

# Fireworks program gets spark from tourism grant funds

Seaside Signal

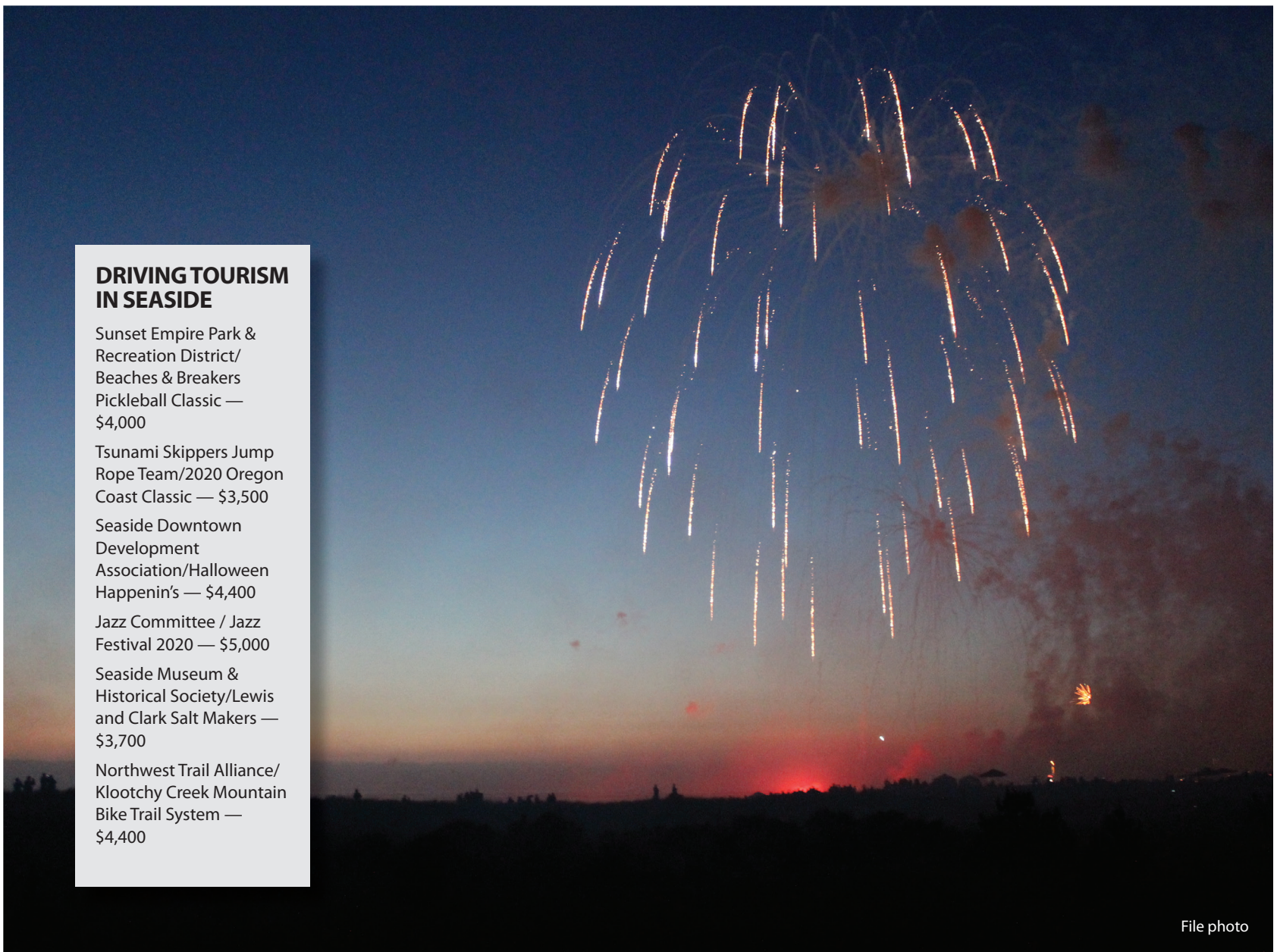
The city received a welcome spark from the Tourism Advisory Committee Wednesday, May 29, approving a \$25,000 grant to help fund the Seaside Chamber of Commerce, Independence Day fireworks program.

