



Developer jumps into the bagel experience

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Masudur Khan purchased the Gilbert Block Building late last year. This week he announced another downtown investment with the purchase of Bagels by the Sea, the iconic bagel shop at 210 S. Holladay Dr. in Seaside.



Masudur Khan

The seller was Seastar & Associates LLC. Kathryn and Tracey Johnson are members, said broker Cheryl Johnson with Realty One Group Prestige.

The sales price was \$1.2 million. The sale closing date was Jan. 19.

"I just got it because I liked it," Khan said. "The food is good. We're not changing anything, just hoping to give you a little bit better experience."

For the former owners, the goal was always more than simply selling a prime piece of real estate and a much-loved business, Cheryl Johnson said.

"The ideal buyer was someone invested in the community who would continue the Seaside institution of their family friendly bagel shop benefitting locals and visitors alike," she said. "With strong local ties and his passion for Seaside, Masudur Khan was the perfect candidate. The former owners can now rest easy having left the business in his capable hands. It is truly a win for everyone, especially the community."

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School district eyes mask changes

By KATHERINE LACAZE
Seaside Signal

As the state prepares to lift its indoor masking mandate by the end of March, local school districts are grappling with the decision on whether to make masks required or optional through the end of the school year.

The Seaside School District Board discussed options during their meeting earlier this month, ultimately deciding to wait until their meeting in March to make a decision based on guidance from the Clatsop County Public Health Department and data on COVID-19 case rates at that time.

"I want to make sure that all of our kids get the time in school that they deserve," board chair Brian Taylor said. "Going to distance learning is not a very favorable thing for our kids, even if it's just 10 days."

The Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Health Authority have made various updates to virus precautions for schools throughout the pandemic.

Earlier this month, the state announced it would lift the mask requirement at schools on March 31. The reasoning for that hard date, Penrod said, is "to give school districts time to transition, also an opportunity for families to get their students vaccinated."

By the end of March, the health

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SHOWER POWER

A shower for surfers at Seltzer Park

Women seek equity

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Thirty years ago when Seltzer Park was donated and developed, the surfing population at Seaside's Cove was only about 2% women. Today that number is more than 30%, Lexie Hallahan of Northwest Women's Surf Camps said.

Hallahan is leading a campaign to bring "shower" equity to Seltzer Park, the area east of the Cove across Sunset Boulevard. While there's a shower immediately outside the men's room where the door is open, "You're literally looking right in at men in the urinals," she said.

Hallahan envisions the shower tower on the north side of the park in the open air, clearly visible from the street, with shower heads at both child and adult height.

"It looks kind of like a cement round structure," she said. "It has the possibility to put up to six fixtures on it."

To start, two showers will be adult and two showers child height, and designed to meet Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility requirements. The showers will have hot and cold water and a foot wash. Signs will be posted prohibiting use of soap or shampoo because that would contaminate the wetlands behind the park.

Showers will be closed in the evening when restrooms are locked and reopened in the morning.

Hallahan attributes the boom in women's surfing to a number of surf movies from the 1980s, led by "Blue Crush."

"That went nationwide," she said. "It was huge. There were



Lexie Hallahan indicates the area for the shower.

R.J. Marx



R.J. Marx

Currently the only shower in Seltzer Park, outside the men's room.

several girl surfer movies that just see there was a real desire for made it cool for women. I could women wanting to learn to surf."

Years later, she started her business, offering surf lessons to women and families. "And every year it's booming."

Hallahan presented the plan to the Seaside Parks Advisory Committee, which will recommend it to the City Council for funding, including \$2,870 for the tower plus piping and installation.

Hallahan presented her plan to the City Council last week. "It sounds like a great idea," Mayor Jay Barber said.

To get involved in the shower tower, write a letter of support to the City Council, Hallahan said.

"The main reasons for me are accessibility and equitability," she said. "I think those are priorities now in today's world. We're 32 years past that and it's time we get it. So many people will be using it. It's long overdue."

GEARHART

Plan for new playground moves forward

Restrooms may not be required

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

The Gearhart Planning Commission moved forward with plans for a new playground at Trails' End/Centennial Park at their January meeting.

When the former Gearhart Elementary School was shut down, the playground at the former Gearhart Elementary School was closed and equipment at the west end of the school transferred to the new Pacific Ridge Elementary School.

A local 10-year-old, Berkley Sturgell, dedicated herself to bringing a playground back



City of Gearhart

Rendering of the proposed playground area in Centennial/Trail's End Park.

to Gearhart, proposing a new location at Centennial Park, also known as Trail's End Park, between Pacific Way and A Street off of Cottage.

Sturgell launched a Quarter Mile Challenge to

raise funds for the city's play equipment fund.

Sturgell's efforts brought more than \$12,000. With outside donations large and small, a total of almost \$34,000 has been raised so far.

Additionally, the city has more than \$100,000, a portion of American Rescue Plan funds, available between parks equipment and parks maintenance and repair.

The 4,400-square-foot area on the southwest corner of the 3/4-acre park would feature playground equipment and other features required to adjust said use with land and uses in the neighborhood. The playground would include swings sets, climbing bars, nets, balance beams and a two-seat carousel.

Bike parking standards require there be a four-space bicycle rack. The site will be graded and re-seeded with grass to improve the surface.

The hardwood natural design will be low maintenance. There will

be no outdoor lighting. The city will continue to develop the park with other improvements over time, Planner Carole Connell said.

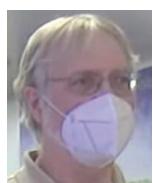
According to the application for conditional use, filed by the Planning Department's Angoleana Brien, the proposed plan complements residential development as well as commercial development pertaining to the Gearhart comprehensive plan. An estimate delivered in October listed a potential cost of about \$43,000. Installation pricing of \$28,000, included in the proposal, is considered an estimate only. Lead time from purchase date is about 14 weeks.

In November, the

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City staff, councilors salute retiring planner Cupples

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal



Kevin Cupples

Kevin Cupples attended his last Seaside City Council meeting as planning director this month. After 23 years with the city, Cupples retired Feb. 15.

Whether a "toast or a recognition," as described by City Manager Mark Winstanley, staff and city councilors had words of gratitude and good wishes for the outgoing planner.

"We have been very, very lucky to have him

here at the city of Seaside for these 22-plus years," Winstanley said.

"Kevin's a very detailed person. We have always been able to count on the work that Kevin does, knowing that it will be correct and it's going to provide guidance to the city in a manner that we know is very professional."

Cupples provided guidance not only as a planner but also in the

area of emergency preparedness, Winstanley said. "Kevin is an expert in his field and truly a gentleman in the way he handles himself."

Cupples grew up in Scappoose and graduated from Southern Oregon State University. He worked in planning for Coos County and then the City of Coos Bay before coming to Seaside in August 1998.

The planning director serves as staff liaison to the Seaside Planning Commission. Department staff conduct research and prepare reports and

findings to support land use decisions.

The director leads a staff of three: code compliance officer Jeff Flory, emergency preparedness coordinator Anne McBride and administrative assistant Jordan Sprague.

"I want to thank the council and the city for giving me the opportunity to work with you all this time," Cupples said. "I know I've worked with a number of the councilors as planning commissioners starting and then moving into City Council roles. I enjoy working

with the city staff here."

Recently married, he said he had inherited property in northern Washington that needed his attention. "I really need to put that in the forefront of my family's future and that's really what I'm focusing on," he said. "I've got lots to do. That's really what I plan on focusing on — maybe doing a little bit of fishing and clamming."

People with Cupples' background and expertise are hard to find, Mayor Jay Barber said. "You will be very difficult to replace."

