



Construction of The Heights gymnasium.

Temporary gym to fill gap at The Heights

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Visitors to the Seaside High School campus might not recognize it. It's beginning to look like a school.

The middle and high school roof is 100% complete. Stair frames have been installed and pours are scheduled throughout the month. Crews are beginning installation of curtain-wall windows. Utilities, including power, low voltage and gas from The Heights to the middle and high school are complete.

"For the high school and middle school, we're on track," project manager Jim Henry said at the Tuesday, Nov. 19, meeting of the School Construction Citizen Oversight Committee on Tuesday. "for being done in July, which has been our deadline, our project goal from the beginning."

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Phil Broome of Hoffman Construction leads a tour of the new site.



Westbound view from the new campus.

Gearhart brings U.S. Highway 101 plan to regional commission

Aim is reduction of accidents, injuries

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

U.S. Highway 101 could narrow in Gearhart to reduce crashes and injuries.

The highway would go from four lanes to two lanes with a center turn lane.

The configuration could reduce travel speeds and improve conditions for motorists trying to turn on and off the busy highway. One advantage is that it would make room for the turn lane and bicycle and pedestrian options without the need to expand the right of way.

The city, the state Department of Transportation and the Northwest Oregon Area Commission on Transportation heard plans for the potential changes at a meeting in Astoria last week. The commission is made up of local leaders and stakeholders to address transportation issues in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties and the western portion of Washington County.

"There's a slew of things we need to address in Gearhart," Ken Shonkwiler, a senior region planner with the Department of Transportation, said after the meeting. "We met with Northwest ACT to do more regional outreach and explain the importance of it."

The state is conducting a facilities plan to look at pedestrian and bike access to address specific concerns this upcoming year, he said.

In 2017, with the adoption of its Transportation System Plan, Gearhart identified 11 projects to improve roadway segments and intersections that could cost an estimated \$23 million to \$25 million to complete.

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Five candidates seek to fill vacant SEPRD board seat

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Five candidates have stepped forward to fill a vacant seat on the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District board. The vacancy came after District Position Lindsey Morrison resigned in September.

Su Coddington, Salomon Sibony, Raedetta Castle, Erika Marshall and Katharine Parker will interview with members of the board, including board president Jeremy Mills, Rod Roberts, John Chapman and Michael Hinton.

Candidates will be asked their reasons for wanting to serve on the board, what experience and background they bring to the position, and goals for the district, among other questions.

The board member selected will serve until June 30, 2021.

Interviews will take place in the Bob Chisholm Community Center.

Following the interviews, the board will meet in workshop to discuss the interview process, the district's executive director Skyler Archibald said.

The selected candidate could be installed

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Inspired by mythology, artist Robin Montero pushes new boundaries

'Life's too short to be boring,' designer says

By EVE MARX
For Seaside Signal

Robin Montero has been making art all her life and has been a costume designer for a long time.

"I started doing costumes for Shoreline High School in Washington," she said. "I also worked for a sign company for 25 years. Starbucks was a client."

In 2006, the Fifth Avenue Theatre Company in Seattle hired her to design costumes. She left that post in June 2018. While working in Seattle as a costume designer, Montero and her sister-in-law Tita opened The Montero Sisters Fabric & Creative Inspiration shop in

Seaside on Holladay Drive. They closed that store in 2007.

All along, Montero developed her fabric art.

A Seaside resident since 2001, for the past 10 years, she's lived in a unique setting with a stunning view of the Cove.

"I love looking outside and seeing nature, not development or concrete," she said during an interview in her artist's aerie, a recent addition to her Al Hansen house. "I see eagles, I see elk, I see herons. Every day is a little different."

Lately she's been focusing her artistic intentions on drag queens, creating mythical portraits of imaginary characters she's created in her mind. They're architectural. They're multidimensional. They're made of felt.



Eve Marx

Robin Montero enjoys an awesome view of the Cove from her Seaside artist's studio.

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