



Park district authorizes lease at rec center

Education group will use a portion of the building

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

The Northwest Regional Education Service District will lease almost 7,400 square feet in the Sunset Recreation Center in Seaside.

The Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board voted unanimously to give executive director Skyler Archibald authorization to sign the deal. The park district acquired the former Broadway Middle School in January.

“Things have moved right along with working with Northwest Regional since our last meeting and discussion,” Archibald said at last Tuesday’s park district meeting. “I think we’re in a really good place, having negotiated some of the finer details of the agreement, as well as the timing and cost per square foot.

From the staff’s perspective, we feel very comfortable moving forward and working with this organization. It seems that our common missions and service district status are a good fit.”

The service district is in the process of selling their 29,000-square-foot Clatsop Service Center location in Astoria. The space the service district has requested is not being used by the park district, Archibald said.

The lease begins Aug. 1 and runs until July 31, 2023. The annual rent is \$73,840, payable in quarterly installments. After the first year of the agreement, the annual rental income will increase by 1.5% from the previous year’s amount. The lease agreement includes a cost per square foot and a stipulation for the service district to cover their portion of utilities.

The lease agreement includes exclusive use of the counseling offices, three classrooms and the computer lab as well as

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Gearhart seeks resident input on firehouse site

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Gearhart wants to know what residents think of a new firehouse location off Highlands Lane.

“An opportunity now exists for the city to accept a land donation in a desirable location,” city staff wrote in a letter to homeowners accompanying the survey.

The survey comes as Gearhart faces cost and legal obstacles at the previously preferred site at North Marion.

The online survey, powered by Survey Monkey, seeks a name; whether the respondent is a renter, business owner or homeowner; and to confirm local voting eligibility. Respondents are asked if they agree with the

city’s plan to build the fire station on The Cottages at Gearhart dune near Highlands Lane and U.S. Highway 101.

The final survey question asks if respondents would support bond financing in November to pay for the project.

Along with the online survey, 1,600 surveys are expected to be mailed this week, City Administrator Chad Sweet said.

The survey deadline is Aug. 1.

“As the city prepared to finalize the written purchase agreement and have a vote to finance the purchase/construction at High Point, we received an email from one of the property owners stating the family is no longer interested in selling

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Seaside Fire Department

Seaside, Gearhart, and Cannon Beach fire agencies wrapped up a joint rescue watercraft operator class last Thursday. Last weekend’s surge of visitors during the heat wave brought many calls for assistance.

CITY LIFTS VIRUS RESTRICTIONS AHEAD OF HOLIDAY WEEKEND

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

With the Fourth of July weekend coming, the Seaside City Council voted Monday to lift the city’s state of emergency virus restrictions because of the pandemic. The state has also lifted the virus emergency.

With a heat dome hovering over the region last weekend, thousands of tourists jammed local beaches and streets seeking relief from extreme heat in the Willamette Valley and throughout the Pacific Northwest. Temperatures peaked at 101 degrees in Seaside on Sunday.

“The beach was packed Saturday like a busy Fourth

of July weekend,” Fire Chief Joey Daniels said. “We did add additional staffing to assist the lifeguards on the beach and calls in the city.”

Last Friday, Seaside, Gearhart and Cannon Beach Fire agencies wrapped up a joint rescue watercraft operator class.

Fire season began in Clatsop County in June, requiring permits for burn barrels and restrictions on recreational fires. Illegal fireworks, which eject balls of fire, fly into the air or travel more than 6 feet on the ground or 12 feet in the air, are prohibited. Tents are prohibited and could bring a \$700 fine. Deep pits, which can contain pallets with nails and other sharp metal objects,

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Owners mull uses of former Gearhart school



R.J. Marx

The garden of Timi Morey at the former Gearhart Elementary School.

Housing, art space and health center considered

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

At the north entrance of the former Gearhart Elementary School, the curious can peer through a fence to see a flowering garden with raised planters filled with perennials, roses and vegetables.

“A primary goal has been

to save it so it’s a pretty entrance to town,” said Robert Morey, who with his wife, Timi, purchased the building from the Seaside School District in November.

The garden includes 96 roses planted in honor of Morey’s wife’s mother, Nadine Clark, an avid gardener who died at 96.

The Moreys have yet to decide on how to use the main school building, which was originally constructed in 1948 and added on to in 1968.

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A pandemic boom for PNW Cabinets

The designer saw demand amid supply chain issues

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

Two weeks after Debbie Sandersen signed a lease on a showroom for PNW Cabinets along U.S. Highway 101 in Gearhart, Clatsop County, like the rest of the world, went into shutdown mode amid the pandemic.

Sandersen said the experience was nerve-wracking

— “wondering how it’s all going to go, and would you get enough of a customer base and everything to keep going” — but she nevertheless plunged forward with her business plan.

Initially, she took solace, believing it would give her more time to set up her showroom in Gearhart. Instead, however, the pandemic had the opposite effect, and Sandersen has experienced a nonstop stream of business for cabinets, countertops, window coverings and tiles.

“We’ve been so busy that there’s not really been much down time at all, which has

been fun, because you’ve always got a project to work on,” she said.

While cultivating clients hasn’t been a problem, the pandemic brought other challenges. Not only have raw materials gone up in price over the past year, but shipping costs have also escalated exponentially. Meanwhile, a global shortage of shipping containers has emerged, leading to further inflation. There are also long lead times on acquiring certain materials and products.

An important part of dealing with these external



Katherine Lacaze

Seaside resident Debbie Sandersen, owner and operator of PNW Cabinets.

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