



Camp director sees opportunity, need in Seaside



Katherine Lacaze

Erin Reding is the new youth programs coordinator for the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District.

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District's summer camp program is back in session under the direction of new youth programs coordinator Erin Reding.

Reding joined the park district in June, in time to open the nine-week summer camp program that started in late June and runs through late August.

"I didn't have any major overarching goals coming in," she said. "My goals are getting to know staff, getting to know how things have functioned in the past, and explor-

ing how we can improve and make them better."

She was drawn to the position — previously held by Shelly Owen — because of her passion for early childhood education and the community.

Reding was born and raised in Seaside, and she recalls learning to swim at the Sunset Pool and attending middle school in the building that now houses the Sunset Recreation Center. After graduating high school, she went to Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington, to get her teaching degree.

A few years later, she moved back to the area, taking

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Cayden McElroy hangs out on the playground during summer camp at the Sunset Recreation Center.



Lou Solitske

Fireworks in Seaside on the Fourth. Without a sanctioned show, groups improvised along the beach.

Residents push to ban fireworks

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Residents concerned about noise, animals and fire danger want the city to consider a fireworks ban.

Cathy Ryan said her home "sounded like a war zone on July Fourth."

"There were very, very loud fireworks," she told the City Council last Monday. "And I understand that this is a celebration of our independence, and I appreciate that. Unfortunately, this bombardment of sound went on for over five hours."

Her husband, a Vietnam War veteran, "was not in good shape" by the end of the night, she said.

Ryan asked the City Council to form a committee to look at the possibilities of

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Seaside banks 'North 40' for future park, recreation space

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Seaside received almost 8 acres at the north end of the former Seaside High School campus, referred to as the "North 40."

The transfer was approved in late April at a Clatsop County Board of Commissioners meeting.

The property was transferred to Seaside via a quitclaim deed recorded on May 7, county property management specialist Sirpa Duoos said. The land was transferred as is and no money exchanged.

One year ago, the Seaside School District's board authorized the superintendent to negotiate and execute a \$3.2 million contract for the sale with Harry Henke, a registered agent of HTA Properties LLC.

The 102,000-square-foot former high school sits on 12.63 acres on North Holladay Drive in Seaside.

That property is still in the due diligence process, Superintendent Susan Penrod said. The



R.J. Marx

Land north of the former Seaside High School was deeded to the city for recreation and parkland.

land, zoned medium residential, was not included as part of the sale of the former high school.

The 5.96-acre property will continue to be used for recreation and parkland.

As long as the park is used for youth recreation by the city, it remains city property. If it stops being used for those pur-

poses, the deed reverts back to the county.

The property will be maintained by the street department, Dale McDowell, the city's public works director, said.

Anyone can use the park space, on a first-come, first-served basis, he added.

The acquisition gives the city's stock of parkland

a boost. Before the transfer, parkland was 7.65 acres per 1,000 residents. With the addition of these new areas it increases to over 9 acres per 1,000 residents.

In addition to the fields, the city secured 2.76 acres in the Thompson Falls subdivision for green space and nature areas.

A vision for the rec center

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

The team that will help set the Sunset Recreation Center's course convened last week with the goal to establish a clear vision and key objectives for the project.

Evan Eleff, a partner at Sports Facilities Advisory, a Clearwater, Florida-based company, came to Seaside with Suzanne Fisher Reeder, a financial consultant, and architect Scott Edwards.

"This is really one of the most important meetings that will happen," Eleff said in a planning session at the recreation center. "Our goal for this planning session is to really define the parameters of the project, make sure that we're all moving in the same direction, understanding your roles."

Sports Facilities Advisory and Scott Edwards Architecture, a Portland-based architectural firm, were chosen based on firm size and structure, project understanding, firm experience, work plan, proposed staff and fee proposal.

"Our goal is to have as much interaction as possible," Eleff said. "And the best thing for us would be to have constructive differences of opinion. What we really hope is to get a 360-degree perspective of the opportunities and challenges relating to this project."

The consultants will be working from a 20-week timeline, from the project kickoff to

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New chairman named for Seaside school board

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Brian Taylor was named the board chairman at a special meeting of the Seaside School District Board of Directors last week.

Taylor, who served as the board's vice president, has represented Cannon

Beach's Zone 2 Position 2 seat since 2013. Taylor is co-owner of Bruce's Candy Kitchen in Cannon Beach.

He replaces Mark Truax, whose term on the board representing Zone 4 Position 2 in Gearhart runs until 2023.

"I just want to say real quick thanks everybody for all the assistance they gave me for the last two-and-a-half years," Truax said.

Michelle Wunderlich

was named vice chairman for the board. Wunderlich, owner of the Seaside Coffee House, represents the at-large Zone 7 Position 1 board seat. She won election to the board in 2017 and was reelected this year.

The Zone 3 Position 1 seat remains vacant after the winner of the May election, A.J. Wahl, stepped down to assume a judge position in Clatsop County Circuit Court. Those wishing to be

considered for the seat have until July 30 to apply.

Taylor assumed the chairmanship for Thursday's meeting, at which board members unanimously voted to approve the collective bargain contracts with the Seaside Education Association, a three-year agreement, and the Oregon School Employees Association, a four-year agreement.

"Our goals with our

OSEA was to simplify some of our codes and our steps," Superintendent Susan Penrod said. "It was a really successful process and we appreciate working with OSEA, so we bring this four-year contract before the board for approval."

The board also approved the school district's administrative contract and Clatsop County's resolution for a multi-jurisdictional natural hazards mitigation plan.



Brian Taylor is the new board chair for the Seaside School District Board of Directors.

