



City of Gearhart

High Point site preparation and mitigation add an additional \$3.1 million and would be a similar cost at other locations considered.

Resiliency station costs laid out in Gearhart

Project could exceed \$13M

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

City staff in Gearhart laid out the most complete look at a proposed resiliency station at High Point.

A new survey will be conducted to determine if voters are willing to get behind what could be a more than \$13 million project on North Marion Avenue.

“Ultimately it is up to Gearhart voters,” City Administrator Chad Sweet told the City Council during a workshop last Tuesday.

Along with cost, there are a number of complications with the High Point site, City Attorney Peter Watts said. The Palisades Homeowners Association, which owns a right of way to the property, opposes the project and has indicated that they will litigate.

Rezoning, an urban growth boundary, annexation and other legal issues could complicate the process.

“That isn’t to say it isn’t going to be the location, but it is a complicated path to get there,” Watts said.

Gearhart’s fire station, constructed in 1958, is considered at risk for flooding or collapse during an earthquake and tsunami.

In 2018, after considering nine locations, a fire station committee recommended three concepts and locations to help guide the decision-making process. More than 50% supported the High Point site, with an elevation between 62 feet and 65 feet, as their

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Professor questions High Point option

Doubts raised on resiliency station

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

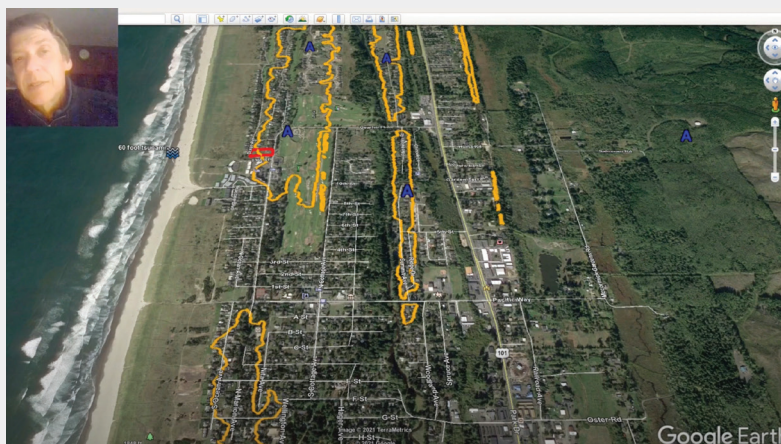
Where’s the best place to put a resiliency station and firehouse?

University professor Stewart Schultz, a former Gearhart resident and author of “The Northwest Coast: A Natural

History,” wants the city to reexamine the plan to put the station on North Marion Avenue near the Palisades.

“The High Point site is not in the running as a good assembly area, let alone the best or the ideal,” Schultz said in a four-part, 50-minute YouTube video series. “Why would you settle on a location that’s wide open to a big hit from a high-energy western wave?”

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Screenshot from Stewart Schultz’s video. Red mark indicates the High Point location.

Seaside fire marshal takes new role

Dugan named as state deputy for the region

Seaside Signal

Seaside Fire Div. Chief and Fire Marshal Chris Dugan is starting a new chapter in his firefighting career.

“It gives me great excitement to announce that I have been offered the position of Office of State Fire Marshal, Deputy State Fire Marshal District No. 1,” Dugan said last week.

That district covers Clatsop, Tillamook, and Columbia counties.

There are 15 deputy state fire marshals and two supervisors located throughout the state.

A volunteer with Seaside since 1989 and a professional firefighter since

2000, Dugan’s last day was last Friday. He started his new job on Monday, based out of the state police office in Warrenton.

“I’m not moving, in fact I’m still going to be part of the Seaside Fire Department as a volunteer,” Dugan said. “I’m still going to be part of the community, still a part of the department as long as they can use me.”

The deputy state fire marshal investigates fires, especially in fire dis-

tricts without trained investigators.

“I could be going anywhere from Netarts in Tillamook County to over in Columbia County, and investigate fires as needed.”

The deputy state fire marshal inspects businesses normally not inspected by the local fire marshal, including anything that would be licensed by the state. “A little more technical, not your everyday gasoline stations, to restaurants to motels,” Dugan said.

Hood to Coast could be back in August

Last year’s event a casualty of the pandemic

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

The Hood to Coast Relay is back on track.

The “mother of all relays,” which was canceled last summer because of the coronavirus pandemic, could take place Aug. 27 and Aug. 28, with 12-member teams running 199 miles from the top of Mount Hood to the beach in Seaside.

“We’ve been planning on operating our 2021 relay events since the beginning

of the year,” Hood to Coast Chief Operating Officer Dan Floyd said. “We feel strongly that we can safely operate the 2021 events.”

The relay team lottery has filled its limit, with 1,050 Hood to Coast running teams and 400 Portland to Coast Walk teams. A new event, the 130-mile Portland to Coast Challenge Relay, leaving from the Tilikum Crossing Bridge in Portland, is open to 70 teams.

Still, the race series needs approval from all 35 governing bodies along the route, Floyd said. “Therefore, our neighbors and the communities that host the event will have to permit the event first,” he said.

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Katherine Lacaze

1-year-old Kensley picks up candy-filled eggs at the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District’s annual egg hunt on April 3.

Egg hunt returns to Broadway Field

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

Broadway Field was transformed into a garden of colorful eggs last Saturday as the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District brought back its beloved springtime tradition, the community Easter egg hunt.

“It was so great to be able to have all the kids here,” said Melissa Ousley, manager of marketing and special events for the park district. “Normally, it’s one of our most popular events.”

The free community egg hunt took place in the morning, with roughly 400 people in attendance. Children up to age 6 were invited onto the field in waves of 250 or less to collect thousands of scattered eggs filled with candy. The intention was to limit the number of people on the field at one time and comply with social distancing guidelines because of the coronavirus pandemic, Ousley said.

A few of the eggs contained prize tickets that made the winning child eligible for an Easter basket featuring treats from Bruce’s Candy Kitchen or one of several plush rabbits donated by Rascals. As children checked in, they were also given a token to use for a ride on the carousel, courtesy of Susan Deshon and the Carousel Mall.

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Seaside Fire Department

Seaside Fire Div. Chief Chris Dugan takes on a new role with the office of the state fire marshal.

