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February 18, 2022 \$1.00

Site set for emergency operations center

Building located above high school and middle school campus

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

The city will debut an alternate emergency operations center in the southeast hills above the new high school and middle school campus.

The building, a trailer above the new high school and middle school, is adjacent to the city's new 2-million-gallon water tank.

The center will provide a single location where city staff and stakeholders — the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office, the Oregon Department of Transportation — can help support an incident.

The city's primary emergency operations center in the police station has the advantage of having police and dispatch in one location near the downtown core, City Hall and public works.

"But we know that it's not going to withstand the earthquake and the tsunami," Anne McBride, the city's emergency preparedness coordinator said. "If there was an incident in the downtown core, you'd have to have someplace else to go and deal with the emergency."

A modular building used to house staff during the remodel of the Seaside Civic and Convention Center became available after renovations were complete.

Public Works Director Dale McDowell proposed building a foundation and

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Taking Seaside housing to the bank

Task force mulls affordable home options

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Are lenders still "bullish" on Seaside real estate?

Yes, said Tara Jarrett, branch manager of Seaside's U.S. Bank. "I've done a lot of refinancing and lending to the local community which has been a lot of fun," she said. "I'm always just super excited to save people money and get them out of debt, so that's what drives me."

Jarrett's visit to the Seaside Housing Task Force, a committee chaired by City Councilor Steve Wright, came as the city wrestled with an array of concerns, from vacation rental dwelling regulations to shelter for the homeless.

Residential housing is "very strong," in Seaside, she said.

Lenders "love apartment complexes," she said. "Anything over a fourplex is commercial. And so that is something that they are heavily looking into and want to lend on."

Lending for hotels is tighter, Jarrett said, largely because of the pandemic. "It depends on the deal and where we are and how it fits," Jarrett said.

Lending for restaurants, especially equipment financing, is also strong.

Committee member Erin Barker, a property manager, suggested creating a link between city resources and banks to

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Softball solution?

School district needs to create more equity

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

The Seaside High School softball fields could be relocated to a new location.

After evaluating four potential sites for the Seaside School District's new softball complex, the project team has recommended the fields off Wahanna Road with significant upgrades.

The school district has until June 2023 to build the facility and provide more equity between girls and boys athletics.

Going forward, design efforts will primarily focus on the Wahanna site, keeping the other sites open for discussions as alternative sites if design issues arise at Wahanna, according to project manager Brian Hardebeck of DAY CPM.

Hardebeck was joined by Josh Modin, with ZCS Engineering and Architecture, to present the field recommendation to the school board at



Wahanna Fields in Seaside.

R.J. Marx

their January meeting.

Over the past several weeks, the project team, along with school district staff, reviewed four potential sites for the new field: on the hill by the new campus; on the city's property north of the old high school, referred to as the North 40; at Broad-

way Field; and the Wahanna location, which is owned in part by the school district and by the Union Health District. Providence Seaside Hospital leases the land from the health district.

Taking into consideration development costs, property ownership and other factors,

the project team believes upgrading the field at Wahanna is the best solution — particularly with the June 15, 2023 deadline looming per the school district's resolution with the U.S. Department of Education's Office

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Chamber honors top businesses

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

More than 100 audience members showed their support for local businesses at "Once Upon a Time ... Seaside Annual Awards and Auction, with food, drinks, awards, silent auction and raffles, as the chamber's big night returned live last Thursday after a year's hiatus to the Best Western Plus Oceanfront Resort in Seaside.

"I'm just excited about the turnout," Owen said at the evening's start. "This has been a wonderful experience."

While the room was filled to less than capacity because of social distancing, the show sold out in three days, he said. "People really want to come and celebrate Seaside. I'm really excited to see the

energy that our community continues to have."

Notables in the room included Mayor Jay Barber, city councilors Steve Wright and Tita Montero, Seaside Civic and Convention Center general manager Russ Vandenberg, Seaside Fire Chief Joey Daniels and City Manager Mark Winstanley. The chamber represents local businesses and presents the Seaside Beach Volleyball Tournament, the Hood to Coast Relay, Fourth of July fireworks, the Parade of Lights and Pouring at the Coast, among an array of events.

Rachelle Minoza and sales manager Jennifer Blecha accepted retailer of the year for their Broadway business, C&R Mercantile.

"I do want to thank the Seaside community," Minoza said.

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Robin Knoll tears up as he receives the Byron Award for community service.

R.J. Marx

Pacific Way owners to lease restaurant, bakery spaces



By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

A lucky few stopped by Valentine's Day for the chocolate-dipped shortbread cookies. Others set clocks for early mornings on the weekend to get there in time for the chicken pot pie and veggie tart. For those who waited in lines for favorites like apple turnovers, raisin snails or chocolate croissants, it was always worth it.

This week, Pacific Way Bakery and Cafe owners Lisa and John Allen announced they will be leasing the iconic bakery to Jennifer and Alan Arora of Lake Oswego.

"We are beyond ecstatic that we have found a wonderful couple to take on the Pacific Way Bakery and Cafe," Lisa Allen posted on Instagram.

"Join us in giving them a warm welcome."

The Allens opened at the corner of Cottage and Pacific Way in Gearhart in the late 1980s, and the restaurant gained favor with locals, visitors and foodies from all over, gaining glowing reviews from leading food and wine publications.

The bakery, with its signature items designed and prepared by Lisa Allen, became a social headquarters for locals, with visitors and regulars alike engaged in conversation and issues of the day.

At the start of the pandemic, the restaurant closed, but the Allens reopened the bakery, and with only themselves as staff, found success as a bakery and micro-market.

They have been in negotiations with the Aroras for about six months, John Allen

said. "He first approached me last summer, so we've been working on it slowly and quietly here. It all finally came together a couple of weeks ago. As far as I know, he's planning on reopening the bakery immediately, or fairly immediately, and then also getting the restaurant back up and running too."

The Allens will operate the bakery this weekend, then plan on assisting the family with the reopening.

"Then I plan to relax after 35 years of being on call, 24/7, 365 days a year," John Allen said.

Lisa Allen will hang up her apron for good on Monday afternoon, her husband said. "I don't know what she's going to be up to, but for now we're going to try to figure out what it's like not to work 70, 80 hours a week."



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