

AKS Engineering and Forestry Caretaker quarters proposed for the Gearhart Community Center.

Owners of former school pull caretaker dwelling plans

By R.J. MARX Seaside Signal

Owners of the former elementary school have pulled an application for a caretaker dwelling in the building.

Prior to this month's Commission Planning Scofi Gearhart meeting, LLC withdrew its conditional use permit application after owners disputed comments presented in a staff report prior to this month's Planning Commission meeting, including the need for a property zone change to add the proposed caretaker apartments in the building, now known as the Gearhart Recreation Center.

"After careful review of the staff report, it is clear to us that the nature and scope of our goals for the school site and need for a caretaker dwelling are misunderstood," wrote Bob and Timi Morey of Scofi Gearhart LLC to the Planning Com-"Consequently, mission. we are going to take a step back and try to better frame our narrative about what we hope to accomplish on the site in collaboration with the city and broader public. That said, we will continue our efforts to work with the city administration to crete almost 3 acres of publicly accessible park land." A prime example, he said, was a member of the Planning Commission who suggested that the developer's conversations with the city regarding a lease of land for a park was somehow a "backdoor" plan to get consent for 45 to 50 apartment units, Morey said. "The general confusion in the community about what we are thinking about and some inaccuracies in the staff report raised concern that the narrow focus of our CUP application would morph into unrelated territory," Bob Morey said.



R.J. Marc

Owner Bob Morey considers future uses for the former elementary school classrooms.

way into 45 to 50 apartment units is to spin fantasy rather than fact. We have no intent to backdoor any required consent let alone one for 45 to 50 apartment units on a site that our preliminary septic and hydrology work indicates has a maximum capacity of 18 to 22 units."

If owners elect to include

one of poorly maintained and deteriorating public buildings. We are pleased with what we have accomplished to date in preserving and protecting the former school building and while removing four no longer functional portable classrooms."

The Department of Quality Environmental evaluated 10 test pits on the school site early this month. The owners will be monitoring groundwater conditions throughout from Nov. 1 to April 30. A dryer winter could bring another year of monitoring. "Only after we have DEQ's next report based upon acceptable winter groundwater testing results will be able to start finalizing how we envision the property being used," Bob Morey said. "Facts will guide our site plans." In the best case scenario, the Moreys hope to process a zone change and start construction by summer 2023. They intend to refile for a conditional use permit for a caretaker dwelling at a later date.

PUBLIC SAFETY LOG

reports someone setting off loud fireworks and taking off running.



Aug. 6

3:42 p.m., 600 block S. Edgewood: EMS call. Another agency is assisted.

Aug. 8

3:51 p.m. 600 block S. Edgewood: EMS call.

Aug.9

3:35 a.m., 300 block Fifth Avenue: EMS call.

2:29 p.m., Tillamook Head Trail: EMS call.

6:06 p.m., 1400 block N. Wahanna: EMS call, another agency is assisted.

Aug. 10

12:03 a.m., 1400 block N. Wahanna: Fire investigation.

Aug. 12

11:11 a.m., 1400 block N. Wahanna: Structure fire.

12:14 p.m., 400 block Avenue U: EMS call.

1:51 p.m., Havstack Rock, Cannon Beach: Water rescue.

3:22 p.m., 3200 block Stillwater Court: Fire investigation.

Aug. 13

4:52 p.m., 600 block S. Edgewood: EMS call.

8:19 p.m., 2200 block S. Columbia: Firefighters respond to a backyard burn; they say the fire is fine.

6:09 p.m., Hug Point: Water rescue.

9:32 p.m., 2400 block Ocean Vista Drive: EMS call.

Aug. 17

Aug. 18

6:03 p.m., 400 block S. Roosevelt: EMS call.

Fire investigation.

E: Fire investigation.

Aug. 20

6:15 p.m., Frontage Road: Fire

1:58 p.m., Community Garden:

bicycles back to the couple's car located a short distance away.

