



Photos by R.J. Marx

This mural by Gearhart students remains in the building.

## School: 'Keeping the feeling of the old school'

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Morey said he is open to a variety of potential uses, which may include workforce housing, art studios, performing arts space or a community health center.

Because of security and liability issues, the property is closed to the public. A 20-foot gate closes off the access driveway on the far western part of the property.

The manufactured portable trailers once used as classroom space are gone.

"If you left them, what would they look like in 20 years?" Morey asked. "We spent thousands with diagrams to try and save them. It made no sense."

Inside the main building, all unnecessary phone, electrical and cable wires are gone. The steam heat boiler is decommissioned and will be replaced.

People in the community have an attachment to the school and the tradition it represents, Morey said. "We're keeping the feeling of the old school, we're not buying it trying to make it a 2021 building," he said. "It's a 73-year-old building we want to bring up to date."

Any proposals would be contingent on city review and approvals.

"People want to know what you're going to do," Morey said. "We've always said we have no idea until we get in there. It's too early to know what we can do

mechanically."

The covered playground will stay for the time being but is expected to be gone next year, Morey said. Because of labor shortages, exterior painting will also be delayed.

Crews are doing septic analysis to help determine what type of housing can be supported on the remainder of the site. Three septic tanks are being decommissioned and two will remain. New homes will be supported by bottomless sand filter systems, which while more expensive, use less land and make it easier to fill Gearhart's housing needs.

The Moreys have offered the city use of parking areas during an August concert, and have floated the idea that the site could be used as a temporary facility during potential construction of a new firehouse.

The couple is seeking a conditional use permit from the Planning Commission for a caretaker unit in the northern part of the main building.

The area will be separated from the rest of the main building and have its own exterior entrance, Morey said. The unit will have two bedrooms separated by a breezeway from a shared kitchen and shower areas.

"The plan is to have two caretaker teams that will make 24/7 coverage," he said.



A birdbath is a holdover from the former school.



Timi Morey planted 96 roses to honor her mother, who died at 96 and was an avid gardener throughout her life.

## Rec center: Environmental study the last step

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a janitor closet nearby. It includes shared space of hallways and a men's and women's restroom located nearby.

Prior to occupancy, the park district will lease the service district one of the

classrooms for storage.

The service district plans to contract out an environmental study of the space, looking at the possibility of mold or other environmental contaminants as well as asbestos.

"That is the last hurdle to cross," Archibald said.



R.J. Marx

The Northwest Regional Education Service District will lease a portion of the Sunset Recreation Center in Seaside.

## Cabinetry: Designer uses her insight into the market

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challenges is simply being upfront with clients to establish realistic expectations, Sandersen said.

During her initial consultation, she'll delve into lead times and how that can influence the timeline and cost of a project.

If clients aren't in a rush, "they can pretty much get what they want," she said. If they are on a particular timeline, she'll direct them toward alternatives.

That sort of insight into the market is what Sandersen strives to provide all her clients when designing residential and commercial spaces and helping with product selection.

"I really focus on listening to what their needs are and trying to get them everything they need to make that particular project come about in the way that they're thinking," she said.

Sandersen summed up her experience as being "raised in the industry,"

particularly the woodworking end of things.

She's been designing for about 18 years, although it was always under the umbrella of a larger company. Eventually, she decided to branch out on her own.

"Since this was the skill set I had mostly, we just decided to go ahead and pull the trigger on this," she said.

She felt it was important to create a showroom, since there aren't many local establishments where people can look at samples of materials or different products.

"It seemed like there was a need out here for people to have a place to go to see things and get work done," she said.

Sandersen frequently works in tandem with her husband Kurt's business, KHS Northwest. She helps with design and materials acquisition, while his contracting company provides installation services for home and business owners

that need them.

He's worked in the industry for a long time and in multiple capacities, from remediation and restoration to managing projects and running a handyman business. Now, his main focus is doing installs alongside PNW Cabinets.

While they keep their installation projects focused to the North Coast from Astoria to Nehalem, Sandersen has established a much wider service area when it comes to design.

She's worked on projects for clients in Bend, southern Oregon and even Idaho, providing design services from afar and then having materials shipped to them.

Even when designing remodels or new construction on the coast, Sandersen is no stranger to working virtually with clients. That's due in large part to the abundance of second homes and vacation rentals in the area. In fact, long-distance projects comprise about 50% of her business.

Recently, Sandersen has

also worked with numerous clients who are moving to the coast and turning their second homes into their primary residence. While those spaces might have served them well as temporary vacation homes, they aren't suitable for long-term, daily living — and that's where Sandersen steps in.

"Usability and functionality — those are two huge parts of the project," she said. "Everybody stores things differently, or has different lifestyle needs. It's just figuring out what those are to get it right for them."

When she's able to accomplish that for a client, regardless of the type of project and scope of work, she finds it rewarding.

"I like to help people get what they envision, what they want, and make it all work out so they don't really have to make sacrifices on quality, or color, or whatever it is they're thinking," she said. "When they're happy, that makes me happy."

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