

Prom Centennial greets starter's pistol with \$14,000 tourism grant

Seaside Signal

In 1806, members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition established a salt works where the Prom is now located. In 1850, the first boarding house opened in Seaside and in 1871 railroad magnate Ben Holladay began work on the Seaside Hotel. Seaside was incorporated in 1899, the city of 400 hosting almost 10,000 visitors a year. The Promenade, fondly called the Prom, was dedicated in a well-attended ceremony on Aug. 7, 1921. It is only concrete boardwalk along the oceanfront in the Pacific Northwest.

These points of history and others will be among the interpretative signage along the Prom, to be delivered through \$14,000 in grant funding through Travel Oregon's 2021 Competitive and Recovery Grants Program. The city announced the grant Monday.

The grants program awards eligible applicants funding for projects that contribute to Oregon's tourism economy in communities throughout the state that support Travel Oregon's vision of a better life for all Oregonians through strong, sustainable local communities that welcome a diversity of explorers, director of tourism marketing Joshua Heineman said. The signs will aim to enrich the experience of those on the Prom with history of the iconic



Jeff Ter Har

A sunset near the Prom in Seaside.

Northwest landmark and Seaside area, info about "Terrible Tilly" lighthouse and the Seaside Aquarium and more.

The centennial gets a running start on May 14 with a 100K Relay on the Prom, and culminates with breakfast and prizes the next morning.

Fifteen to 20 teams with between two and seven runners will run from 8 p.m. throughout the night along

from 12th Avenue to Avenue U along the Promenade to complete the race, culminating with breakfast and prizes the next morning.

Safety guidelines from the Oregon Health Authority and the Centers for Disease Control will be followed in organizing this race. Call the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District at 503-738-3311 to register.

Providence North Coast CEO Lemmon to retire

Seaside Signal

Don Lemmon, chief executive of Providence's North Coast Service area, is retiring at the end of June.

Before coming to the North Coast in 2018, Lemmon served as director of operations for Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital.

"My main focus is to be able to provide basic services for our community," he said in a 2019 interview.

As CEO he recruited new pri-



Don Lemmon

mary and specialty care providers and launched upgrades and remodeling of MRI/CT services at Providence Seaside Hospital. The hospital's \$5.7 million emergency room renovation and expansion opened in 2020.

"We are grateful for his years of service and celebrate the start of a new chapter in his life," said William Olson, chief operating officer for Providence Oregon in a statement.

An interim leader will be named at a later date.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Contact local agencies for latest meeting information and attendance guidelines.

MONDAY, MAY 10

Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., cityofseaside.us.

TUESDAY, MAY 11

Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District, 5:15 p.m., board workshop; 7 p.m., budget committee, 1225 Avenue A.

Seaside Planning Commission, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway St.

THURSDAY, MAY 13

Seaside Civic and Convention Center, 5 p.m., 415 First Ave.

TUESDAY, MAY 18

Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board of Directors, 5:15 p.m., 1225 Avenue A.

Seaside School District, 6 p.m., www.seaside.k12.or.us/meetings.

Gearhart Small Business Committee, 6 p.m., cityofgearhart.com.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

Seaside Tourism Advisory Committee, 3 p.m., 989 Broadway St.

Seaside Tree Board, 4 p.m., 989 Broadway St.

Gearhart Parks Master Plan Citizens Advisory Committee, 5:30 p.m., work session, cityofgearhart.com.

THURSDAY, MAY 20

Seaside Transportation Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway St.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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safe environment. I see arts and culture opportunities for all residents, where community and togetherness are at the heart of our lives. I see pickleball, volleyball, basketball, indoor soccer, theatre, indoor space for kids to play in the winter, child care, and everything in between.

The residents of our community deserve a bold vision. We deserve positivity and unity. We deserve laughter, joy and happiness. Together we can maintain the memories of the past, while building a sustainable and healthy future for our kids and grandchildren, and we are able to do this all without raising your taxes by purchasing the middle school through a flex-lease!

I encourage you to join me to reelect my fellow Board of Directors for Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District: Su Coddington, Celeste Tuhy Bodner, Michael Hinton, Katharine Parker and myself, Erika Marshall Hamer. Visit ProgressforSEPRD.com for more information! Erika Hamer Marshall Seaside

Vote for change in Sunset Empire Park and Rec District

At the end of the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District candidate's forum at the Bob Chisholm Center, in responding to a chat comment Chelsea Archibald, the wife of Skyler Archibald, said if Skyler leaves the district, the entire staff will too. I perceive that as a threat.

The executive director serves at the pleasure of the board of directors. The board serves at the pleasure of the voters in the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation district. Yes, this is how it's sup-

posed to work. Currently the board is 80% hand-selected by other board members.

If you are OK with a board 80% appointed by other board members and you like a board that will make significant purchases for the district like Broadway Middle School without your consent, I suggest you vote for the incumbents.