Dangerous driving

Shawna Marie Hatchell, 29, of Gearhart, was arrested Aug. 8 at 7:34 p.m., on Bailey Lane in Gearhart after state police received a report of a blue Ford Fusion being driven in a dangerous manner on U.S. Highway 101. Clatsop deputies located the car and state police arrived on scene after it was determined Hatchell was earlier involved in a minor motor vehicle accident and appeared impaired. She was charged with driving while under the influence and had a blood alcohol count of .25% after being tested.

Stolen backpack

A 40-year-old Gearhart man told state police Aug. 15 at 8:44 p.m. he was attempting to help someone who got their vehicle stuck in the sand between the Del Rey Beach and Sunset Beach access points; as he was helping them extricate their car, one of the occupants of the stuck vehicle went inside his car and stole his backpack. He described the occupants as a male and a female in their 20s driving a gray Dodge pick up with an extended cab with Oregon plates. He's certain the female took his bag. The contents of the bag were not included in this report.

Two-car collision

way 101 near milepost 23.5 Aug. 11 at 3:35 p.m., for a report of a two-car, rear-end collision. On arrival they saw a Buick rear-ended a Corolla during stop-and-go traffic in Seaside. The female passenger of the Corolla was transported to Seaside Providence Hospital after reporting neck pain and the driver of the Buick, a Washington woman, was given a citation.

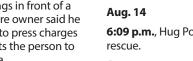
Resisting arrest

Cherilee Mcanelly, 47 of Seaside, was taken into custody after resisting arrest Aug. 11 at 3:44 p.m. in Warrenton. State police assisted another agency. A trooper stood by as she was interviewed and a video of the incident was forwarded to the district attorney's office.

Criminal chase

Seaside police assisted Oregon State Police and Warrenton police Aug. 17 at 6:32 p.m. pursuing a criminal in a chase that started in Warrenton and ended in a crash in Seaside on Wahanna Road, Dustin Forsman drove his car into the shallow river after Seaside Police spiked his tires. He was arrested on scene after being captured.

State police went to U.S. High-



3:02 a.m., 600 block S. Edgewood: EMS call; another agency is assisted.

7:20 p.m., Avenue G Bridge:

Aug. 19

6:49 p.m., East end of Avenue

investigation.

Aug. 21

Aug. 23

person is arrested on a warrant. 6:11 p.m., Police headquarters: A person came in to register as a sex offender.

at his daughter to stop crying and pushing her against a wall. Police are unable to locate. 11:33 p.m., Avenue I and the Prom: Police take a complaint of an SUV and a trailer possibly camping in the area. The subjects are located and advised to leave the area. Aug. 22

complaints.

Aug. 21

Continued from Page A2

7:13 a.m., 700 block Avenue

S: A caller reports someone

illegally entered their vehicle.

2:15 p.m., Police headquarters:

A person came into the station

to update their registry as a sex

10:08 p.m., 1200 block Avenue

A: Police responding for a noise

just trying to get their dog back

disturbance learn someone is

7:14 a.m., 2400 block S. Roos-

evelt: Fire investigation. Subject

warned not to have a fire in the

12:46 p.m., OceanWay

restrooms: A transient male

blocking access to the men's restroom is told to move along.

1:23 p.m., U.S.Highway26,

9:02 p.m., Tenth and Neca-

nicum: Crabbers suspected

of being transients camping

are advised there have been

6:40 p.m., 300 block Broadway:

Caller reports a man yelling

milepost 1: A person is arrested and charged with DUI.

Aug. 19

offender.

Aug. 20

woods.

inside the house.

1:37 p.m., Broadway: Police responded to reports of a man breaking things in front of a store. The store owner said he did not wish to press charges and just wants the person to leave the area.

3:09 p.m., Quatat Park: Subject reported smoking marijuana is contacted; he's smoking tobacco out of a pipe. Subject says he is leaving the park shortly.

8:56 p.m., 300 block Sixteenth Street: Caller reports people arguing at a house; police investigating find a party in progress. The occupants of the house are advised of the complaint and said they will quiet down.

10:09 a.m., Alderhill Road: A

No further action was taken.

1:20 a.m. 1300 block 12th Avenue: Caller reports activity outside her bedroom window. Police say an elk herd was in the area and that was what caused the sound

Aug. 15

"To suggest at the caretaker dwelling phase we are trying to 'backdoor' our

housing in their final plan, they envision it being single-story one- and two-bedroom long-term rental cottages that will be designed to be in keeping with the character of Gearhart.

