

Station: ‘Anything and everything is very possible’

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as their first choice.

In early 2020, city officials estimated construction cost at the High Point site between \$6 million and \$9 million.

The city may conduct another resident survey, Cockrum said.

“A re-survey is just to double-check with our voters that they still support this option,” she said. “It has been several years since the council was given direction by the voters to pursue a location outside the tsunami zone, but not at the Dune Meadows Park.”

The High Point structure will also be used as an emergency operations center in a major weather or geological event, City Administrator Chad Sweet said. “It’s more

than just a fire station,” he said.

In early 2020, city councilors unanimously approved a request for up to \$25,000 from the building reserve fund to coordinate work, review materials and prepare a cost estimate for a bond.

Officials had hoped to put a firehouse bond before voters last year, but delays in negotiations as a result of the coronavirus pandemic stalled discussions. Part of the ongoing delay includes discussions between the city and the Palisades Homeowners Association for an undeveloped right of way.

Talks have picked up, City Attorney Peter Watts said. He said he had been in contact with John Crawford, the board president of the homeowners association.



The Gearhart firehouse, built in 1958, is considered at risk in an earthquake and tsunami.

“We’ve got a lot of community education that we will need to do so people understand the issue,” Watts said. “I’ve been able to explain some of these con-

cepts to him and gotten him up to speed and make sure his group receives accurate information. Hopefully, we have a plan they can get behind.”

Crawford confirmed discussions with the city were ongoing. “It’s at our board level and no decisions have been made,” he said.

Watts said negotiations will come down to trust. “We’re going to need them to trust us and we’re going to need to trust them,” he said. “Assuming we can get there, we’ll have an outcome where we have a potentially great facility that will be attractive to current and future volunteers that is at a safe elevation so that in an event of a tsunami our first responders can get there. I’m cautiously optimistic.”

City staff will present the costs of property acquisition and building construction to the City Council at a work session on March 30, Sweet said.

After the council is pre-

sented with the information they may decide to move forward with a November election to approve the bond, ask for more information, or instruct staff to find an alternative to the High Point site.

Costs are being finalized, Sweet said.

Fire Chief Bill Eddy, who has guided the department as chief since 2000, watched a nearly \$4 million bond for a new fire station and city hall fail with voters in 2006. “The citizens of Gearhart are going to have to make that decision, what they feel is right, what their pocketbooks feel are right,” he said. “Anything and everything is very possible. Something needs to be done. Gearhart has firefighters. They need a fire station.”

Fireman’s ball canceled in Gearhart for second year

Seaside Signal

This would have been the 60th annual fireman’s ball in Gearhart, but like the 59th, it will be canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The fundraiser is highlighted by gaming, live music and dancing.

The ball raises funds for necessary equipment for the fire department.

“Unfortunately the Volunteer Fire Association has decided that the May firefighters ball will be a little bit too early because of COVID,” City Administrator Chad Sweet said at last

HOW TO SUPPORT FIRE ASSOCIATION

The Gearhart Fire Association’s online store should be up and running within the next week, Fire Chief Bill Eddy said. Information will be updated on gearhartfire.com. Clothing will be available to purchase from the fire station weekdays and possibly the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend.

Wednesday’s City Council meeting.

“We don’t have a clue what state restrictions on COVID are going to be,” Fire Chief Bill Eddy said. “There’s too much money to getting the process going to be able to the plug on it.”

Between donations, clothing sales, the actual fundraiser and the Gear-

hart Golf Links Tournament generate between \$17,000 to \$20,000.

Residents and supporters can make donations online or purchase sweatshirts, T-shirts and other merchandise at the Gearhart fire hall.

“They’re still doing everything other than the fundraiser itself,” Eddy said.

Eddy to serve as interim Gearhart fire chief during search process

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal



Bill Eddy

Gearhart Fire Chief Bill Eddy will stay on as interim fire chief until a new one is hired.

City Administrator Chad Sweet announced Eddy’s retirement earlier this year. City councilors unanimously approved retaining Eddy as interim chief at a meeting last Wednesday. Eddy has been with the fire department since 1981 and served as chief since 2000.

“Chief Eddy has done a fantastic job working for the city of Gearhart and I look forward to working with him in the process of find-

ing the next chief for the city of Gearhart,” Sweet said. “They’ll have big shoes to fill.”

