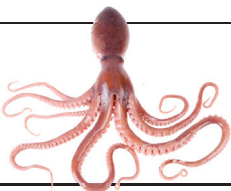


The tufted puffins are back at Haystack Rock

SEASIDE AQUARIUM

TIFFANY BOOTHE



flings, activity around the rock is hectic and plentiful: it is fun to observe the parent puffins making multiple trips to their burrow with bills full of fish for their young. Thirty-eight to 59 days after hatching the pufflings will leave their burrows. Under the protection of dark (to escape the ever-watchful, hungry eyes of bald eagles), all the pufflings will leave the safety of the rock and return to the open ocean, where they will spend the winter.

The Great Puffin Watch, July 1 through July 4, is your best chance to view these miraculous seabirds at Haystack Rock. This seabird watching event, sponsored by the Friends of Haystack Rock, is part of a fireworks-free weekend in Cannon Beach. Spotting scopes and binoculars will be available for the public to view these magnificent birds up close.

Friends of Haystack Rock promotes the preservation and protection of the intertidal life and birds that inhabit the Marine Garden and Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge at Haystack Rock. We do this in cooperation with the Haystack Rock Awareness Program and other partners.



Tufted puffin in the water near Haystack Rock Cannon Beach.

Tiffany Boothe/Seaside Aquarium

Dahlgren: Band director known for his optimism and encouragement

Continued from Page A1

band director in the fall of 2002.

"I remember that first group of kids very fondly," he said.

Coming into a smaller district, he was willing to assess the attitude of the students and set goals for the program accordingly. However, about halfway through the year, he said, it became apparent the students "were really eager to do as much as they possibly could."

That attitude, combined with the administrative support Dahlgren received from the get-go, gave him confidence there were no limits to how successful the program could be — despite the size of the district.

"They collectively decided, 'Let's give this guy a chance, let's take this

pretty seriously as see what happens,'" he said. "It just kept building year after year."

'Lightning in a Bottle'

Dahlgren's unyielding optimism, high expectations and advocacy for the students are embedded in the motivation he passes onto them regularly. Some of his most common and heartfelt words of encouragement include: "I think you might be underestimating what you're capable of," and, "I know what you're capable of, even if you don't."

The eagerness and dedication of that first batch of students set the program on a firm foundation for future success.

Younger students witnessed their siblings playing at sports events and concerts and traveling for

competition, and it motivated them to get involved.

Overall, Dahlgren describes his experience with the band in Seaside as "lightning in a bottle."

"I am very, very fortunate to have been able to be a part of it," he said.

However, as he reflects over a long and fruitful career — and many fond memories — he feels there has not been a more important time to positively impact the students than right now, amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although trying to translate band into a virtual program at the start of the school year presented unprecedented challenges, Dahlgren is convinced it was worth the effort. He recalls discussing the option with the administration and expressing to them that, "I may not have the magic

solution to make this go, but I think we need to try. To not try is unacceptable."

The band plays on

Fortunately, lack of support — from the administration, parents and the community at large — hasn't been a problem for Dahlgren, which is not a given for performing arts programs at schools.

"Not every band director has that," he said. "I've been in schools where you can't even take band, because it doesn't even fit in the day."

Emboldened by this support, Dahlgren has been able to invest in making sure the band program makes it through the pandemic intact, without losing significant momentum or the fervor of the students.

"This, while the most challenging part of my career, has also been the

most rewarding, because I really wanted to be the one to bring them back into the school," he said. "Any success we have this year is just golden to me, because no one has ever done this before. ... The goal is to get them back in the building and get them playing with each other; that is really the only goal."

He has about 65 high school students participating in band. They are split into five groups — four which meet on campus in the gym during the week socially distanced and wearing facial coverings specif-

ically designed for musicians. One group of high schoolers, as well as the middle schoolers, are continuing online for the 2020-21 school year.

Although administrators and school board members have noted that Dahlgren's retirement creates a significant loss for the district, he is confident the pieces are place for the program to continue thriving, regardless of who takes over.

"The commitment is there," he said. "We're all on the same page. Everybody knows what needs to be done."

Housing: 'We want to be prepared for anything'

Continued from Page A1

Council to proceed to a bond vote in the fall. "Ultimately it's the citizens of Gearhart that will choose in November," Sweet said.

