



Former high school sold for \$3.2 million

Local business owners purchase property

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

The Seaside School District has sold the former high school to TM Development LLC for \$3.2 million.

Registered agents of TM Development include business owners Tom Utti, Mark Utti and attorney Jeremy Rust.

“They do not have any immediate plans that I’m aware of for the property,” said Mark Popkin, a real estate agent representing the buyers.

At the school district’s December meeting, Brian Taylor, the school board chairman, said the sale comes after almost three years on the market. The high school and other district schools closed and were put up for sale as the school district built a new, bond-financed campus outside the tsunami inundation zone.

“We’re very excited,” Taylor said in granting Superintendent Susan Penrod the authority to negotiate and execute the sale.

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District to ‘close door’ on school construction project

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

The Seaside School District hopes to finally close the door on its campus construction project at Seaside High School and Middle School.

The high school gym vestibule doors are the last project to be completed after the original installation leaked into the building.

“For the December milestones, the program has completed the permitting documents for the gym vestibule work and that work has started construction as of yesterday, which is a great thing to see,” Brian Hardebeck, project manager from DAY CPM, said. “And we can report we are still maintaining dryness at all of the openings. So that’s a great thing for this early in the wintertime.”

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Fireworks ban is shot down

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

The city has put to rest a call to ban fireworks.

At a City Council meeting earlier this month, city councilors voted 4-2 against a motion that would have banned the sale of legal fireworks.

“If we ban fireworks, they’re just going to go someplace else and bring them back in,” City Councilor Dana Phillips said. “And you know what? This is America. The thought of a little child not being able to have a sparkler forever? The illegal fireworks are what we want to get rid of.”

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SNOWSIDE



Photos by Lou Solitske

TOP: Seaside City Hall in the snow. ABOVE: A snow-covered Broadway. ABOVE RIGHT: Gulls pay a visit to the Turnaround. RIGHT: View from the Turnaround.

YEAR IN REVIEW



Katherine Lacaze

Students returned to school in September with COVID precautions in place.

In Seaside, COVID remains top story of 2021

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Seaside, like cities across the state and nation, reeled from the impacts of COVID-19 on personal and business life.

The pandemic impacted city services, from law enforcement to the visitors bureau.

Seaside responded to public health concerns and government mandates as hospital numbers increased during a summer wave, filling emergency rooms and stressing staff at local hospitals.

Spring reopening

As COVID-19 restrictions were lifted at the end of

June, Seaside saw a surge in new business, including hotels and vacation rentals, with the reopening of indoor dining.

City Hall reopened with in-person meetings and masks required, with live streams on YouTube.

Seaside had put into place an emergency order in March 2020, early in the pandemic, restricting access to all public buildings, city parks and the beach.

City Council lifted the state of emergency in late June.

With a heat wave in the valley, thousands of tourists jammed local beaches and streets.

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James Hutchinson

After the retirement of Bill Eddy, Josh Como was named the fire chief in Gearhart.

Firehouse quest leads top stories in Gearhart

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

A new Gearhart firehouse, potential new ZIP code and downtown business moves were among the big stories in Gearhart in 2021.

Gearhart 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 land would be used for a firehouse and police station. The current proposed location off of Highlands Lane had been scheduled for November, but a ballot challenge bumped

that until next spring.

At the start of the year, Gearhart was hoping to transform a site on North Cottage into the future location for the firehouse, currently housed on Pacific Way.

Threats of litigation at the proposed High Point location on North Marion Avenue and a reluctant seller were among the reasons Gearhart is looking at new sites for the city’s firehouse.

Gearhart voters turned down a request for a fire station in 2006 when the city wanted to construct a municipal building that combined the firehouse with City Hall. A new proposal at the High Point site on North Marion is undergoing review.

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