According to Josh Heine-man, director of tourism marketing for the city of Seaside and manager of the Visitors Bureau, the committee met in special session to review grant applications. The fireworks program was among seven different applications to receive funds, to be disbursed in July.

In advance of the announcement, the chamber of commerce presented head pyrotechnic engineer Larry Kriegshauser of K-Pyro Inc.

Kriegshauser, who has been presenting the show for 20 years in Seaside, told members of the Seaside Chamber of Commerce and the Seaside Downtown Development Association this year's show will have a theme of "patriotism," opening with the National Anthem. Music is prepared with the assistance of John Chapman of KSWB radio.

Volunteers for the parade are sought, the chamber's Brandy Stewart added.



File photo

## DRIVING TOURISM IN SEASIDE

- Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District/Beaches & Breakers Pickleball Classic — \$4,000
- Tsunami Skippers Jump Rope Team/2020 Oregon Coast Classic — \$3,500
- Seaside Downtown Development Association/Halloween Happenin's — \$4,400
- Jazz Committee / Jazz Festival 2020 — \$5,000
- Seaside Museum & Historical Society/Lewis and Clark Salt Makers — \$3,700
- Northwest Trail Alliance/Kloutchy Creek Mountain Bike Trail System — \$4,400

# Fee burden should go to out-of-district users, rec board says

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District directors will review fees, with the aim to meet rising natural gas costs, heating and employee expenses due to a rise in the minimum wage, to cap off at \$13.50 per hour.

At the board's May meeting, directors said the burden of higher costs for district programs should fall more heavily on out-of-district residents who use the pool and other district programs.

"It's my position if we're going to increase fees for anybody, it's going to be for nonresidents, more so for cannon beach and gearhart folk," board member Jeremy Mills said. "They're out of district, but they put very little into operating funds and the burden placed on Seaside residents."

The last program fee hike was in 2017, when the district set the difference between in-district and out-of-district costs at about 33%.

With the goal of ensuring the district remain financially stable in the current economy, executive director Skyler Archibald said, "There's not a lot of ways to generate revenue without raising participation fees or program fees."

MEMBERSHIP PASSES			
<b>YOUTH</b> (ages 4-17)	Resident	Non-Resident	
	Monthly Pass	\$ 32.00	48.00
	3-Month Pass	80.00	120.00
Annual Pass	200.00	300.00	
<b>ADULT</b> (ages 18-41)	Resident	Non-Resident	
	Monthly Pass	\$ 40.00	60.00
	3-Month Pass	90.00	135.00
Annual Pass	275.00	410.00	
<b>SENIOR</b> (ages 62+)	Resident	Non-Resident	
	Monthly Pass	\$ 36.00	54.00
	3-Month Pass	85.00	128.00
Annual Pass	250.00	375.00	
<b>FAMILY</b> (all family members residing in the same household)	Resident	Non-Resident	
	Monthly Pass	\$ 70.00	105.00
	3-Month Pass	175.00	260.00
Annual Pass	525.00	780.00	

DAILY RATES		
	Resident	Non-Resident
General Admission-Individual	\$ 6.00	9.00
General Admission-Family	18.00	27.00
Open Swim-Individual	2.25	3.25
Open Swim -Family	7.50	11.25

10-PUNCH PASSES		
	Resident	Non-Resident
Open Swim	\$ 18.00	27.00
General Admission-Youth	38.00	57.00
General Admission-Adult	50.00	75.00
General Admission-Senior	40.00	60.00

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Sunset Empire Park and Rec District current rate structure. An increase could be ahead for out-of-district users.

A hike in property tax revenues or a bond are both off the table.

"Across the board, with two exceptions, our prices are less expensive than all those other facilities, he said.

