

School closure enables a jump on Heights roof replacement

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

With school canceled through the end of the school year, construction at the Seaside School District campus in the Southeast Hills will see an acceleration in completion dates, especially at The Heights.

Crews will be able to begin roof replacement, a project originally planned for summer. Middle and high school construction is expected to see completion by the end of July, and the elementary renovation and new construction by mid-August.

“That they can get the roof ripped off early has really enhanced our timeline,” project manager Jim Henry said at a livestream meeting of the Seaside Construction Citizen Oversight Committee on April 14. “That was a tight schedule. This was a situation that really helped with the roof and interior renovations.”



Seaside School District

Roof replacement at The Heights will start early due to school closures from the coronavirus.

The elementary school’s gym received a March completion and the city delivered a certificate of occupancy on April 13.

Subcontractors originally scheduled for June are being

contacted to see if they can work early to adjust to new timelines, Henry said.

Along with roof replacement, work ahead at the campus includes plumbing, electrical and data installation.

Contractor Hoffman Construction took control of the site on April 13 and is responsible for the building’s safety and security, Henry said.

Interior painting, classrooms, cabinets and carpets

are near completion, and “they’re almost done laying the floor of the main gym at the high school,” Henry said. “We have another two weeks as we go from gym to gym.”

As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, certain materials are in short supply and some subcontractors have reduced staff, Henry said, but not enough to delay completion.

Enhanced protocols are in place to “keep morale up on the site.”

These include flexing and stretching every morning, social distancing and disinfecting building surfaces inside and out — “everything the workers touch,” Henry said. “They feel they’re working for a company that’s taking care of them and looking out for them. That’s really helpful.”

When students return to the classroom in September, The Heights will be renamed Pacific Ridge Elementary School with the addition of students from Gearhart.

“The elementary project was our nail-biter, in terms of the timeline,” Superintendent Sheila Roley said. “This is really our silver lining.”

Increase in overdue book fines coming to Seaside Library

Hikes for out-of-town patrons

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Local libraries are closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, but Seaside Library is preparing for reopening by aligning with other libraries in Clatsop County.

Out-of-town cardholders will see an increase in fees from \$50 to \$70 per year, along with increases in six-month cards and three-month cards, bringing Seaside in line with the Warrenton Community Library and Astoria Library as part of the Northwest Library Cooperative.

Seaside Library patrons will be able to use their

cards to checkout and return material at libraries in Warrenton and Astoria.

Late fees for books will rise from 15 cents to 25 cents, in keeping with the Warrenton and Astoria libraries, Seaside Library Director Esther Moberg told the City Council April 13, in asking adoption of the new fee structure.

About \$63,000 is outstanding in fines, with about \$18,000 of that coming in each year. Of the remainder, “Most of that we will never see,” Moberg said.

Fines for children’s materials will no longer be collected, she added. Overdue children’s fines comprise a “very small amount” of outstanding fines, about \$3,000 annually.

The City Council voted unanimously to adopt the fee structure.

Radio: South County struggles with reception

Continued from Page A1

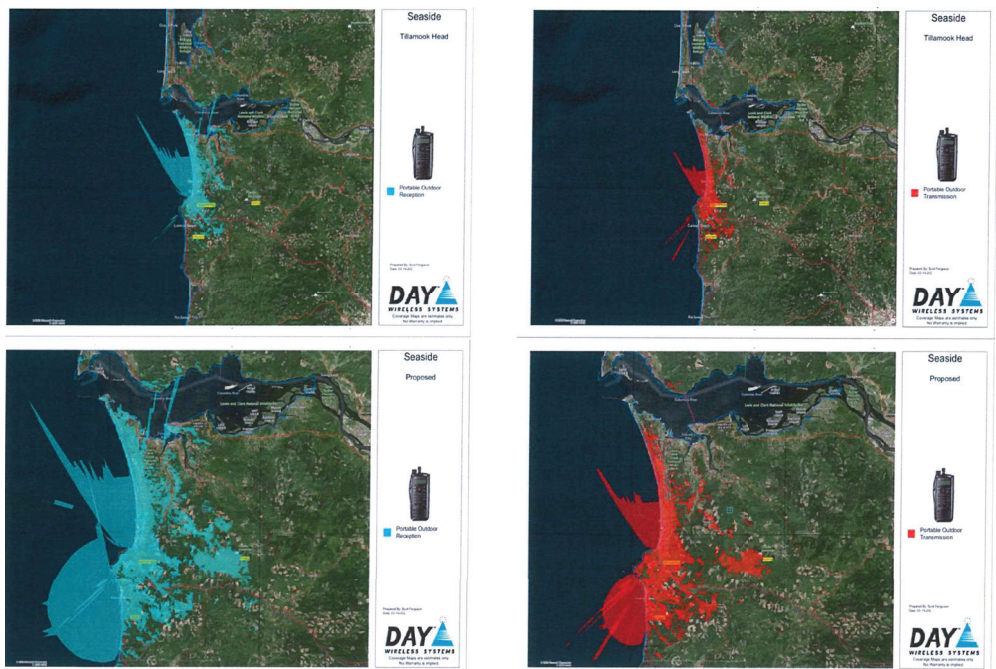
emergency responders as a backup when pagers don’t activate.