The land exchange proposal comes as the city considers recommendation from a housing study delivered to the city earlier this year calling for increased workforce housing opportunities.

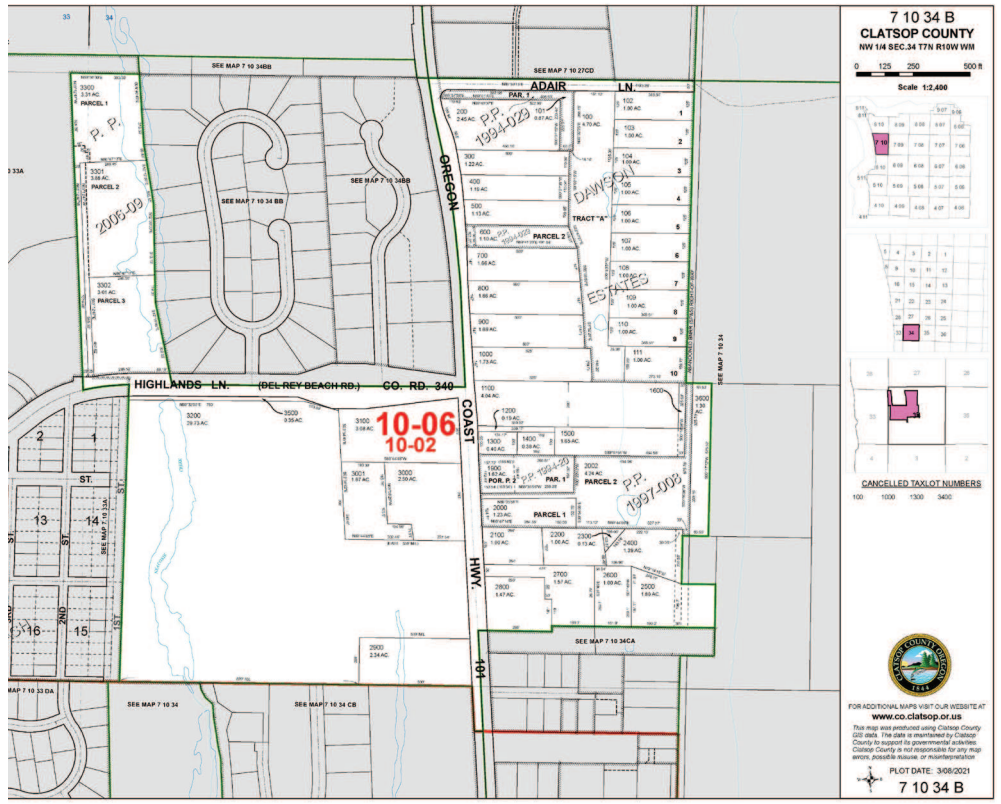
The building and land inventory analysis delivered to the City Council in March showed a need for 234 new housing units by 2038. The study indicates a need for more rental supply for lower and moderately priced rental units.

The lack of a city sewer system "more than anything affects our maximum density despite how much land we have," City Planner Carole Connell said at last Thursday's meeting of the Planning Commission. "Our septic will continue to constrain us."

The housing study pointed to "a number of things" the city could do to meet future needs, including a new high-density residential zone, duplexes and accessory dwelling units, Connell said.

"We really need to stay ahead of the curve because Gearhart has been notorious for falling behind the curve," Planning Commissioner Terry Graff said. "And I'm not sure that I'm the only one who makes this a priority."

Cottages at Gearhart LLC hopes to exchange two lots outside Gearhart's urban growth boundary with the city for use as a park and a new firehouse and resiliency station. Approval



33.5-acre Cottages at Gearhart property.

for the process must first pass muster with the state's Department of Land Conservation and Development, which oversees the administrative process. Once land is included in an urban growth boundary, it is eligible for annexation to the city.

Any land exchanged must be zoned at similar residential density use, City Attorney Peter Watts said. "Unfortunately, the Oregon Administrative Rules are set up for a zone-to-zone swap and don't contemplate up-zoning."

For now, the city is evaluating planning and architectural proposals to obtain property development and structure estimates and may be ready for preliminary conversations with the Plan-

ning Commission in June. "We want to be prepared for anything," Planning Commissioner Chair-

woman Virginia Dideum said. "No matter who comes up with what, it's going to be a process."

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