



Seaside sets goals for hiring new city manager

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

City Manager Mark Winstanley will retire next June. The search for a successor will start with candidates from in-house.

“It has been the policy of the city of Seaside to first open a candidate search to any internal candidates who may want to be considered for any open position,” Mayor Jay Barber said.



At last Monday’s City Council meeting, he and City Councilor Dana Phillips provided an outline of steps in the search process.

“Councilor Phillips and I have been charged with the council goal to begin the process for identifying and hiring

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City responds to Necanicum complaints, mulls options

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

City Attorney Dan Van Thiel responded to complaints of cars and RVs parking overnight at a city-owned lot on Necanicum Avenue between 10th and 11th avenues.

“The city will continue to address these issues in any way that it can do so and within the law and its means,” Van Thiel wrote in a letter to nearby property owners last week.

The issue of RVs abandoned or left overnight — sometimes for weeks or months at a time — came before the City Council in April. Necanicum between First and 12th, residents said, had become a long-term parking area and a safety and health hazard for residents.

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Duncan’s Crossing bridges the gap

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

With money from donors and park funds, a long-awaited Ridge Path improvement in Gearhart celebrated completion in November with a bridge on the path over the wetlands between Eighth and 10th Street.

After approval of a proclamation from the City Council in November, the area is known as Duncan’s Crossing. It is named for John Duncan, a former city councilor who envisioned the walkway along the Ridge Path, the city’s famed north-south walkway just west of the Neacoxie.

The former Native American trail runs between privately owned residential

properties within the blocks between Cottage Avenue and Neacoxie Creek, extending from F Street on the south to 10th Street on the north. The first 11 blocks were established by the original plat of Gearhart Park, as laid out and recorded by M.J. Kinney in 1890.

When he ran for City Council in 2014, Duncan listed as one of his top goals to complete and extend the portion of the Ridge Path from Eighth Street to Gearhart Loop Road. Duncan was a land surveyor and engineer who envisioned an extension to the Ridge Path from Eighth through to Gearhart Loop Road, with a walkway crossing over the wetland area that left the trail impassable many months of the year due to heavy rainfall.



R.J. Marx

Nicola Duncan and Sandy Duncan celebrate the opening of Duncan’s Crossing on the Ridge Path, in memory of John Duncan.

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Photos by Katherine Lacaze

Pacific Ridge Elementary School PE teacher Sara Fisher, dressed as a Thanksgiving turkey, gets students organized for the Turkey Trot at the school.

JOG, WALK OR RUN – IT’S ALL FUN AT PACIFIC RIDGE ELEMENTARY



ABOVE: Students run around the track at the Seaside School District campus on the hill during the annual Turkey Trot, which was moved to during the school day this year to enable all kids to participate. BELOW LEFT: PE teacher Sara Fisher dressed for the holiday. BELOW RIGHT: Students Carlos Acuna and Shantelle Mendez run during the Turkey Trot at Pacific Ridge Elementary School.



Turkey Trot emphasizes fitness, academic skills

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

The Tuesday before Thanksgiving, Pacific Ridge Elementary School students gathered at the running track for a schoolwide Turkey Trot that motivated kids to jog or walk as many laps as they could, while having fun with their friends.

Kindergarten through second grade students ran during the first time slot, with third through fifth graders following afterward to let the children space out on the track.

The Turkey Trot has traditionally been held at the former Gearhart Elementary School after school. This year, they changed it so all students could participate, physical education teacher Sara Fisher said.

“It’s a good idea for the students and staff to get out and walk together and enjoy exercising together in a safe way outside,” she said.

Instead of making the race 1 mile, they gave the students 15 minutes to do as many laps around the track as they want.

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Park district finds its role in homeless services

Showers, meals to be delivered

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

In December, a 15-bed low-barrier shelter opens on S. Roosevelt Drive, a combined project between Helping Hands Reentry Outreach Centers, the city, Clatsop Community Action and the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District.

Skyler Archibald, the executive director of the park district, said the goal is to provide a solution for the homeless population, especially during the cold and wet months.

“The district’s position is that this is a good thing for lots of different reasons,” he said at a board meeting last week. “And

I’m really happy that they found a great location for it.”

Last winter, a warming center proposed at the former Broadway Middle School — now the Sunset Recreation Center — was rejected by the board.

“It was challenging because I think we all wanted to support this opportunity or support this movement,” he said. “Given the status of the SRC and of the locker room space, we weren’t really comfortable with that as a good fit right now.”

With the approach of another winter, a shelter remained a priority. Archibald said there are over 500 homeless people in the community, and possibly a “significant amount more.”

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