



## We're weekly!

Our readers requested Seaside's paper be weekly. We're glad to be able to make that happen. As of May 10 the Seaside Signal will become a weekly newspaper again.

## Hoekstre No. 1 shot putter in US

Gulls' senior athlete hits a new personal best mark in her main event, and is once again No. 1 in the country on the list of high school female shot putters. | A10

# SEASIDE Signal

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## Where the candidates stand on the issues

### Three races, one contested, in Seaside School District

By **KATHERINE LACAZE**  
For Seaside Signal

During a forum April 30, candidates for Seaside School District's Board of Directors shared their thoughts on a range of key education-related issues, including the separation of church and state, immigration law enforcement, and challenges facing the district and its students.

A few dozen community members attended the forum, sponsored by the Amer-

ican Association of University Women and the Seaside Signal, to hear from Shannon Swedenborg, who is running unopposed for Cannon Beach's Zone 1, Position 1, and John Dunzer, Sondra Gomez, and Jeremy Mills, all vying for the Zone 5, Position 1 seat.

#### A look at the candidates

After introducing themselves, the candidates explained why they are interested in serving as board members and shared a past school-related experience that informs how they perceive the position.

Mills, a local State Farm agent and Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board member, said he comes from a blue-collar

background and didn't believe college was an option, instead being ushered toward joining the U.S. Marine Corps.

"Throughout middle school and high school, my objective was always to get the best education I could, but it wasn't for college," he said. "What I took from that was each of us has a different path."

Within a diverse student body, each child's path toward the future may vary, which means the district's responsibility is to "expand their idea of what success is," Mills said.

Gomez, a local operations manager for Vacasa who currently serves on the school board, agreed with Mills that students don't all fit the same mold. She remembers as an

intrepid kindergarten being told she needed to participate more and then seeing "talks too much" on report cards in the following years.

"It's difficult as students to figure out what people want from us," she said. "Students all have different ways of achieving."

She also dropped out of high school for two years, requiring her to catch up on credits in her senior year to graduate on time. She utilized independent study, job experience and what is now Career Technical Education.

"The combination of all those things helped me graduate on time, so I understand

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## Sunset Empire Rec candidates share views

By **KATHERINE LACAZE**  
For Seaside Signal

Seven community members are vying for two open positions on the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District's board of directors in the countywide Special Election on May 21.

"We've never had seven candidates run for election, so this is kind of a new experience for me," Executive Director Skyler Archibald said during a candidate forum held May 2 at the Bob Chisholm Community Center and sponsored by the district and the Seaside Signal. "I'm looking forward to seeing the results of the election and moving forward and working with our board to provide the best quality of services that we can."

Katharine Parker, Shirley Yates, Marti Wajc, and John Chapman are on the ballot for Position 4, while Patrick Duhachek, Lindsey Morrison, and Rodney Roberts are competing for Position 5.

"I think that's a real testament to not only (Archibald) but also his staff and where he's taken parks and rec over the past few years," Chapman said. "If people didn't believe in what parks and rec was doing, we wouldn't see this many people up here."

Throughout the course of the forum, candidates introduced themselves and shared their ideas about the future of the district, potentially expanding the organization's facilities and boundary, and its role in emergency preparedness.

#### Expansion?

Asked whether they supported the approximately \$20 million bond measure on last year's ballot that would have gone toward expanding the current aquatic and youth center facilities but was voted down, Chapman, Wajc, Duhachek and Morrison said they voted "no."

With the number of bond measures included on the ballot — including one for improving the county's jail — there was heavy competition for taxpayer dollars, which have to be considered across the board, Chapman said. Although he desires an expansion, there were obstacles and unanswered questions that influenced his vote at the time.

