

## Gearhart delays firehouse vote until next year



R.J. Marx  
Site under consideration for location of a new firehouse in Gearhart.

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

Not this November, Mayor Matt Brown told members of the audience at the Wednesday, Aug. 7 meeting of Gearhart City Council. And as the Aug. 17 deadline to place a bond measure neared, the timeline for a vote on a new firehouse location and building plan got bumped till next year. “We’ve only got about a 10-day time frame if we want to put that on the November ballot,

and we still have a lot of work to do.” But if the date is unclear, officials continue to pursue negotiations to acquire a property at 1376 North Marion, considered the best location to prepare for an “L-1” or large tsunami, which encompasses 95% of the possible flood scenarios. Since the early 2000s Gearhart firefighters have asked the city to replace the current structure, a building constructed in 1958 considered unsafe in the event of an earthquake or tsunami. A 2006 bond measure for a new public safety building failed at the polls.

In 2018, after considering nine locations, the fire station committee recommended three concepts and locations to the public to help guide the decision-making process. In April, a city survey showed 82% of respondents support a new firehouse, and 52% preferred the High Point location, over the current firehouse location and the Gearhart Park site. The park was withdrawn from consideration in May due to the survey results.

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Kimberly Ward, Patrick Millius, Duane Mullins, Mike Antrim and Julie Jesse in the emergency department as it undergoes phase one of construction.

## ‘Really busy,’ hospital builds new emergency department

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

Seaside’s Fred Loser remembers when things were so quiet at Providence Seaside Hospital that they would send doctors home for lack of business. “When I came here in 1990 and ’91, there were days when there was nobody here. With a full staff, they’d send peo-

ple home to save expenses. Now look at it — you can’t even get in the door.” In the last 30 years — since the hospital’s last emergency room remodel — those numbers have exploded. Today, emergency room manager Cherie Echelbarger said the emergency room sees about 10,000 patients a year, or about 25 or 30 a day, much more on holidays and seasonally. Don Lemmon, chief executive of

Providence Seaside, and Kimberly Ward, executive director of the Providence Hospital foundation, welcomed supporters, staff and community members to a “peek behind the curtain” of project renderings. “Transforming our emergency services is going to be really monumental here at Providence and the care we are

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## Public safety workers sign four-year contract

Agreement comes with 5% cost of living increase

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

Public safety employees in Seaside saw a 5% cost of living as of July 1, as the City Council approved the Public Safety Association’s collective bargaining agreement on Monday, Aug. 12. The contract began July 1 and extends to June 30, 2023, City Manager Mark Winstanley and Assistant City Manager Jon Rahl said in a staff report.

Public Safety Association employees will see a 5% cost of living increase immediately, with increases between 2% and 4% in subsequent years of the contract.

Along with increased compensation, the contract moves all association positions to a six-step scale.

For fire personnel attaining certifications, they will be eligible to receive pay incentives of up to 2%, 3% or 4% in each field.

Police employees who are selected for assignment to the two-year rotating detective position and student resource official will receive a premium of 10% in addition to the employee’s regular pay rate.

A retention incentive of 1% will be added to the monthly salary for those with 15 years of service.

Health and welfare also changed as Seaside employees move from a high-deductible health plan with a health savings account to a co-pay plan similar to that of the Seaside Employees’ Association. Monthly premiums will increase from anywhere to \$31 to \$87 per month, or \$372 to \$1,044 annually.

This was the first time the negotiations encompassed both fire and police personnel. “Negotiations on union contracts can take quite a while,” Winstanley said at the meeting. “There’s a lot of detail that everybody

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## Hood to Coast makes strides with new sustainability goals

By KATHERINE LACAZE  
For Seaside Signal

The organizers of the Hood to Coast Relay are making strides during this year’s race — along with the concurrent Portland to Coast

Walk Relay and High School Challenge — to adopt more sustainable event management practices and mitigate waste.

The roughly 200-mile relay race annually draws about 19,000 participants, along with thousands of volunteers and spectators, who travel from Timberline Lodge on Aug. 23 to the Seaside beach Aug. 24.

“We have a responsibility, but also the ability to reach a lot of people within the race community, so we can help drive social change,” Hood to Coast spokesperson Dan Floyd said. “There’s so much we can do at our own event.”

### Sustainable event

Although the organizers have internally attempted small measures for improved waste management over the past decade or so, they are undertaking a more concerted effort this year through a partnership with Elysium Events, a sustainable event management company out of Portland. Elysium founder and

owner Lindsey Newkirk said in this initial year, they are using “a little bit of a softer approach to just try to get people information,” and bringing awareness to the massive amount of waste created at large events, such as the “Mother of All Relays.”

The main challenges with Hood to Coast are the number of people out on the course and the numerous exchange points that manifest almost as individual “mini events along the way,” Newkirk said.

One step this year is implementing a strategy to ensure recycling is done correctly through building awareness and disseminating useful information. Organizers are providing a sorting guide with tips on reducing waste and properly sorting recyclable items from landfill items at exchange points where vendors are serving food and beverages. Participants can access the guide using the recently introduced race safety and course information to keep people updated

about weather or last-minute changes.

Many people may not be aware, for instance, that if too many contaminants get into a recycling stream — rendering it too difficult to sort — the entire load will be sent to a landfill, Newkirk said. Elysium has a strategy for helping in this area by providing back-of-house sorting to remove contaminated items. Groups of students from Glencoe High School and Roosevelt High School have volunteered to help with sorting in exchange for bottles and cans that can be deposited for money at the Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative.

As Newkirk pointed out, however, “It’s all the more environmentally preferred to prevent waste from occurring in the first place.” Participants are encouraged to use a refillable water jug or bottle instead of single-use, disposable plastic bottles, and buy snacks in bulk or put together homemade

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### WASTE PREVENTION AT THE RACE

#RACEMOREWASTELESS

AVOID WASTE, SKIP THE PLASTIC

RECYCLING IS GOOD. AVOIDANCE IS BETTER.

USE A RE refillable WATER JUG & BOTTLE

Instead of individual plastic bottles.

A 7-gallon jug minimizes the need for 52.5 single-use water bottles. Bring one 7-gallon jug or two 3.5-gallon jugs per van to keep your team hydrated.

BUY SNACKS IN BULK

Rather than individually wrapped items.

Bulk will make your own snacks and pack in a reusable container.

DOWNLOAD THE HTC APP

...to eliminate the need for printing an additional handbook and to view the HTC Recycling Sorting Guide.

PLAN FOR RECYCLING

RUN. SLEEP. SORT. REPEAT.

Let’s get recycling right. Use this guide to separate your recycling from landfill-bound trash at exchange points. Want to take it to the next level? Avoid bringing items on the landfill list where possible.

GET YOUR SORTING GUIDE: Download: [hoodtocoastrace.com/htc/sustainability](http://hoodtocoastrace.com/htc/sustainability) / Every team does their part, we can achieve tremendous results!

WASTE PREVENTION SERVICES PROVIDED BY ELYSIUMEVENTSLLC.COM

ELYSIUM EVENTS Sustainable Solutions

The Hood to Coast Relay, which starts Friday at Timberline Lodge and ends with a party on the Seaside beach Saturday, has embraced a new emphasis on waste prevention and sustainable solutions.