Marc Reckmann, Cannon Beach Fire Chief, has called for improvements, including consolidating services and technology.

Reckmann watched the City Council meeting remotely and said the upgrades will make a substantial impact on communications in South County.

But Reckmann continues to press for a consolidated response center to address staffing shortages and delays between north and South County dispatchers. “The county has done the separate studies since 1997, all saying the same thing: Consolidate. “The city may ask other jurisdictions for funding, through conversations with Cannon Beach Fire and other agencies, Winstanley said.

“In the future, yes, we may see that those agencies financially help, but



City of Seaside

Top left, current mobile reception area. Bottom left, new mobile reception area. Top right, old mobile transmit area. Bottom, new mobile transmit area.

right now we’re prepared to move forward with it with the budgets we have so that we can get this done,” Winstanley said. “This has been a problem for quite a while down in the South County.

Radio traffic in some of those locations has been very spotty, and we do a lot of mutual aid down in those areas. From a safety standpoint making this improvement is very important and

we’re ready to go.”

“This is really a safety issue,” Mayor Jay Barber said. “We don’t want our police, fire, EMTs out of contact in an emergency situation.”

Beachgoers urged to respect snowy plover nests

Seaside Signal

Beachgoers are urged to help recovery efforts of the threatened western snowy plover by staying on the wet sand at snowy plover beaches during nesting season, through Sept. 15.

Beachgoers will see signs and ropes that identify sensitive plover nesting areas and list restrictions to protect the small shorebirds during this period.

Plover beaches remain open to foot and equestrian traffic on wet, packed sand throughout nesting season.

All other recreation on plover beaches is off limits on both wet and dry sand,



Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Plover eggs at Bandon Natural Area.

include dog-walking (even on a leash), driving a vehicle, riding a bicycle, camp-

ing, fires and flying kites or drones.

These small birds nest on

open sand along Oregon’s beaches. Nests, and especially chicks, are well-camouflaged. During nesting season, human disturbances can flush adult plovers away from their nests as they attempt to defend their young from the perceived predator.

Left alone too long, or too often, eggs or chicks can die from exposure, predators or people.

Recreation restrictions occur in designated plover management areas: small stretches of beach along the entire coastline where plovers are nesting or could potentially nest. These areas collectively comprise about 45 miles of Oregon’s 362 miles of shoreline.

Recreational clamming closed to out-of-state visitors over virus concerns

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

Looking to discourage weekend travel, Oregon closed recreational hunting, fishing, crabbing and clamming to people from out of state and again urged residents to stay close to home when outside to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

The new restrictions came after appeals from leaders on the coast and others concerned about the potential impact visitors could have on local medical and emergency services.

Washington state closed fishing and hunting to residents and visitors until May 4, which Oregon fishery managers believe contributed to a bump in out-of-state clam diggers at

North Coast beaches last weekend.

Recreational fishing for salmon and steelhead on the Columbia River is closed, but other seasons remain open.

Gov. Kate Brown issued a stay-at-home order in March to help control the virus. But many people have traveled to the coast and other popular recre-

ational destinations, loosely interpreting the state’s guidance to stay close to home when they go outside to hunt, fish, walk or bike.

“Some have asked us to close seasons to reduce travel,” Curt Melcher, the director of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, said in a statement. “We would like to keep seasons open to give locals an

outlet during this difficult time, but that doesn’t mean it’s OK to travel to these communities.”

The state will refund spring bear and spring turkey tags to people from out of state, but anticipates that others who have already purchased 2020 licenses to hunt, fish or shellfish will have other opportunities to do so later in the year.

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