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Businesses urged to prepare for overdoses

Naloxone can be a lifesaver

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Jenna King and Kathryn Crombie, of the Clatsop County Public Health Department's harm reduction program, came to Seaside last week to ask business owners to take a role in recognizing and responding to drug overdoses.

Fatal overdoses can be prevented with the help of naloxone, an opioid antidote.

"We believe everyone should have naloxone on them or nearby — not just people who use drugs and their families. People can think of it as something that is part of your first-aid kit, like an EpiPen (for allergic reactions)," Crombie told the Seaside Chamber of Commerce at an event last Wednesday morning.

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Residents seek more input on new city manager

'Seaside needs a new perspective'

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

An informal group of Seaside residents are coming together to encourage input into the city manager hiring process.

Rebecca Read, an election official, a former municipal employee and participant in the Zoom session urged members of the public to contact City Council members with their input.

"I am not happy with the way in which people want to rubber stamp and just push things through without a proper open hiring process," Read said. "Seaside needs a new perspective, someone who's had success in other communities and who can bring a fresh perspective without local biases. Someone who can look at Seaside's potential and have the energy to bring innovative ideas to the job. Someone who can step in and start working at a high level of ability."

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High winds disabled the traffic signal at the intersection of Roosevelt Drive and Broadway on Monday.

Dale McDowell



Signal work at U.S. Highway 101 and Broadway.

R.J. Marx

Winds knock out power at Roosevelt and Broadway

Seaside Signal

High winds knocked out the traffic signal pole at the south east corner of Broadway and U.S. Highway 101 on Monday, Feb. 28, Seaside Public Works Director Dale McDowell said.

The intersection reopened Wednesday morning.

"This led to the Oregon Department of Transportation mobilizing crews to remedy the issue," McDowell said. "Weather is playing a big part in getting everything back to normal."

The temporary loss of

service with all signals at the intersection means that east and westbound traffic is closed temporarily and turn lanes in all directions will also be out of service for several days.

While north and southbound traffic proceeded as normal, the intersection functioned as a two-way stop sign until temporary repairs could be made.

High winds prevented crews from using bucket trucks and other equipment.

The new pole was installed and signal operations mounted by Wednesday morning, McDowell said.

Lifting of mask mandate leaves park district in flux

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

In-school masking will be lifted for the state's schools on March 11, the Oregon Health Authority announced, as hospitalizations drop and are projected to reach levels below those at the start of the Omicron surge.

The date gives local communities time to prepare for the transition, the health authority said, and allows district and school leaders to take necessary actions to ensure students can safely remain in their classrooms.

Whether the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation district will lift its indoor mask mandate then remains to be determined, executive director Skyler Archibald said.

"No decision has been made at this time," Archibald said.

At the Feb. 24 park district board meeting, the members agreed to follow the state's school guidelines for in-school masking at park district facilities



Entrance to the Bob Chisholm Community Center, with park district COVID protocols

R.J. Marx

ties — at that time, March 31.

"I wanted to get some general feedback from the board about a lot internally with the staff," Archibald said. "It seems like the overall

'NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AT THIS TIME.'

Skyler Archibald, executive director, Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District

from the board was to line up with what the school district is going to do, and

align with the state's timeline."

Right now, all patrons and staff are expected to wear masks in park district buildings, including the Sunset Pool, Bob Chisholm Community Center and Sunset Recreation Center, he said, except

when they are actively swimming.

Archibald said that early on in the pandemic there was resistance to the mask mandate from park district patrons, but now most accept the protocol.

After the mandate is lifted, other COVID protocols will remain in place in park district buildings, including extra sanitizing stations and temperature checks for participants in youth programs.

The park district may choose to keep a mask policy in place for those seeking to wear them or be around others wearing masks, he said, with a portion of the day where people can sign up to work out in a masked environment. Patrons could sign up for the programs through a reservation system.

"There are a lot of situations where you don't know what's going on," board member Michael Hinton said. "You just don't know what's going on around you all the time. You've got to protect yourself."

Convention center general manager Vandenberg to retire

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Russ Vandenberg, general manager of the Seaside Civic and Convention Center, announced his retirement this spring.

At last Wednesday's Seaside Chamber of Commerce breakfast, Vandenberg, 65, said he would be leaving the role he has held since 2005.

"I felt that time was right for me, my age in life

and ready to enter the next chapter," he said. "How honored I am to be part of the city and be part of this community that has welcomed me with open arms. I'm just extremely grateful."

As the center's general manager, Vandenberg oversees the day-to-day management of the convention center that includes administration, marketing, sales, operations, fiscal responsibility and approval of facility contracts.

With extended family in Southern California — seven children and

16 grandchildren — he and his wife, JoAnn, are planning a move. They've already sold their home here and are staying in a rental in Cullaby Lake in the interim, probably until the end of May.

Vandenberg has been involved in the public assembly facility management industry since 1982. He holds a bachelor's degree in management from Saint Mary's College of California. He worked at events centers in Irvine and San Diego before his role in Seaside.

Vandenberg didn't know

much about Seaside before he applied, but the more researched the city and the center, the more exciting the position looked, he told *The Astorian* in 2005.

He quickly settled into the community, and served as the president of the Seaside Rotary Club.

In his first year as general manager, the center's economic impact increased 6%. By 2012, the center was pumping in \$40 million in economic impact for Seaside — up from \$23 million when he started.



Joshua Heineman, director of tourism marketing of the Seaside Visitors Bureau and Russ Vandenberg, general manager of the Seaside Civic and Convention Center.

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