

Wayfinding signs to provide tsunami evacuation guidance

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Look down for the signs. They'll tell you where to head in the case of a tsunami.

New wayfinding signage, inspired by members of the Seaside High School's Associated Student Body in a presentation last fall, will guide residents and visitors to safe ground in the case of a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and subsequent tsunami.

The 62 thermal plastic street signs along the five established evacuation routes will increase public awareness of tsunami inundation zones, evacuation routes and safe high ground locations, Anne McBride, Seaside's emergency preparedness coordinator, said at the Monday, May 14, City Council meeting.

Funding for the project will come from grants



City Council Tom Horning and Seaside Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Community Development Department, review new wayfinding sign locations.

from the Oregon Department of Geology and Min-

eral Industries and the Oregon Office of Emergency

Management. Current signs are confus-

WHAT DOES THE STUDENT COUNCIL DO?

The ASB student council is a group of 11 representatives — who can be any classification except freshman — that focuses on improving campus life and helping students have a positive effect outside their school. Other leadership entities that work alongside the ASB officers include a four-person executive senate and a five-person group of officers for each class. The student council and executive senate meet once per week, and the class representatives join them once per month.

Students played a key role in the passage of a 2016 Seaside School District bond to finance a move of endangered schools to a new location in the city's Southeast Hills. The "Don't Catch this Wave" campaign, launched by students, reached audiences locally, statewide and nationally before the passage of the \$99.7 million bond.

ing and people "have gotten used to them," McBride added. "This is going to be a new opportunity to find their way."

Signs will be placed in the middle of the street rather than the right hand side to avoid wear and tear on the signs.

"It's going to be a great opportunity for people to

say this is my route, this is the place I go," McBride said.

The project is a collaboration with the Associated Student Body with assistance from the city's community development and public works staff, she said.

Contracts for application of the markers, will be completed this month, she said.

New principal Jon Wood gets to work early at Jewell School

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

JEWELL — Jon Wood, selected in March by the Jewell School District as the new principal of the rural K-12 campus, is technically still director of programs for the Nyssa School District in Eastern Oregon through July.

That didn't stop Wood from coming in during a vacation to help Jewell secure federal grants worth about \$60,000 and start assembling a student handbook.

Wood used to work in Nyssa with Scott Phillips, who was recently named acting superintendent. Phillips took over for Alice Hunsaker, who the Jewell School Board barred from representing the school district after investigators found she worked without a license and failed to ensure the completion of employee evaluations.



Jon Wood

Wood replaces Wendy Crozier, who was selected to fill out the school year for Terrence Smyth after

his resignation in March. Smyth, Hunsaker's significant other, has since been hired as the interim principal of Gresham High School. He and Hunsaker moved to the Portland area.

Wood has echoed Phillips' repeated pronouncements that Jewell has a lot of work ahead to improve chronically lackluster academic performance. But the school has capable students, as witnessed by the often award-winning band.

"Those are the same kids taking math tests, the same kids that are taking science and writing tests," he said. "And so there's no reason they can't be just as good there as they are with their instruments."

Jewell often has a harder time attracting staff to the rural campus nestled in the Clatsop State Forest. The school district needs to focus on empowering and building the skills of its existing staff with additional training, Wood said.

Shortly after he was hired, Wood sat down with Phillips to talk about what needed to be worked on.

"I'm not the kind of guy to sit back and wait for that to happen, so we got to work," Wood said. "One of the first things we tackled was our title programs."

Wood manages federal programs for the Nyssa School District. He and Tera Van Dyke, Jewell's business manager, went to work catching the school district up on its applications for federal grants around teacher training, supporting low-income students and other student assistance. Getting the grants allows the district to reallocate about \$60,000, he said.

"It saves the general fund money," he said. "It provides special opportunities for the kids. It allows us to do things that are outside of the ordinary with kids."

He also noticed Jewell hasn't had a ratified student handbook since 2016. "It's really hard to hold kids accountable when there's not a policy in place," Wood said.

Wood, Phillips and Crozier have been combining the school district's and state student conduct policies in the hopes of putting a draft student handbook in front of the school board over the summer break.

Wood started as a science teacher 15 years ago. Five years ago, he became an administrator, first as vice principal of Nyssa Elementary School, and later as director of programs for the school district.

Nyssa, a city of 3,100 on the Snake River across from Idaho, enrolls about 1,200 students, compared to Jewell's average of less than

200. Agriculture drives the region's economy, compared to trees in Jewell, a timber-rich district.

Much of Wood's attention to federal grants comes from the demographics he oversees in Eastern Oregon, where about 60 percent of students are designated migrants.

"We get migrant funding,

federal funding," he said. There's "a high English as a Second Language population there, so a big chunk of our general fund budget comes from those federal programs.

"But at the end of the day, it's not where you get your money," he said. "It's how you use it."

County commissioner chides mental health executive over crisis respite center

By DERRICK DEPLEDGE
The Astorian

A county commissioner chided the CEO of Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc. for putting the crisis respite center in Warrenton up for sale and withdrawing from a board that governs the facility.

"Recently, GOBHI has kind of pulled the rug out from that enterprise," Commissioner Pamela Wev said during a presentation Wednesday night from competing coordinated care organizations. "Why should we trust you now?"

"Well, we didn't pull the rug out of that enterprise," Kevin Campbell, GOBHI's CEO, countered. "What we had done is worked ourselves into being in a really unworkable situation with Clatsop Behavioral Health."

Wev's stinging comments come at a sensitive time for regional health care and mental health administrators in the Oregon Health Plan, the state's version of Medicaid for low-income and disabled patients.

GOBHI and Portland-based Moda Inc. are competing with the Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization to oversee the Oregon Health Plan in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties.

The Oregon Health Authority is expected to award the contract in July, and it is possible the state could allow both to serve the counties.

The competition has drawn concern from county commissioners and some health care and men-



Pamela Wev



Kevin Campbell

tal health providers who question whether it makes sense for the region to have two coordinated care organizations.

Launched by the state in 2012, coordinated care organizations essentially function as regional health care managers, working with providers to improve prevention, manage chronic illness and reduce costs in Medicaid.

The jockeying over the past several months has hinted at the potential for disruption.

The Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization, for example, has chosen CareOregon to administer financing for Clatsop Behavioral Health-care — Clatsop County's mental health contractor, which operates the crisis respite center — starting in June. GOBHI has long held that role.

"The state is requiring coordinated care organizations to 'double down' on better integration of care and benefits between medical and behavioral health services in 2020," Mimi Haley, the CEO of Columbia Pacific, said in an email about the switch. "This integration, now, allows us to propel the kind of coordination that our members expect and deserve."

Earlier this year, GOBHI announced it would put the

crisis respite center building on Marlin Avenue up for sale. Bonnie Thompson, the director of health system improvements at GOBHI, also stepped down from the board.

The coalition behind the respite center had intended to put the operation of the facility out for bid this year, inviting competition to Clatsop Behavioral Health-care. But Monica Steele, the interim county manager, said that process is on hold

given the uncertainty over the building sale.

Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare has the first option to buy the respite center. The agency is interested in purchasing the building and preserving crisis care and residential treatment at the 16-bed facility.

"It's a valuable service to our community," Amy Baker, the agency's executive director, said. "We've seen some really impressive successes with clients."

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