenberg wrote in his appeal.

Photo project teaches children many skills

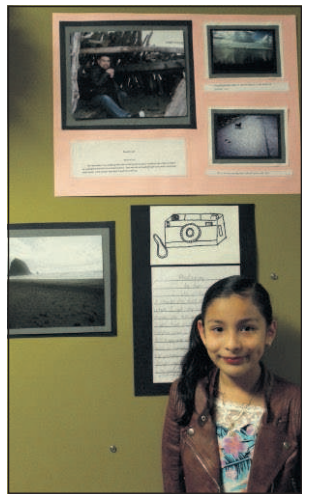
Photos from Page 1A

she could see herself being a photographer some day, though if given the option to take a picture of anything world would still "take more photos of the beach."

The idea for this exhibit came out of an idea Paino had when she needed a project to get her Masters degree. The focus of her degree was in the arts, and at the time, she thought photography would be easier to teach young children than more than painting or cut-and-paste type projects.

"I was wrong," she laughed. "I forgot we had to mat these things!"

While cutting and pasting couldn't be avoided, she found teaching kids photography helped teach a multitude of other skills, like looking at things from a different angles and perspectives. So Paino applied for a \$500 grant to pay for the cameras, and recreated the project for Seaside kids.



BRENNNA VISSER/SEASIDE SIGNAL

Suri Morales stands by her work in the photography exhibit constructed by Seaside Heights' third-grade students.

"You cannot believe these were taken with disposable camera," Paino said. "I like this project because it also gets parents involved. A lot of them took kids out to the water and the forest, and a lot of the pictures include family."

School district takes bids

Schools from Page 1A

The target budget is expected to exceed \$112.5 million, of which more than \$82 million is expected to fund construction. Of the total cost, an additional \$8.2 million is targeted for design costs and engineering services.

Bids were requested April 10 and three proposals received on May 9.

Hoffman Construction, which built the Portland State University Research and Teaching Center and the Sandy High School, had "an excellent written proposal and presentation and we were really impressed by their qualifications," Roley said. "They have built some excellent schools already in the state of Oregon and they have a lot of coast experience. Overall, we feel they're a great team to go with the team we already have going."

Logging underway

In a letter last week, Superintendent-emeritus Doug Dougherty said Weyerhaeuser Co. will start on the far east end of the Southeast Hill property and move west. After tree and stump removal, site development will begin.

Logging at the top of the hill began this week, Roley said, with material going through main logging roads. Logging will not begin in the vicinity of Seaside Heights Elementary School until after the school year.

Weyerhaeuser, which donated 80 acres to the district to house the campus, will

receive profits from the harvest of the wood, part of the agreement's terms.

Architect, project manager and construction management teams plan to meet next week at the district office, Roley said.

Concurrently, the district will appear before the city seeking an expansion of the urban growth boundary, she said, referring to the process of linking school property to city services. Along with the Weyerhaeuser timber removal, the district plans to contract out logging of an additional 12 acres adjacent to Seaside Heights, part of a 19-acre parcel, Roley said. AKS Engineering and Forestry is the logging contractor.

The district anticipates paying out \$22.5 million next year toward the project, endorsed by voters in approval of a \$99.7 million construction bond last November, Business Manager Justine Hill said in April.

The budget number swelled with the addition of \$4 million from the state, along with favorable bond sales and rates, Hill said.

According to the district's project timeline, heavy site work is scheduled to begin in the first and second quarters of 2018.

"We are right where we want to be," Roley said. "We don't anticipate any actual construction until the summer of 2018 but we will be very busy with the preparation up until that time."

Completion of campus construction and opening for classes is anticipated by fall 2020.

At this shop, 'all fish stories are welcome'

Fishy from Page 1A

Customers for his lures are fishing for salmon and steelhead, Brien said. The best fishing, he said, is behind the water treatment plant up to the Avenue G Bridge.

"You have to walk the river find the fish," he said. "You have to learn how to cast." Fishermen, he said, are secretive. They don't want anybody to know their best spots. "I'd just as soon lose the fish than let another fisherman know where I caught it," Brien said with a laugh.

Lightning Strike Lures are immensely colorful. Why is that? Aren't fish color blind?

"People will tell you they can't see colors," Brien said. "But that's not my experience." He said they always seem to notice something red on the line. Which is probably why his "Shark Attack" lure is one of his most popular. It really does look like a spray of blood, but in an attractive way. He said Chinook salmon favor lures that are green, while Coho tend to like pink.

"The #5 Hula Girl lure is one of my top sellers, too,"



Jim Brien in front of his new bait and tackle shop on Avenue S.

Brien said. C'mon. Who or what wouldn't be lured by a hula girl?

Brien acknowledges there is an art to fly tying. And knowing what works best for a particular species of fish and knowing which lure is the right one to troll.

He also sells salmon and steelhead fish bait, which means night crawlers, salmon eggs, and sand shrimp. "I also sell crab bait," he said, wrinkling his nose. Crab bait is stinky. Not his favorite smell.

Jim Brien's Bait & Tackle is open Thursday, Friday, and Sat-

urday. The location is 766 Avenue S, just a short way east of Highway 101. It'll be on your left. Super neat little building. You can't miss it. The hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The phone is 503-738-2983.

"All fish stories are welcome," he said.

Author shares 'Voyage of Atonement'

Novel brings history of World War II to life

By Rebecca Herren
Seaside Signal

When history meets fiction, you get Brian Ratty. He is an award-winning author who writes adventure stories surrounded with historical backdrops.

"Voyage of Atonement" is Ratty's latest book and one of the subjects during his presentation at the Seaside Public Library on June 1. He began with background of his early life, explained why he writes and discussed the process of historical fiction.

Ratty refers to his books as "powerful stories of our past that gave birth to our future." He writes 90 percent historical and 10 percent fiction, and considers himself a storyteller, following the example of his favorite writer Jack London.

"I write what I like to read — historical fiction rich with



Local author Brian Ratty signs books for fans and history enthusiasts.

bold characters and powerful story lines," he said, adding that he believes "good historical fiction entertains and enlightens." He says the characters within the story — real or imagined — are the glue that holds the storyline together, moving the plot forward; whereas it is the role of the events to tie the story together and provide an exciting, memorable read of history.

"This method of writing is not a genre, but a technique of storytelling that dates back to the earliest forms of verbal and written communications," says Ratty, noting that native petroglyphs were a way of documenting some of the ear-

liest historical fiction.

Ratty imagines his readers being surrounded by adventure; being whisked "away to another time, another place and another frame of mind," resulting in an exciting journey through history.

"Voyage of Atonement" is compiled of three stories. When Ratty decided to write the book, he wanted to challenge himself. "I wanted to try to write three stories all taking place at the same time: one in 1963, one in 1944 and one in 1945," he says.

Ratty is a retired media executive and a graduate of Brooks Institute of Photography. He lives on the Oregon coast with his wife Tess and when he is not writing, he is out exploring and photographing the region.

He served in the Oregon International Guard as an aerial photo recon airman. Some of this experience can be read about in his upcoming book "Over the Next Horizon" due out this fall. It is filled with personal adventures, little tidbits and short stories.

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