

School construction at Heights underway

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Let the work begin!
With the final day of school Thursday at The Heights Elementary School, Hoffman Construction began construction for upgrades and a new gym at the elementary school. The Heights will be shut down the entire summer with no public access.

The school will be closed to staff except for critical access, Seaside School District Superintendent Sheila Roley said during a site visit Tuesday.

As part of the \$100 million bond project approved by voters in 2016, students from Gearhart Elementary School and Seaside Heights will merge in the renovated and expanded building.

In addition, the district is working with the city for a new reservoir and pump station to provide water for the school and nearby residents.

Bids for the reservoir are expected by the end of June, project manager Jim Henry



Looking out from the Seaside Middle School and High School site.

said.

During construction of the water tank, workers will install utilities at the mid-

dle and high school, including stormwater and electrical systems. The reservoir location may be used as cen-

ter as a clearinghouse or headquarters after a Cascadia Subduction Zone event, Henry added.

SEPRD election final, Chapman confirmed winner for Position 4

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Chapman and Parker is just shy of that.

One-hundred seventy-five voters did not select a candidate in this race, and were recorded as under votes.

The official, final results are in from the May 21 election, and one race that was too close to call is finally decided. The difference between winner John Chapman and Katharine Parker for Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Director, Position 4, came down to eight votes.

The results were certified June 6 by Clatsop County Clerk Tracie Krevanko.

Chapman received 332 votes, or 25.8% of the total. Parker received 324 votes; Marti Wajc followed with 317 and Shirley Yates received 304 votes. Less than 2 percentage points separated all four candidates.

To trigger a recount the results need to be within one-fifth of one percent of total votes cast for the office. The difference between

In the Position 5 rec district board race, Lindsey Morrison received 496 votes, to win with 41.75% of the vote. Patrick Duhachek and Rodney Roberts followed.

Veronica Russell, Jeremy Mills and Michael Hinton fill the other three board seats. Each of their terms expire in 2021.

The rec district board will meet on Tuesday at 5:15 p.m., at the Bob Chisholm Community Center.

The last day of service for the outgoing directors will be the last day of June.

New board members will be sworn in at the July board meeting, at which time the board will select a board president and officers.

Council: Members present update on long-term goals

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One of Seth Morrissey's goals dovetailed with Wright's, including communications with the public. He said he anticipates upgrades to the city website to increase involvement; this may include video and streaming of government meetings.

"My second goal is based on workforce housing," Morrissey said.

After receiving a county housing report from consultants, "it's up to the council to decide what we'd like to go after first, he said. "At that point we can go over the report and decide what action we'd like to take."

Drinking water, tsunami readiness

Tita Montero addressed revision and upgrade of Seaside's charter.

Montero, Barber and convention center director Russ Vandenberg met twice and Montero consulted with the League of Oregon Cities to determine how the work is supposed to proceed.

"The first thing we have to do is pass a resolution by the City Council that we are going to review any city charter and form a committee," Montero said. "We're not doing anything wrong

— we just need to bring it up to date."

Randy Frank worked with the city's park committee to consider future developments in the Southeast Hills and near the current high school site.

Frank also worked with the city's emergency management director Anne McBride to increase tsunami readiness and way finding signs throughout town. "We have collaborated with other jurisdictions to present a picture of resilience," he wrote in his report.

Dana Phillips focused school infrastructure, including ways the city has worked with the city during construction of the new middle and high school campus. The East Hills Reservoir project, designed to bring water to the new campus and to neighboring residents, could be adapted to having this be a "satellite location"

for essential services in the case of a Cascadia Subduction Zone event, she said.

Tom Horning asked councilors to determine what type of scenario they would plan for in the event of a Cascadia event. In his status report on the 20-year tsunami bridge replacement plan, He said 4,500 fatalities on the Oregon Coast may be a result of the event; of those, 4,000 would be in Seaside, because of failing bridges. Vertical evacuation structures downtown may present an alternative.

'WHAT WILL WE DO AFTER A MAJOR DISASTER? WE HAVE A LOT OF GOOD RESOURCES HERE REGARDING RESILIENCE. HOW DO WE SURVIVE IN THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO?'

Jay Barber

How to fund that is a matter of future discussion, he said, and could come from an increase in room taxes. He also said a large majority of tourists and residents who responded to a Portland State University study said they would pay greater fees for safety measures. "The community is aware of the issue," he said.

Horning said he also sought to identifying "information gaps" in the drinking water protection plan, including discussion of sustainable harvest of the forest with the least impact to water quality. He said he hopes to work with landowners and watershed council on vision, goals and strategies to develop a draft management plan.

Looking ahead

Barber presented a discussion of ordinances needing to be updated. "We're looking at boards/commissions/committees; beaches: unlawful lodging; "abandoned vehicles; and itinerant merchants, among other city codes.

Barber also seeks to address the resilience plan: "What will we do after a major disaster?" he asked. "How will we put the city back in place, businesses back in place, and residents back in place?"

The emergency management plan will be reviewed and updated. "We have a lot of good resources here regarding resilience," he said. "How do we survive in the worst-case scenario?"

A second update will be presented at year-end, he said.



Colin Murphey/The Astorian

The expansive gym at the Cannon Beach Elementary School currently sits unused.

School: Cannon Beach Elementary deal falls through

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\$400,000 in September. It was based on a similar offer made by the city of Cannon Beach a few years ago, Trucke said last year.

The cost of interior and exterior renovations a the

elementary school would be about \$371,000, according to a 2016 estimate.

"We would definitely be interested in the future," Trucke said.

"Just not right at the moment. Sheila Roley and the Seaside School District have been

very supportive of this endeavor. In fact, there has been so much support from the community. We hope to revisit this next year."

The real estate firm of Norris & Stevens is currently preparing to market other school buildings,

including Broadway Middle School, Seaside High School and Gearhart Elementary School, as part of the plan to relocate students to a new campus in the Southeast Hills, outside the tsunami inundation zone.

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