The original school building was constructed in 1948 and added on to in 1968. The Moreys purchased the 8.5-acre property in 2020. The school is zoned public/semi-public, with outright uses as government facility, public meeting space or school.

"We bought the elementary school understanding the rezoning risk," Bob Morey said. "Nonetheless we proceeded with the purchase because we did not want to see the entrance to our city continue to be 9:46 p.m., 1200 block S. Holladay: A disturbance is reported.

Aug. 24

12:57 a.m. Avenue D and Lincoln: Suspicious circumstances are reported.

5:54 a.m., Police headquarters: A person came in to register as a sex offender.

4:59 p.m. Avenue T RV Park: Caller reports someone dropping off a motorhome in the middle of the roadway. Subject is advised the home must be moved by a certain time; when that time was up and the motorhome was still there, police arranged to have it towed.

7:22 p.m., Seaside: Caller reports losing their iPhone and credit cards while riding a bike around Seaside.

9:21 p.m., Avenue U: Caller

EMS call.

Aug. 22

4:24 a.m., 300 block S. Prom: EMS cal

5:48 a.m., N. Wahanna: EMS call.



Cyclist injured

A 65-year-old female cyclist who crashed her ride Aug. 3 at 5:18 p.m., on U.S. Highway 101 and Hillila Road briefly lost consciousness; she was transported via Medix to Columbia Memorial Hospital. Police say she was riding with her husband when she swerved to avoid broken glass. ODOT workers transported her husband and both

Stolen Durango

Timothy Joseph Butcher, 61, from Ventura, CA was arrested Aug. 17 at 8:24 p.m. on U.S. Highway 101 in Warrenton after Seaside Dispatch notified Oregon State Police of a Dodge Durango reported stolen from Brookings now entering Seaside. Due to a traffic delay, Seaside police asked assistance locating the car which an Oregon trooper and a Clatsop County deputy located traveling northbound on U.S. Highway 101. A traffic stop was initiated. Butcher eventually yielded and surrendered and was arrested by deputies. The vehicle was secured by Warrenton police. The Brookings Police Department is the lead investigating agency.

Firehouse: Vote set for the November ballot

Continued from Page A1

"We prefer the ballot language be precise as to the station location and as to the need for extensive further investigation with final costing demonstrated by signed formal contracts subject to bond approval," Zimmerman wrote in response to questions from the newspaper.

The City Council turned to Highlands Lane after potential obstacles for the project at the High Point location.

The city is working with planners to bring the 30-acre Cottages at Gearhart subdivision off Highlands Lane into the city's urban growth boundary in a land swap for acreage in the city's "no-build" zone near the ocean.

The developers, Cottages at Gearhart LLC, must also receive city approval for a subdivision containing four units per acre, twice as many as permitted by the county.

THE BONDS WOULD COST PROPERTY **OWNERS** \$1.052 PER \$1,000 **OF ASSESSED** HOME VALUE.

If the 20-year bond measure is approved by voters, the firehouse could see a four- to six-month design process in 2022 with construction starting in 2023. The city estimates the bonds would cost property owners \$1.052 per \$1,000 of assessed value per year.

At this point in the process, a city likely wouldn't have final architectural drawings, geotechnical data or other details for such a project, City Attorney Peter Watts said.

"All of that work would only occur after voters have authorized the bonds necessary to build the building," he said. "I have never seen the kind of information they are requesting included in a ballot title."

Normally in a ballot title challenge, Watts said, the challengers provide an alternate ballot title to the court that they want the court to adopt. The judge can confirm the city's ballot title, order the alternate to be used or a combination of the two.

Because of the word limit of the ballot summary, it is impossible for the city to address every possible issue, Watts said.

The idea is to inform voters of what the bonds are going to be used for and how much is authorized.

"Those are the items that would inform a voter so they could decide whether to vote 'yes' or 'no," Watts said. "My goal as the city attorney is simply to inform the voters so they can make an informed decision on the question."

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