

YEAR IN REVIEW

CITY OF SEASIDE



Jeff Ter Har

Kevin Leahy of Clatsop Economic Development Resources; Joshua Heineman of the Seaside Visitors Bureau; Seaside Lodging Managing Director Masudur Khan; Andrew Stein and Brandy Stewart of the Seaside Chamber of Commerce; and Gretchen Darnell, representing the Seaside Civic and Convention Center.

Hospitality, health and groceries are booming fields in Seaside

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

In January, the City Council set its goals: housing, the new school, vacation rentals and tsunami resiliency took the stage as Seaside's upcoming concerns.

And by year's end they hit upon a number of those themes, with receipt of the countywide housing plan, a new water tank for the campus in the Southeast Hills, new vacation rental permit fees and enforcement plans, and the formation of a Citizen's Emergency Response team.

With the relocation of Seaside High School, Gearhart Elementary School and Broadway Middle School out of the tsunami zone to a new site in the Southeast Hills, the city sought to dovetail efforts for a new water tank, roadwork and infrastructure for completion by the campus opening in the fall of 2020.



R.J. Marx

The Seaside Civic and Convention Center's northwest entrance at completion in December.

Alongside the city, the retail and visitor industries continued to hum.

Convention Center, The Lodge

In June 2018, kicked off its \$15 million renovation and expansion project with a ground-

breaking ceremony. Fifteen months later, the center's general manager Russ Vandenberg welcomed residents, visitors and dignitaries to a ribbon-cutting and reopening celebration.

The expansion, geared to

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SEASIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

District looks to fall 2020 campus opening

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

city contract at a cost of \$5.64 million.

New board members

The Seaside School District filled two interim vacancies in February.

Shannon Swedenborg filled Zone 1, Position 1, after Patrick Nofield stepped down in Cannon Beach. Sondra Gomez replaced Steve Phillips in Seaside.

At the polls in May, Gomez held onto the Zone 5, Position 1 board seat.

Shannon Swedenborg ran unopposed for Cannon Beach's Pacific Ridge.

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Big changes are ahead in 2020 for the Seaside School District, and make that with a capital "C" for "Construction."

This is the last year for students in Gearhart Elementary, Broadway Middle and Seaside High school buildings. They'll be heading to 89 acres in the Southeast Hills in September for the opening of the new campus, along with additions to an expanded Heights Elementary School, to be named Pacific Ridge.

The new schools are part of the \$99.7 million plan approved by voters in 2016 to move schools out of the tsunami zone.

Two wings, connected by a corridor that will house a cafeteria, library and administrative offices, will house middle and high school students.

Along with work on the schools, work is underway to build a 5-million-gallon reservoir to supply the campus and surrounding residential areas.

Water lines will be built under a Seaside School District contract. The reservoir and pump station will be under a



R.J. Marx

Construction at the middle school.



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

Rec district implements new code of conduct policies

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

No fighting, no alcohol or drugs, no touching or physical contact with other individuals.

There were among 10 new rules presented at the Tuesday, Dec. 17, Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District board meeting.

"We've had a number of challenging incidents at the pool over the years," executive director Skyler Archibald said after the meeting.

He said the new policies will enable staff to "know how to handle these situations."

Policy changes seek to outline standards of conduct for patrons and staff with After meeting with

outside counsel and the Special Districts Association of Oregon, the district worked to strengthen standards of conduct for patrons, Archibald said in announcing the terms of Ordinance 2019:11.

"There are some situations where a behavior is repeated or it rises to the level of where we do have to involve the police or consider trespassing that person,"

Archibald said. "This policy will give us clearer guidelines how to enforce the conduct policy."

The ordinance intends to provide clearer notice of what conduct is prohibited, and clarification for the steps for staff when prohibited conduct is displayed by patrons.

Persistent unwanted comments or threats, profane language, excessive noise, disruptive conduct

or conduct that is found "to unreasonably interfere with the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of any other person" are listed.

Violation of state, federal or local laws and partisan political activities beyond protected free speech are also specified as prohibited conduct.

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How saving the land can help to transform lives

Neal Maine, Betsy Johnson are among Oregonians profiled in new book, 'A Generous Nature'

By NANCY MCCARTHY
Seaside Signal

As she studied raptors in Oregon's Zumwalt Prairie, researched the vegetation in Portland's Forest Park and worked for the Oregon State Parks Foundation, wildlife biologist Marcy Cottrell Houle realized Oregon's natural areas have backstories about the people who sought to save the land.

She realized that those stories were on the verge of being lost. They weren't on the internet, not on Wikipedia, nowhere to be found.

"They need to be told, they need to be heard because they really

show the Oregon spirit," said Houle, who introduced her book, "A Generous Nature: Lives Transformed by Oregon," during a talk at Beach Books on Dec. 14.

The Columbia River Gorge; 363 miles of public beach; the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area; Portland's Forest Park; and the Rogue, Metolious and Sandy rivers, are among Oregon's great natural treasures, Houle said.

"None of those places would be protected or here for us to enjoy if it hadn't been for individuals' vision and courage to give these things to us," she added.

Among the 21 conservationists and activists she honored in her



Neal Maine and Marcy Cottrell Houle at Beach Books in Seaside.

book was Neal Maine, co-founder and first director of the North Coast Land Conservancy, who also spoke at the event.

"If we forget these stories — if we don't have them — we run the

risk of taking all we see around us for granted." People "don't realize the work it took to make this place the way it is," Houle said.

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