



Seaside seeks interim softball coach

By GARY HENLEY
Seaside Signal

The Seaside softball team is looking for its seventh head coach since 2015.

Jessica Garrigues, who coached the 2019 season, will remain on the coaching staff, but will step away from her head coaching duties for one year while on parental leave.

The announcement was made official at Tuesday's Seaside School District Board of Directors virtual meeting.

Garrigues posted on the Seaside softball Facebook page, "Since I will be on parental leave during our season and my district contract does not allow for school district employees to coach while on leave, I am

forced to step out of my head coach role for the year."

Garrigues will still be listed as a volunteer coach on the Seaside roster.

"I will be there several times a week once I recover from childbirth and settle into a routine with 'Baby G,'" she said. "Please know that my needing to technically 'step down' does not reflect my commitment to Seaside softball and all that we have built over the last several years."

Garrigues and the Gulls won the last time they set foot on the field, a 5-4 victory over Warrenton to close out the 2019 season. Seaside finished 5-19 overall, 1-11 in the Cowapa League. The Gulls were 8-13 (3-12 in league) in 2018.

Garrigues was named the Seaside coach in April

2019, taking over for Darren Ideue, who took over for Korie Blacker, who replaced co-coaches Jon Hotchkiss and Bill Westerholm, after Jen Glasson stepped down after the 2015 season.

Assuming there is a 2021 season, the next Seaside coach will be an interim coach.

"I will be stepping back into the head coach role next season (2022), and we have a plan in place for this season," Garrigues said.

"We have lots to accomplish this season and in the future, and we have plans in place to make that happen ... not simply promises and hopes. Stay on the lookout for our continued growth."

In other news, Isaias Jantes will be named coach for the Seaside football freshman team.



Gary Henley/Seaside Signal
Seaside softball coach Jessica Garrigues will step away from her head coaching duties in 2021 before returning in 2022.

Elementary: Owners hope to donate the park land

Continued from Page A1

hopeful that everything is a solvable problem," Morey said.

Forty to 45 units would be constructed overall, including the classroom apartments, caretaker's units and detached duplexes, Morey said.

The main building classrooms could serve as studio and one-bedroom units for residents 55 and older. All apartments would be for long-term rental only, at market rates.

Detached 1,200- to 1,600-square-foot duplexes for all ages could be built on the northwest portion of the property.

Three portable structures on the southwest side of the property are envisioned for caretakers' apartments and storage for the apartment residents.

The gym, despite leaks and wall cracks, is an irreplaceable asset, Morey said, and could continue to provide recreational space for local kids.

The Moreys said they anticipate a two-year planning process, a time-frame that parallels a new city parks master plan. Owners would coordinate a design plan with the Parks Master Plan Advisory Committee to provide areas for families and dog walkers.

"We hope to donate the park land and expect to have strong community support to fund the improvements," the Moreys wrote.

Meanwhile, because of security and liability issues, the property will remain closed to public use.

The Moreys received a



Photos by R.J. Marx

ABOVE: Looking east at the former Gearhart Elementary School. Playground equipment has been moved to the Seaside School District's new campus. BELOW RIGHT: The former cafeteria could transition into a community room. BELOW LEFT: Owner Bob Morey considers future uses for the elementary school classrooms, including apartments for residents 55 and older.

fence permit from the city. A 660-linear-foot galvanized chain link fence 10 feet from the right-of-way is under construction. A 20-foot gate will close off the access driveway on the far western part of the property.

Next on their to-do list after completing the structural engineering and project feasibility analysis is to repair damaged wood, make necessary roof repairs, protect the structure from water intrusion and then paint the buildings. They will continue to perform building maintenance and site security.

As early as February they intend to file an application for a conditional use permit to allow the caretaker units, Morey said.



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