If, on the other hand, you are tired of not being heard, please consider voting for me and a group of people I respect. My name is John Huismann and I am running with Al Hernandez, Patrick Duhachek, Stephen Morrison and Jackie Evans.

The biggest difference between us and the current board? We all come from the business world. Meaning we are all used to being held accountable. It also means we are well trained in holding others accountable. Both things have been missing from the board of directors for a long time.

John Huismann Seaside

The power of special districts

I cannot accept these vague representations from "Transparency" group candidates for Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board of Directors positions. They've no vision but a desire to take over control of the district to wreak havoc on a sustainable budget our programming including scholarship grants to financially impacted families; who incidentally many times agree to volunteer for program support.

Patrick Duhachek speaks of "niche" programs? Is he talking of lap swim, open swim, Zumba, water aerobics or yoga? Swim lessons or lifeguard Training? Surf camps, emergency child

care, preschool? While we provide many essential programs, we also have special events providing social and community benefits such as our Seaside Farmers Market or Daughter and Daddy Dance.

Several employers negotiate reduced fees on behalf of employee groups who can avail themselves of district fitness and wellness programs, including the city of Seaside.

Why quibble over our permanent tax rate of .000928/\$1000? I sense his ultimate desire is to defund our budget. Some in his eclectic group wish to default on our flex lease loan utilized to purchase the former Broadway Middle School; the very same mechanisms funded the much-needed women's locker room expansion and the warm water therapy/learner's pool in addition to purchasing the Abel House property subsequently transferred to city ownership to site our new library and siting for our Sunny Hunt Community Gardens. We've not asked for any new taxes.

Patrick has stated that our park and recreation district is the fifth highest funded in Oregon. Pat has wrongly compared us to others (2) that have no indoor pools. Some better funded districts also utilize system development charges. We don't. Some are only aquatic districts with seasonal outdoor pools. We are more than a pool. Our funding is one of the reasons we have a sustainable budget for childcare, preschool, summer camps, after school programs, and a beautiful indoor community pool. Sustainability is the reason we have been able to open and reopen Sunset Pool six times since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. No one else in Clatsop County can boast that.

We have the power of a special district. Formed in 1969 by

a few hundred people with a tax base that proved unsustainable and when inflation became a barrier to building new pool; the early days were rough until Mary Blake came in 1984. Her knowledge of aquatics proved to be the difference in guiding the board and community toward sustainability. Sizemorian 1990 politics reshaped the district tax base with resulting the aforementioned present permanent tax rate.

I was the first director to receive governance and finance trainings with special districts Association of Oregon. I don't see any experience with special districts by any opponent or vision of empowering our community invest in social capital, positive youth development and optimal use of the Sunset Pool. Please reelect The SEPRD board. This is the best option for Seaside. Vote for honesty and integrity. Support these young directors from Seaside.

Michael Hinton Seaside

Your vote is your voice

There is an important race in the upcoming May 18 election. I would like to provide you with some insight.

The Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District board of directors has been in a state of flux since the 2019 election. A total of five resignations have left the board with four appointed and one elected member (Mike Hinton).

The previous board voted, in June 2020, not to pursue purchase of Broadway Middle School. Mike Hinton and Katharine Parker voted to pursue; Su Coddington voted to table purchase. As soon as the last two elected members resigned, the board voted again and these three remaining directors voted unanimously to pursue purchase. Su Coddington changed her vote.

These three directors then chose Celeste Bodner and Erika Marshall to fill the empty board seats. This was in August 2020.

To gauge public interest, a survey was released on the SEPRD website, newsletter and Facebook page. A link was also in the water bills mailed out Oct. 16, but by October 5th the district had already entered a contract to buy the school.

After learning the SEPRD board was pursuing this major purchase I set out to inform the citizens this was taking place. This attracted a group of people who were also concerned about the actions of this board of directors who were not elected and not representing the people. We found the school had a \$4.5 million price tag to remediate and the district had no money for remediation. We scolded, implored, bargained, and pleaded with board members to take this purchase to a vote of the people. The board was unwavering in their commitment to their plan. When the current board of directors closed on the property, we felt our voices were heard but they didn't listen.

Now it's election time. Every member of the current board is up for election (not re-election, as their signs claim) and being challenged by citizens who deeply care for the district and, more importantly, care for the citizens who own the district. These highly qualified candidates have stepped up to make SEPRD the best that it can be. Al Hernandez, John Huismann, Patrick Duhachek, Jackie Evans and Stephen Morrison have excellent credentials and experience to bring to the table. It's time for a change. They will listen to you.

Make an informed decision. Your vote is your voice. Let your voice be heard. Diane Wells Seaside

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Mental health is a puzzle that's done best together

columbiamemorial.org/behavioral-health

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