Duhachek agreed it was "too much, too



Katherine Lacaze/For Seaside Signal

**Six candidates running for two open positions on the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District's Board of Directors were part of a candidate forum held May 2 at the Bob Chisholm Community Center. From left, Rodney Roberts, John Chapman, Marti Wajc and Katharine Parker.**

#### AT THE POLLS

Ballots for the election have gone out to voters. They must be received in the Clatsop County Elections Office or at an official drop site, such as Seaside City Hall, by 8 p.m. on May 21. For more information, contact the county at 503-352-8511.

soon," but expressed interest in pursuing alternative funding sources for the expansion. Morrison added she also didn't want to add to the tax burden, especially for the community's elderly population, and suggested the district consider grants.

In Wajc's opinion, "bigger is not always better." She believes the district has enough space with its existing facilities and they should focus on maintenance rather than expanding.

Rodney and Parker both voted "yes" on the measure, as they mutually believe the district needs more indoor recreation space for the public, such as a basketball court and walking track.

They understood, however, why the timing wasn't ideal for the public, especially with the school district's bond measure to fund the new campus having passed only a couple years ago. They would like to revisit

the concept and investigate how to better approach funding the expansion.

#### Old school buildings an option?

The candidates also discussed if and how the middle and high school could be used by the district when they are vacated in 2020.

Morrison said trying to lease or rent the facilities would be preferable to purchasing them outright.

Wajc added they could rent a gym or other space on the school property for special occasions when the need arises.

The candidates agreed, however, the schools being located in the tsunami zone is problematic. Additionally, Chapman said, the buildings are deteriorating and maintenance is being postponed in anticipation of moving to the new campus for the 2020-21 school year.

He brought attention to the lack of resources, including gyms and outdoor playing fields, that will manifest if the buildings are destroyed. The Pacific Basketball League currently uses those venues for eight to nine weeks in the winter during its coastal tournaments.

Chapman sees an opportunity for the district to pursue the middle school prop-

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## Nonprofit winners and losers in the Seaside budget

By **R.J. MARX**  
Seaside Signal

There were winners and losers among local and regional nonprofits, as Seaside's budget committee unanimously approved sending the proposed budget to the City Council for adoption.

Twelve nonprofits asked for \$94,700 overall, and were met with a proposed delivery of \$81,900. Committee members had an option of meeting the full request amount, a smaller amount, or no funds at all.

Helping Hands Re-Entry Outreach Centers was the big winner, receiving \$25,000 of city funds. The center provides emergency housing and shelter for homeless men, women and children.

Last year the group received \$20,000.

Committee members commended the organization in granting the full amount. "I can't imagine this community without them," budget committee member Dana Phillips said.

But Restoration House, a nonprofit, offering housing for high-risk men with significant psychological/behavioral issues, failed to win a funding request for \$10,000 for a kitchen renovation of their North Holladay Drive property, a service they told committee members helped improve sociability and rehabilitation.

The program works from referrals from the Clatsop County Corrections Department and Clatsop Community Health, chairwoman Adrienne Taylor said in making the request early at the committee's public hearing early this month.

Through shared kitchen facilities, Taylor said, residents have a sense of community. "They're sharing food, ideas, and culinary skills. They need to learn the basic activities of daily living."

But budget committee members had qualms about the organization's mission, management and board.

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**Bonnie Woodman seeks compliance for a 16th Avenue vacation rental dwelling.**

#### PLANNING COMMISSION

## 16th Avenue house placed under vacation rental probation

By **R.J. MARX**  
Seaside Signal

Members of the Seaside Planning Commission issued a probationary period to property owners Kelly and Jon Norling through Labor Day at their vacation rental dwelling at 441 16th Avenue.

The Norlings could face revocation of their permit or other limitations, commissioners unanimously determined in their compliance review.

The decision came Tuesday night after repeated complaints from neighbor Bonnie Woodman of parking violations, loud parties, barking dogs and excessive occupancy at the

16th Avenue property.

She referred to the home as "the monster house," or the "frat house," because of the numerous complaints people had but were "too afraid to come before the council."

Woodman was joined at the meeting by community members who shared her views and showed support for the probationary period. Woodman asked commissioners to put the house under a one-year probation and to review vacation rental rules used by other cities.

Woodman asked the commissioners to change VRD rules in the future to enhance enforcement.

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