

Water: Family seeks options after well went dry

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“It’s problematic because the creek has limited water supply during the driest part of the year,” Pogue said.

After being advised to drill a new well, they found a location.

“The result of drilling down 204 feet was 1 gallon per minute of salt water and basically a dry hole at the cost of \$12,000,” the Pogues wrote in a letter to the city.

The Pogues, commercial landlords, own five buildings in Seaside. Filling water tanks from those hookups proved unwieldy and slow, taking hours to fill the two 275-gallon tanks they used to transport water to their home.

When informed by city staff that they could draw water from the Public Works Department, they now fill up two tanks a trip, which they pay a monthly fee for. To carry 4,000 to 5,000 gallons of water from the Public Works Department to their home off the highway requires eight to 10 round trips.

Without a water source, they have been hauling water from town for their household use for the past several months.

After conversations with city officials, they were told upgrades to their system would be at least 10 years in the future.

But the city has concerns that the raw water destined for processing is not potable, and the water main may not always have enough water in



The Pogues fill up at their home off of U.S. Highway 26.

Brian Pogue

it to allow water to be taken.

The hydraulics make the gravity flow of this supply problematic and possibly not feasible for year-round use, Public Works Director Dale McDowell said, while a lack of reliable year-round flow creates another potential liability issue for the city. The length of piping — 1,700

feet of service line — could lead to cracks, broken piping or other causes for leaking and water loss.

“It sounds to me like at this point maybe the best thing that the council could do would be not to take action,” City Manager Mark Winstanley said. “I know Mike (Dimmick, the water

foreman) is very interested in trying to help the Pogues. It sounds like the council’s interested in doing it. It’s just a matter of practicality.

“We do have to protect our ability to deliver water to our 3,800 other customers. That certainly has to be the primary concern. But we certainly would be interested in

exploring any avenue that’s available, and it sounds to me like there needs to be some more exploring before making a decision.”

The Pogues say they are actually part of those 3,800 other customers because of their commercial buildings with water accounts and their home is in the Seaside

‘IF WE’RE NOT PART OF THE COMMUNITY, WHY ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE 1,700 FEET AWAY CONSIDERED PART OF THE COMMUNITY AND BEING SERVED?’

Homeowner Brian Pogue

fire district.

“The issue is whether I treat it myself, or if I have to take a truck to fill it up,” Pogue said. “It’s a pain in the butt. If we’re not part of the community, why are people who are 1,700 feet away considered part of the community and being served? We love the community of Seaside. It’s been our home since 1976. The city of Seaside has always been really good to us, and we have the greatest respect for them.”

Mayor Jay Barber said the City Council has struggled with the request. “We’d love to be able to do it but the state is telling us something different. ... I’m going to ask the council to table your requests, and continue to work on potential options and alternatives,” he said.

Most school staff in county vaccinated by deadline

By **ETHAN MYERS**
The Astorian

Most school staff in Clatsop County got vaccinated against the coronavirus by the state deadline.

Gov. Kate Brown ordered teachers and other

school staff to be vaccinated by Oct. 18 in an attempt to keep schools open during the pandemic.

At a news conference last week, school district superintendents said the losses of staff due to the state mandate were minimal.

Astoria Superintendent

Craig Hoppes said 94% of his staff got vaccinated. The school district lost three employees. The remaining unvaccinated employees received medical or religious exemptions.

“It had no impact on the day-to-day working of kids coming to school and

being educated,” Hoppes said. “We were able to plan appropriately for that.”

Superintendent Tom Rogozinski, of Warrenton, and Superintendent Susan Penrod, of Seaside, said 93% of their staffs got vaccinated, while losing one employee each. The

remaining unvaccinated employees received medical or religious exemptions, they said.

Knappa Superintendent Bill Fritz said 95% of his staff got vaccinated. One employee was placed on leave, he said, but the school district did not ter-

minate anybody.

Jewell Superintendent Steve Phillips said staff in his district reached a vaccination rate just shy of 90%, but they lost just one employee.

“It’s no fun, but it didn’t really affect kids,” Phillips said.

Schools: Seasonal events return to elementary school

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“There are things happening that students haven’t had access to for quite some time, which is really starting to make things feel a little bit more normal,” Roberts said.

The elementary school is also reintroducing seasonal events, such as a Pumpkin Run on Nov. 2 and a Turkey Trot on Nov. 23, while the Cannon Beach Academy is starting after-school activities — such as the Oregon Battle of the Books team and Dungeons & Dragons club — and holding a Trunk or Treat at the school on Friday.

Across Clatsop County, COVID-19 cases are on the decline.

At the meeting, Superintendent Susan Penrod also presented the official enrollment report for the 2021-22 school year. The total enrollment across the four schools in the district is 1,527, with 615 students at Pacific Ridge Elementary School, including the pre-k program; 48 at Cannon Beach Academy; 386 at Seaside Middle School; and 478 at Seaside High School. Ryan Hull, interim director at the academy, said they added another student that day to bring enrollment to 49.

Sixth-graders form the largest class at 143 students, followed by the ninth-grade class

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Jeff Roberts, Seaside High School and Middle School Principal

at 140. Roberts said they are the largest classes he’s seen during his tenure with the district.

The report also breaks down average class sizes across the district. At the elementary school, average class sizes range from 15.4 for kindergarten to 20.1 for third grade. At the secondary level, the average class size is 22.5 at the middle school and 19.3 at the high school.

According to Penrod, “putting the average class size has been recommended by the Oregon Department

of Education,” to demonstrate the district is keeping class sizes low and following safety protocols during COVID.

Chris Corder was sworn in as the newest school board member.

The board approved two gifts to Pacific Ridge Elementary School: Approximately \$2,700 from Rack Room Shoes to purchase shoes for in-need students and \$2,000 from Mo’s Seaside for physical education equipment and supplies.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

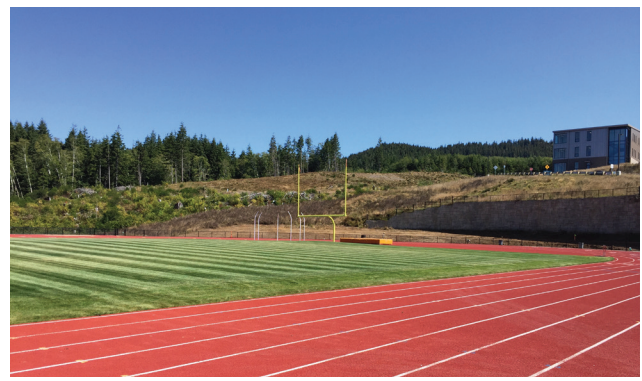
Work at high school coming to close

By **R.J. MARX**
Seaside Signal

The to-do list at Seaside High School and Middle School continues to get smaller.

Five years since a \$99.7 million bond was approved by voters for a new campus in the city’s southeast hills, track drainage performed well in rain and temporary gym vestibules are in place and working well, project manager Brian Hardebeck said at last week’s school district board meeting. The final vestibule design has been finalized and is now in the permitting phase.

“We’ll also be looking for some revegetation replanting down in the



R.J. Marx

The track area has seen drainage issues.

ponds about midway up to the high school, middle school.”

Landscape crews replaced “elk candy,” replacing some of the plant varieties “to be a little less desirable to our animal neighbors.”

The project budget is

\$131 million and is almost “dead on track” with the anticipated performance, Hardebeck said. Bonds from the vote, with favorable bond rates, interest, grants and revenues, supplemented the original \$99.7 million bond approved by voters.

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