



Cascade Sotheby's International Realty

Aerial view of Breakaway Lodge, the former Young Life Camp.

Former Young Life Camp in Gearhart sold as family compound

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

When Young Life Camp moved out in 2018, Gearhart residents wondered what was next for the nearly century-old building.

Last week, Aaron Jones and a close friend purchased the property to use as a summer retreat for family and friends.

"I have been tracking the property and in discussions with the owners since before it hit the market in 2018," Jones said. "I have great memories of the place from my days attending the camp as a fifth and sixth grader."

The Nita Avenue property was listed at \$1.4 million. The purchase price was just over \$1 million, according to Clatsop County records. The buyer in the transaction is listed as Breakaway

Lodge LLC.

The 6,800-square-foot building features two floors and 11 bedrooms, commercial kitchen and dining hall. The open interior floor plan, designed in a coastal style, comes with original hardwood flooring, hardwood paneling on walls and ceilings and two working gas fireplaces with stone facades.

In promotional materials, Cascade Sotheby's International Realty, which brokered the sale, described the exterior as reminiscent of a typical Nantucket seaside cottage, with weathered cedar siding, a cedar-shingle roof, sports courts and decks on just under an acre.

The building remains limited to residential use, which eliminated potential commercial or vacation rental use.

Religious retreat
The property has a storied history

in Gearhart.

The Arts and Crafts style building was built as a retreat by the Sisters of Holy Names of Jesus and Mary in the 1920s. Each summer, the sisters traveled by train from Portland to Gearhart to stay at the retreat. The convent closed down each winter.

Many of the Holy Names sisters were teachers and would come for 10-day retreats in the summer, former lodge manager Jeff Johnson recalled in 2018. Arriving by train near the Dairy Queen, they walked the dirt road to the cottage.

In 1959, the cottage and chapel were sold to the Episcopal diocese, which used it as a youth camp in conjunction with their other camp east of the lodge, between Second and Third

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The 'Big Give': Lighthouse church makes difference with lifesaving donation

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Lighthouse Christian Church donated \$15,000 to the Gearhart Volunteer Fire Department for the purchase of a LUCAS device, a lifesaving tool used during prolonged resuscitation attempts.

Research has proven that uninterrupted chest compressions during cardiac arrest provides the patient the greatest chance of sur-

vival, Fire Chief Bill Eddy said.

"This device will provide that. It also frees up manpower that would otherwise be dedicated to chest compression to other needed patient care tasks," Eddy said. "Since Gearhart Fire is predominantly a volunteer department, there are times when manpower is low; this device is a valuable addition that is perfect during those low times."

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Members of the Gearhart Fire Department at Lighthouse Christian Church after announcement of a \$15,000 gift to purchase lifesaving equipment.

Summer surfing holds promise during wild winter

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

After making adjustments last year to accommodate COVID-19 guidelines, surf instructor Lexie Hallahan feels all the more prepared to give kids and adults a plethora of opportunities to ride the waves this summer.

"The whole program has done a retrofit to adapt to the COVID period we are in," said Hallahan, director of Northwest Women's Surf Camps in Seaside.

Registration for her upcoming programs, which start in May. Although her company

is called Northwest Women's Surf Camps — and Hallahan does have unique women-centric programs — she also offers a variety of experiences for new and experienced surfers, including children, teens and adults of all genders.

Last summer, Hallahan started offering mid-week surf camps for families that will be available again this year. Parents can sign up with their children, ages 6 to 12, to learn essential surfing skills and get out on the water at Short Sand Beach in Oswald West State Park. They have an option between one-day, two-day and three-day camps.

According to Hallahan, the camps were a huge success last year, as people were looking for activities

they could do as a family.

This year, she is also offering four co-ed bodyboarding clinics; nine co-ed group surf lessons; four "Girlfriend Getaway Surf Weekenders"; and day camps for both surfing and bodyboarding. Families, groups of friends or companies can also request a private surfing immersion experience that is customized to the needs of their participants.

"We've got that flexibility that we can take different age ranges," Hallahan said.

Early last spring, Hallahan had just launched the 2020 season and hosted one series of lessons when the pandemic hit full-force. Cleanline Surf, Hallahan's

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Lexie Hallahan, director of Northwest Women's Surf Camps, offers a variety of surfing experiences for children 6 and older, in addition to adults of all ages.

'Zoom bomb' rattles Seaside School District

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

During a livestreamed Seaside School District board meeting this month, listeners were hearing from board chairman Mark Truax and Superintendent Susan Penrod when 7 1/2 minutes in the screen was hijacked.

"At this time the meeting was interrupted by unknown parties, using racial slurs and profanity, as well as violent images," the district wrote in its board meeting minutes. "Muting all participants did not stop the audio or video. All participants were put back into the waiting room while staff discussed how to proceed. After reviewing participants and setting all to be muted, the meeting was resumed."

The resumption came with an immediate apology from the superintendent. "I'd like to apologize to everybody for what happened," Penrod said. "Those words and video were very offensive. We do not tolerate that and I'm very sorry that happened."

The meeting resumed

without further interruption.

According to district policy, when a staff member learns of a potential bias incident, they will prioritize the safety and well-being of everyone impacted and promptly report the incident to the building or program administrator.

"Our district investigates any incident that involves hate or racist language," Penrod said before Tuesday's board meeting. "In addition, we adopted the policy named 'All Students Belong' in December, which requires us to report the results of our investigation to our staff and families."

District policy mandates responding staff "recognize the experience of all persons impacted, acknowledge the impact, commit to taking immediate action, and prevent further harm against those persons impacted from taking place."

The administrator will determine responsibility within 10 days of receiving the complaint. Responses aim to protect those impacted and provide

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SUNSET RECREATION CENTER

District retains strategic planning consultant

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

The Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District will begin a strategic plan process for the new Sunset Recreation Center.

The Klosh Group, an owner's representative, will act as the district's representatives in all matters, said Skyler Archibald, the park district's executive director.

The group will serve on the district's behalf in soliciting a request for proposal for the recreation center's strategic plan and will represent the district's interests, "then guiding that process to ensure that it is completed in a timely and efficient manner," Archibald said.

The Klosh Group represented the Seaside Civic and Convention Center in their \$15 million renovation, which finished in fall 2019.

The group signed a contract with the park district in November during due diligence on the purchase of the former middle school from the Seaside School District, which moved all classes to the new campus on Spruce Drive.

Jeff Caldwell, president of the Klosh Group, estimated an overall six-month to one-year strategic planning process, with three to four months to get a good focus "on what that process looks like."

Specialized subconsultants may provide details on specific programs or building goals.

"Our best practice is to get the right consultants on the team to help really define and develop the highest and best use for the facility," said David Dwyer, a senior construction manager with the Klosh Group.

The park district may

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