



CITY MANAGER

Seaside enlists consultant for search

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

The city wants to fill its lead staff role by June 30, when City Manager Mark Winstanley steps down.

The city manager, who started with Seaside as finance director in September 1985, was named city manager in November 2001.

After announcing the opening internally, Seaside received one internal candidate for the position in December.

To expand that search, the City Council has voted to expand the recruitment and search to the hiring of consultants Jensen Strategies.

"I'm recommending that we retain Jensen and his team," Mayor Jay Barber said at last Monday's meeting. "They are very competent. They've done searches in Warrenton. They've done searches in Cannon Beach. They are just winding up one in one of the suburbs east of Portland, one of the suburbs. Based on the references that I've checked, they are very competent and will do an excellent search."

According to the city's website, the responsibilities of the city manager

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GEARHART

City landscaping restrictions dropped from parks master plan

Gearhart planners reject city park landscaping policy

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

A policy regulating city landscaping sent the Gearhart Parks Master Plan back for changes last Thursday night.

"I don't want to throw cold water on anything but I'm not going to be able to support this as written as it contains policy No. 19," Planning Commissioner Terry Graff said. "In my opinion, the issues addressed in policy 19 are already addressed in the existing tree and vegetation standards and the new language in 19 appears to me to be in direct contrast with that existing policy."

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Officials look for lessons from tsunami advisory

Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

A tsunami advisory was issued for Oregon, Washington state and California on Saturday morning after a volcanic eruption in Tonga.

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Local leaders who oversee emergency response on the North Coast looked for lessons from a tsunami advisory over the weekend.

The advisory was issued early Saturday after an underwater volcanic eruption near Tonga.

The National Weather Service first issued a statement about 4 a.m. announcing the eruption was being evaluated for a tsunami.

Initial tsunami advisories are not uncommon when a distant earthquake has occurred, Clatsop County Emergency Manager Tiffany Brown said. Wave arrival takes some time, so local governments sit tight after the alert to see what comes out next.

"Generally speaking, we are supposed to hear something 30 minutes later, when they brief the state, then every hour thereafter," Brown said. "What's happening during that time is that the earthquake warning center in Alaska is analyzing buoy and other data to anticipate whether a tsunami is expected."

More often than not, the advisory is canceled within two to four hours of being issued, Brown said.

But with confirmation from the warning system at 5:20 a.m., Oregon, along with Hawaii, California, Washington state and Alaska, asked that people move out of the water, off the beach and away from harbors.

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In hours to come, local, county and state resources were involved in the response.

"For my part, we began early with the public messaging on our department Facebook page to make sure everyone was getting the same message," Brown said.

Both Cannon Beach and Seaside activated emergency operations centers and state, city and county agencies coordinated beach closures from the Seaside operations center, Brown said.

Seaside

Seaside Public Works Director Dale McDowell said he received an initial call from Seaside dispatch at 6:29 a.m.

"When the call was completed, I telephoned our wastewater foreman, water foreman and street department," McDowell said. "The calls were completed by 6:36 a.m."

McDowell telephoned employees that the coastline might be impacted by high water and asked them to reach

out to their surfer friends to let them know, as a good-sized group meets at the Cove every morning.

Seaside police first sent notice of a tsunami advisory in effect for Seaside beach at 7:39 a.m., with public safety monitoring the event.

Mayor Jay Barber said he was notified by the city manager shortly after 8 a.m.

The emergency management team was already assembled, including all of the emergency management agencies in the county.

"It was determined from the information coming in from the reporting agencies that Seaside was likely to see about a 3-foot wave at about 8:55 a.m.," Barber said. "I agreed that, with that information, it would be best not to sound the tsunami warning sirens, rather to warn residents to get off the beach and as a precaution, close Sunset Boulevard in the Cove. Fire

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Polar plunge coming to Coffenburg Lake

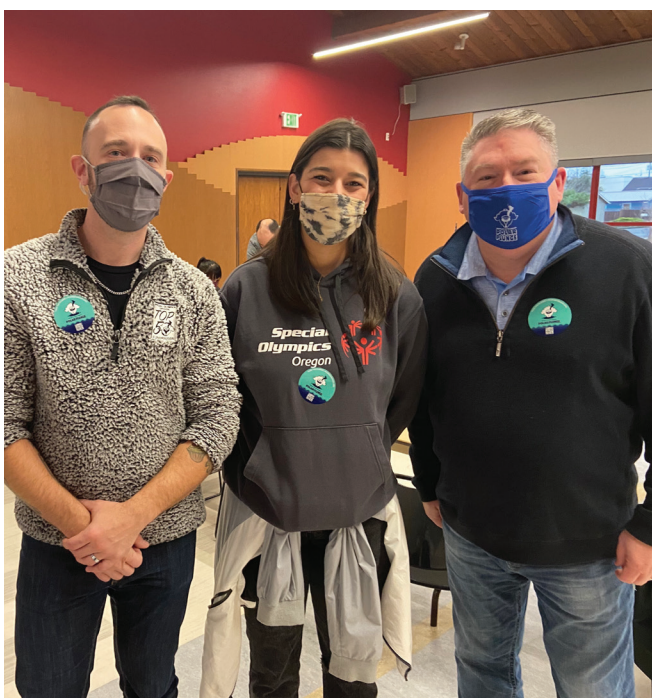
Event for Special Olympics Oregon

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Ready to brave the 40-degree temperature of Coffenburg Lake?

Special Olympics Oregon hosts the Polar Plunge on Jan. 29, a tradition of plunging into frigid waters with the goal to raise awareness for Special Olympics Oregon.

Scott Friesen, director of fundraising and signature events, and Madison Kuther, director of partnerships, joined the Seaside Chamber



R.J. Marx

Scott Friesen, director of fundraising and signature events with Special Olympics Oregon; Madison Kuther, director of partnerships; and Brian Owen, CEO of the Seaside Chamber of Commerce.

Cemetery plots see purchase price hike

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Even with a \$250 price hike, the city's Evergreen Cemetery remains a bargain, Public Works Director Dale McDowell told the City Council last week.

Councilors approved the hike from \$500 to \$750 per plot. Nearby cemeteries average almost \$1,750 per plot, while the state average exceeds \$4,000.

"That is a real bargain at that price," Mayor Jay Barber said.

The cemetery is overseen by the city's Public Works Department. The earliest marked grave was placed in 1909.

The city obtained the property in 1981. The cemetery has two sections, the old section and first sec-



R.J. Marx

Entrance to Evergreen Cemetery on Beerman Creek Road.

tion. Total acreage is 21.31 acres, with a population of 1,331.

In 2016, the City Council raised the plot fee from \$250 to \$500. "Over the last five years, significant maintenance improvements

have been made to our cemetery, and we are looking to expand the cemetery grounds, to accommodate our residents," McDowell said. "I have

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