



Cross Creek development could bring over 70 apartments

Traffic safety a concern

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Traffic, bicycle and pedestrian safety were the top concerns among planning commissioners as owners of the Cross Creek subdivision on N. Roosevelt sought a conditional use permit for a 72-unit complex.

The property comprises about 4 1/2 acres and is located near the TLC Fibre Federal Credit Union building near Neawanna Creek. Neighboring businesses include Randall Lee's Flooring America, Tior Title and Seaside Car & Boat Wash.

Lots would be sold to builders, with units anticipated to be leased at \$1,200 to \$1,400 a month. Eight buildings with six units each and six buildings with four units each are proposed at the site.

The big thing missing from the owners' submission, Planning Commissioner Kathy Kleczek said, are measures designed to ensure pedestrian and bicycle safety at the entrance from U.S. Highway 101.

"When you create residences over there, you're going to have more and more people moving in

that area by foot, and by bicycle, and none of these plans take those people into account," Kleczek said. "And that to me is a huge concern. When you're accelerating to get off the highway or accelerating to get onto the highway, and you've got somebody walking or biking through that same intersection, you're creating a crash condition that is now vehicular and pedestrian or bicycle."

The site is zoned residential high density, which allows the development, according to the transportation impact study prepared by property owners.

"During heavy traffic hours, I think it's a foregone conclusion it's going to have traffic backed up basically to their development," Kevin Cupples, the city's planning director, said.

According to the owners' traffic study, based on a review of the most recent five years of available crash data, no significant trends or crash patterns were identified at any of the study intersections that indicated safety concerns.

The complex would use the existing, shared driveway serving the nearby commercial spaces, according to the study. The study also says the site

See Development, Page A5

Gearhart considers fireworks ban

Impact on pets, fire danger are cited as concerns

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

It was just a normal Fourth of July in Gearhart, Police Chief Jeff Bowman said. "Maybe a little quieter on Gearhart Beach this year."

In the days before the holiday, for the fire department, the holiday was much quieter than previous years, City Administrator Chad Sweet, a firefighter, said.

But a call to ban fireworks by residents in letters to Mayor Paulina Cockrum and city councilors is winning support.

"We need to ban fireworks and put notices at the

entrances of Gearhart," resident Penny Sabol wrote. "And enforce the bans."

Todd Liebow and Anita Barbey wrote to request that the city ban all fireworks this summer.

"There's too much at risk to allow sparks to be flying amid this small community," they wrote. "We've seen too much destruction to the environment and to humans and pets that could easily have been avoided by these unnecessary and damaging devices. We urge you and City Council to act today on this emergency situation as we are nearing one of the seasonal high points of potential disaster."

Pet owners said their animals are affected by fireworks, City Councilor Dan Jesse said at last

See Fireworks, Page A5

Maggie's is back with new executive chef

Jones cooked for stars at Nike

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

After temporarily closing for nearly a year because of impacts from the pandemic, Maggie's on the Prom is back.

Andy and Sadie Mercer

closed their doors in September because limited indoor seating made operations increasingly difficult as a result of state restrictions on dining.

The Mercers opened Maggie's in 2013 and developed it into a fine dining experience.

The restaurant, a frequent Iron Chef Goes Coastal award winner, also serves as a community hub, providing story nights, tastings and more. "It really is a community that embraces all of the

businesses that come in as new businesses and everybody wants each other's success," Sadie Mercer said. "And that's something that was really apparent at the very beginning."

The restaurant reopened in early June, just in time for the summer season with new executive chef Jonathan Jones. He worked at Nike as executive chef for six years, traveling, catering special events and preparing dinners for superstars like Tiger Woods, LeBron James and

Apple's Tim Cook.

In 2020, he and friend Adrin Morrison eyed opening their own restaurant on the coast. They quit their jobs and moved out of Portland with a deal lined up. "We came here to open here," Jones said. "And then this thing called COVID-19 happened."

The deal fell through. They pressed the refresh button, surf- and deep sea-fishing, crabbing, clamming and

See Chef, Page A6



The Seaside Farmers Market opened in June and will run through Sept. 29.

Photos by Katherine Lacaze

Farm fresh in Seaside, with 'an atmosphere of excitement'

Market is held every Wednesday



Allan Berry, owner of Olivers Gourmet Co., speaks with patrons at the Seaside Farmers Market.

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

With music filling the parking lot beside the Sunset Recreation Center and the smell of pizza wafting among a small mingling crowd, the Seaside Farmers Market this season has reclaimed the strong sense of festivity that was tempered last year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"There were a lot of things that were different," said Melissa Ousley, marketing and special events manager with

See Market, Page A6

Gallery, residence space coming to Gearhart

Speakmans intend to display their art

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

The Gearhart Planning Commission has approved a local family's proposal to turn a former metal works into a gallery and living space off Pacific Way.

"By supporting local artists, the city of Gearhart can play an important role in adding to the vibrancy and aesthetics of the local

community," Jay Speakman wrote in a letter to the commission.

Speakman and his wife, Diane, own Sesame + Lilies, a home decor store in Cannon Beach. The store originally started on the corner of U.S. Highway 101 and Pacific Way in 2003 before moving to Cannon Beach in 2007.

The couple's daughter, Rachel, is a painter and illustrator, he said in the letter. At the Art Institute of Chicago, she specialized in ceramic sculpture. "It is her desire to return to this form of work," Speakman wrote. "It requires

heavy equipment and a reasonable amount of space. As any artist does, she also needs a place to display her work."

Speakman's wife is also a painter and would display her work at the space, he said. "We would be able to use this showroom as a gallery for all of us, really," Speakman said at last week's meeting.

The Gearhart Ironwerks represented "the obvious solution," he said.

"I know the building and

See Gallery, Page A5



Executive chef Jonathan Jones, event coordinator Adrin Morrison and Sadie Mercer on the deck of Maggie's on the Prom.

R.J. Marx