"Similar services at other facilities are a little bit more or substantially more at those facilities."

A monthly registration in-district cost for swim lessons is \$30 per month; out-

of-district is \$39.

Cost per lesson in-network is \$3.75 per lesson and \$4.88 for out-of-district. Swim lessons in other communities ranged from \$4.67 a lesson in-district to \$9.33 a lesson for out-of-district residents.

Similar districts, in Beaverton, Astoria and Portland, the cost per district to participants in-district is \$3.75 per lesson.

"We believe our swim lessons to be a tremendous value," Archibald said, with "Every other agency we looked at a lot more," Archibald said.

"Our out of network cost was also "a really good value," at \$4.88 per lesson, substantially less than other districts studied.

In North Bend, Rodney Roberts said, participants pay \$7 a lesson.

Currently out-of-district residents pay about 33% more than in-district residents overall, Archibald said.

"The tax burden is larger on in-district homeowners, Jeremy Mills said. "It's not that I'm averse to the idea of increasing it, I'm averse to the idea of increasing it for Seaside residents."

He suggested a three- or four-year gradual increase, to provide enticement for residents of Gearhart and Cannon Beach to join the district in the future.

For the majority of programs, higher rates likely won't deter participation, Archibald said, although increases in out-of-district preschool could have an impact on users.

Mills said the district preschool cost is already well below other preschools. At \$300 per month, well below the \$800 per month charged by other schools.

"If our costs increase, our prices can't remain static," Mills said. "Someone's going to have to bear that cost."

Michael Hinton said the board could "nitpick and fine tune" to raise rates without affecting the availability of programs for disadvantaged people, which could have the unintended consequence

of a need for more scholarship programs.

"There are some programs that should not have a rate hike," Mills said. "But we know there are some programs that should. We really have to be aware at the end of the day that our programs are sustainable."

Archibald said he would not raise rates for residents, but would consider increasing out-of-district rates to "35%, 40%, maybe more."

If other communities participate, they're more apt to consider joining the district if they are asked. "Obviously this is a complex matter."

Archibald will present rate hike projections, with the goal of a determination prior to the preparation of the next program guide.

# Vacasa markets in Seaside; job opportunities too

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

With 250 homes from Manzanita to Long Beach, Vacasa encourages homeowners to make the most out of their properties when they are away from home.

North Oregon Coast General Manager Shannon Wellman and local operations manager Sondra Gomez presented options at the Chamber of Commerce's Wednesday, May 22, breakfast meeting.

Owners can block it from three weeks to three months for themselves and rent their property when vacant, enabling some who may not be able to afford it otherwise to maintain a family home.

Vacasa founder Eric Breon used to come out to Seaview Washington, for the summer, Hellman said.

They weren't able to come out to the Coast frequently, but didn't want to get rid of the home. They found housekeepers and maintenance workers, but not people to



Vacasa

Sand and Sea on the Prom. Thirty-five of the 60 units are represented by Vacasa.

market the property or make reservations. "They had the idea of full service," Wellman said. "Because he couldn't find someone he started his own company. We are now doing that in 15 countries, 30 states, 250 homes from Manzanita to Long Beach."

At Sand and Sea in Seaside, 35 of the 60 units are rented out, managed by Vacasa.

In the past, demand was primarily in summertime, but now, properties are

rented year-round. "Here, particularly at Sand and Sea, there's not a weekend we're not 100% booked," she said.

"Our real estate program is our largest partnership," Wellman said. "If you have a home for sale or want to purchase a home, we can partner with you. If you want to live there six months, we'll rent the other six months."

Job opportunities begins at \$17.25 an hour for housekeepers, she added, with 40

positions available this summer "all over the Oregon Coast."

Wellman said she wants Vacasa to be part of the community.

"I know a lot of people don't like vacation rentals, we're trying really hard to comply to city and county rules and give back to the community: how can we actually help. We really do want to be part of the community."

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