



## Schools set return to classrooms

Younger students first to come back

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

Kindergartners and first graders will be the first students in Seaside to return to in-person classes this month.

With a dip in positive coronavirus case numbers, the school district saw an opportunity to return students to limited in-person classes for as long as transmission numbers do not exceed 350 per 100,000 of Clatsop County's population.

The return to classes, slated for Feb. 16, is accompanied by the vaccination of teachers and staff members, which began in late Janu-

ary, Superintendent Susan Penrod said in her reopening plan report at a special meeting of the board on Monday. Next week, the entire staff is anticipated to have received their first dose of the vaccine, Penrod said.

According to the Pacific Ridge Elementary hybrid plan, two cohorts are needed to maintain the required 35 square feet for each person in the classroom. Morning and afternoon cohorts are designed so all elementary students will be on-site for three hours on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

"Our goal is to provide a safe learning environment for our students and staff while also providing consistency throughout the

See Classrooms, Page A3

## Winstanley announces plans for retirement as Seaside city manager

Joined city as finance manager in 1985

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

Seaside City Manager Mark Winstanley announced his planned retirement at the end of June 2022. The city manager, who started with Seaside as finance director in September 1985, was named city manager in November 2001.

Over the years his job has encompassed the role of budget officer, human resources manager and staff liaison to the City Council.

"Even though I have nice-colored hair and lots of it, I am getting old. By that time I will be 68 years old," he said. "That's long enough to be city manager. It is time for there to be new people that will

take on those reins."

Winstanley's announcement was made at Saturday's City Council goal-setting discussion, a biennial event, this year held in a virtual format.

The decision came, he said, as he looked back at the last year when the coronavirus pandemic threatened businesses and the local economy, closing the Seaside Civic and Convention Center, city buildings and restricting the flow of tourism.

"If we had had this conversation a year ago, I would have said there's no way we could have continued under these circumstances," he said.

Winstanley outlined

See Winstanley, Page A5



R.J. Marx

Broadway Middle School, now the Sunset Recreation Center, could be used as a warming center beginning this month.

## Seaside plans warming center

Housed in former middle school

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

A warming center could open later this month at the former Broadway Middle School in Seaside.

Modeled after the Astoria Warming Center, the warming center, housed in the newly renamed Sunset Recreation Center, will provide overnight shelter in inclement weather and when temperatures dip below 32 degrees.

The warming center will be staffed by volunteers who would handle paperwork and

conduct COVID-19 screenings. Cots would be spaced at least 6 feet apart in two classrooms, with an estimated capacity of 10 to 20 people.

The warming center will run through the winter. "We want to try to meet the need while we can," said Skyler Archibald, the executive director of the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District.

Mayor Jay Barber made the announcement at Saturday's City Council goal-setting meeting.

The plan, a combined effort by the city, Clatsop Community Action, Helping Hands and volunteers, awaits approval from the park district's board

See Warming center, Page A5

Middle school gets new life, name as recreation center

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

Broadway Middle School is now the Sunset Recreation Center.

The changes comes after the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District bought the building and took occupancy last month.

"We've temporarily renamed the building from Broadway Middle School to SRC, or Sunset Recreation Center," Skyler Archibald, the park district's executive director, said at last week's board meeting. "We needed something else to call it to turn the page."

That name could be temporary.

Part of the park district's planning process for the property is to explore sponsorship opportunities, Archibald said. "I think it's safe to say that we would welcome partnership with an entity, business or donor who shared in our vision for the property," he said.

The park district purchased the former school for \$2.15 million in January with the sale closing in January. The middle school was among Seaside School District properties relocated to the

See Center, Page A5



Darren Gooch, information technology and marketing manager for the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District, and Skyler Archibald, the district's executive director, in the Sunset Recreation Center.

## More aircraft key to Seaside airport federal funding opportunities

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

In the coming weeks, the Seaside Airport Advisory Committee plans to apply to the Seaside and Gearhart city councils for annual funding requests. The airport, with too few aircraft to be eligible for Federal Aviation Administration funding, is planning for runway maintenance, replacement of obsolete lights, signage and funds for the bicycle shed and bicycles and helmets for visitors to Seaside who arrive by plane.

The FAA funds, as much as \$160,000 per year, helped pay for major projects like runway light-

ing, resurfacing and striping, taxiway improvements, an electrical shed and fencing. The program was declassified in 2015. Today the airport has a budget of \$8,000 from Seaside and has received grant funds from the Gearhart of about \$1,000.

Hangar space and expansion remain at the top of the committee's list. The airport has five hangars and four airplanes. A fifth will be added in the next couple of months.

"I am very excited that we are getting more active pilots based at the airport," Randall Henderson, the advisory committee's chairman, said at last week's meeting.

While the southern portion of Clatsop County pays the Port of Astoria \$220,000 a year in tax dollars, the funds bypass the



Jack Healy

Seaside Airport offers some challenges to pilots, including elk on the runway.

Seaside Airport, something they would like to change. "We have

been waiting for an opportunity to present in person," com-

mittee member Randall Frank said. "They haven't been very receptive."

The FAA "basic" classification is delivered to airports linking the community to the national airport system and supporting general aviation activities, like emergency service, charter or critical passenger service, cargo operations, flight training and personal flying. Airports in this category have 10 or more based aircraft or four based helicopters, among other potential criteria.

The idea of the city putting up additional hangars has come up at committee meetings, but without funding, "projects like that don't seem to be a priority for the city," Henderson said. "It's a piece of infrastructure. It does bring people into the city."