Gearhart will begin a search process that includes staff, the chief, residents and firefighters, Sweet said.

The agreement begins April 1 and ends July 1, and may be renewed for up to three additional months. As interim fire chief, Eddy will “initiate, administer

and supervise all fire department services,” according to his interim employment contract.

The chief’s base salary will be \$45 per hour, and he is expected to work about 30 hours a week. Among his tasks will be to cover City Council and district board meetings, drills and training, fire department meetings and fire department incident response.

Along with Eddy, Seaside Fire Chief Joey Daniels and other fire professionals will provide assistance in the process.

“We’ll be looking at advertising throughout the area and whittle things down,” Sweet said.

OBITUARY

Louise Marie Gilbert

Warrenton

Sept. 26, 1935 — March 4, 2021

Louise Marie Gilbert, 85, of Warrenton, died March 4, 2021.

Louise Marie Chorne was born in her home, on the family farm, in Dickinson, North Dakota, to Agnes and John Chorne, on Sept. 26, 1935.

When Louise was 14 months old, her mom became ill and passed away at the age of 35. Eleanor, her eldest sister, helped take care of Louise through the next 15 years. Louise grew up with four brothers and two sisters. Louise’s dad passed away when she was 15 years old.

Louise attended Marycliff High School in Spokane, Washington, from 1947 to 1951 and graduated from Williston High School in Williston, North Dakota, in May 1956.

During her high school years she enjoyed playing basketball which her nephew, Wayne Brown, never knew until later years. She was challenged by her nephew to a similar basketball game of “horse.” During that game he learned not to try to challenge Aunt Louise ever again — as she made every basket!

Louise met her husband, Robert Earl Gilbert (Bob), while she was waitressing in Williston. Louise paid for Bob’s dinner one night when he stopped by the restaurant. That is how this marriage of over 45-plus years started.

During the early start of their marriage, they had four boys and one daughter. In birth order, Robert, Jon, Wavia (Guy Mulholland), Jim and Chuck (Jeannie Ferron). Louise enjoyed raising her children, and became a Cub Scout den mother to help her boys learn and succeed in various skills and crafts.

She enjoyed family outings to Fort Peck, what seemed to be almost every weekend of the summer, and her annual trip to see her sister on her farm in Bonners Ferry, Idaho.

Louise and Bob packed up their family and moved



from North Dakota to Montana, where they lived in Glasgow, and then Great Falls and back to Glasgow until 1972, when they decided to move to Seaside, where Ken Karge and Sam Kirkaldie, with her husband, Bob, purchased the infa-

mous KSWB radio station (Ken, Sam with Bob) which broadcasted from Seaside.

While the radio business kicked off, Louise started a waitress job at the Premier Restaurant (where the Beach Club stands today). She then started hostessing at the Pig



‘N Pancake until her retirement in the late 1990s.

Louise looked forward to being a grandma. Wavia and Guy had Tyler and McKenzie; Chuck and Jeannie had Jeff, Desiree, Shaina and Joshua. The total combined: six grandchildren, and later giving her seven great-grandchildren and one more on the way, due in May.

She was a fantastic cook and always had a great flower garden! She made wine, candies, cookies and always baked a cake to celebrate someone’s birthday. Being of Czechoslovakian

descent, borscht became a favorite rustic soup she enjoyed making.

She had many friendships and continued her long distance phone calls to every relative or friend she could. She was proud of her accomplishments in homemaking, and of all of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, with pictures lining the walls and halls of her home.

Louise, in her young life, went through many hardships, which made her strong and confident, loving and enduring to all she knew.

Louise was preceded in

death by her husband, Robert Earl Gilbert; sons, James (Jim) and Robert (Bob) Gilbert; her brothers, Robert, Vincent and Laurie; and sister, Eleanor.

Louise is survived by her family, Ludwig, Edith, Verna, Ray and Janet; her sons, Jon and Chuck; and daughter, Wavia.

The funeral is at 11 a.m. Saturday at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, 120 Oceanway St. in Seaside.

Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements. Please sign the online guest book at hughesransom.com.

Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Seaside High School ALA Scholarship Fundraiser

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