



Salute after the laying of the wreath by World War II veteran John Sefren.

Photos by R.J. Marx

Gearhart advances ZIP code

Process will involve customer feedback

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

When it comes to mail, Gearhart doesn't get any respect.

Sharing the 97138 ZIP code with Seaside, mail is misrouted, packages are undelivered or delayed. The lack of an individual ZIP code could even make a difference when buying a home or receiving prescriptions.

Last week, the city took the first step toward a federal government request for a new ZIP code with a proclamation endorsing the process.

Some of the more economical insurance companies use a ZIP code as part of their underwriting process, City Councilor Brent Warren wrote in a report to the City Council. Some homeowners have

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PEARL HARBOR DAY

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Seaside remembered Pearl Harbor at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center on Tuesday.

The Day of Remembrance recalled the event on Dec. 7, 1941, that killed more than 2,400 U.S. personnel and plunged the United States into a state of war with Japan.

"Today we're here because we have not forgotten," guest speaker Mayor Jay Barber said. "We live in a world made more free. A world made more just and more peaceful by those who will answer the roll call no more, those who will report for muster never again. We do remember Pearl Harbor."

Gloria Linkey, author and former president of the Seaside Museum and Historical Society, recalled hearing the news while in church. "The reverend told us what happened," she said. "We ran home and everybody was crowded around the old Philco radio. All we knew was that there was an attack. The casualties did not come in for quite some time, probably around seven or eight o'clock at night. Our only source of news was the radio."

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John Sefren and Mayor Jay Barber with the Day of Remembrance wreath.

Seaside eyes moratorium on vacation rentals

City concerned rentals drive up housing costs

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

A moratorium on vacation rental permits could be ahead in Seaside, with the aim to study their impact on affordable housing and city infrastructure.

"One of the discussion items that we've been having is, do we have too many vacation rentals?" Mayor Jay Barber said. "Do we need to consider putting a cap on them or do we need to consider a moratorium on them?"

The City Council and Planning Commission met last Monday to discuss city zoning policies regarding vacation rentals and updating the city's comprehensive plan.

Seaside has 316 vacation rental business licenses and 28 vacation rental applications pending approval, code enforcement officer Jeff Flory said.

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School district suspends classes after violence threat

Seaside Signal

School administrators suspended all classes in the Seaside School District on Tuesday after a possible threat was sent to a Seaside High School student over social media. Police later determined it was not a credible, localized threat.

A student received screenshots of a conversation and a possible threat to Seaside High School at about 8:40 p.m. on Monday in a message via Instagram, Seaside police said.

Police confirmed an account was created one hour prior to the messages being sent and immediately deleted following the incident.

With the assistance of the FBI, Justin Gagnon, the school resource officer, determined the source of the messages had no local affiliation to Seaside.

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James Hutchinson

Josh Como is the new fire chief in Gearhart.

Como named fire chief in Gearhart

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Josh Como is Gearhart's new fire chief. Last Wednesday, the City Council unanimously voted to name Como chief, replacing Bill Eddy, who retired earlier this year. Como, a second-generation Gearhart firefighter, has served as interim chief.

"I honestly feel that everything I've done my whole life has led me to this point," Como said. "I was raised here. This is my hometown. I've been in the fire service for 25 years,

whether that's here or in larger departments. When I was away, this was the one place I missed the most. I kind of believe I have Gearhart Fire running through my veins."

The City Council and a panel from the community conducted an interview for the position at a special council meeting last month.

The city received 15 applications before narrowing the pool to the five top candidates. Of the five, four dropped out; one withdrew, one relocated and the remaining two took other positions. The position pays between

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City Council looks to future goals in Gearhart

Roads, water and housing at top of list

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Gearhart City Council looked to the future last Tuesday night. In a special workshop, the council considered the bond measure for a new firehouse, transportation upgrades along U.S. Highway 101, zoning changes, systems development charges, water meter replacement, sidewalks and other issues.

It is a working list, City Administrator Chad Sweet, developed on a spreadsheet to prioritize issues and track progress.

For a proposed firehouse bond, the city will begin making presentations to the city council and public in months to come, with the goal of a May vote. Officials are preparing to bring land into the urban growth boundary for a new police and fire station off of Highlands Lane. "This project is going to take more and more bandwidth within the next six months in order for us to accommodate," Sweet said.

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