

**SUNSET EMPIRE PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT**



Warming center at 1530 S. Roosevelt.

R.J. Marx

# Pitching in at Seaside's reopened warming center

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

The Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District played a role in the reopening of the city's warming center.

"The first year experience was very positive," Skyler Archibald, executive director of the park district said.

The warming center was a partnership between Clatsop Community Action, the city, the park district, and the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation Foundation.

While Archibald hoped

the center would get a bit more usage, numbers increased as the winter session moved on.

According to Clatsop Community Action, there were 43 unduplicated guests and 190 shelter stays overall from Dec. 20 to March 15. The average number of guests per night was 4.75.

Jan. 24-31 was the busiest week, with a weekly total of 42 shelter stays. The busiest night of the season was Jan. 27, when 15 people stayed at the shelter, filling the building to capacity. Between Feb. 21-27, 34 people stayed at the shelter.

The park district also worked with the shelter to provide vouchers for shower access, enabling free showers at the Sunset Pool 13 hours a week.

The Sunset Recreation Foundation spent more than \$1,500, for meals, serving 380 overall, at a cost of \$4 per meal.

Archibald hopes to participate in the warming center project next year.

"I don't know if the center will be offered again," he said. "That will be addressed primarily by the other partners in the project. If it does operate, I hope that we can

participate in some capacity and support those efforts."

Viviana Matthews, executive director of Clatsop Community Action, called the partnership with the city, park district and Helping Hands, "outstanding."

Matthews hopes to see the warming center return next winter. "Absolutely, if Seaside will have us," she said.

This could be the first of other such partnerships in Seaside, she said. "We are always looking ways on partnering to bring programs to our community in need."

# RV sites: City poised to read ordinance

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this particular case, we're regulating, place, manner, where you're asleep and where you park. In doing so, we've still got to be part of society and play by the rules."

Noncompliant vehicles will be towed, stored or disposed.

This will not be a "free service," Ham said. "There's going to be a cost associated with this. I can't tell you what that's going to be but it's going to add up."

The task force narrowed down options to eight areas throughout the city, intending to prevent between one and five camping spots in each location. Locations have yet to be finalized.

Permitted overnight camping sites will be listed in a separate policy. Proposed locations for limited numbers of permitted vehicles include parts of Shore Terrace, Necanicum Drive on the east side of the 300 block, Cartwright Park, Avenue G on the north side of the 500 block and Mill Ponds Park. All vehicles participating in the city's program for temporary camping must be registered and display unexpired registration places with current tags.

According to the ordinance, it will be unlawful for any person to camp in these locations from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Permission may be revoked by the city if the person or group violates city laws or ordinances. Permits, available for free, would allow campers to park nightly for three weeks before being required to move their vehicles. Private homeowners, nonprofits and churches may also receive permits to allow tents or RVs overnight. Vehicles without permits could be subject to ticketing or towing. Camping would be prohibited in all public park areas, all pub-

licly owned parking lots and restrooms. Residential areas where camping would be prohibited are also listed in the ordinance.

"We've been working to develop a camping ordinance that we hope and believe could stand up to the legal challenges that we know have happened in other areas," Barber said at the task force meeting. "The most notable legal challenge is the Boise decision that really is kind of guiding all cities and jurisdictions."

**THE ORDINANCE IN SEASIDE WOULD REQUIRE PEOPLE TO OBTAIN PERMITS TO CAMP AND LIMIT THE HOURS FROM 8 P.M. TO 8 A.M.**

The city is still awaiting input from their insurance agency, CIS, and City Attorney Dan Van Thiel.

Meanwhile, with an ordinance on the horizon, authorities are looking to clear the makeshift RV camp off Necanicum. The camp has grown from a handful of vehicles to more than 20.

Ham said the city will begin notifying people parked there that they need to start preparing to leave. "That's the letter basically saying, 'Hey, you need to be preparing that in the next couple of months, you are going to need to have other arrangements made,'" he said.

## Lease: Extension of Sunset Recreation Center lease considered

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The Northwest Regional Educational Service District took occupancy of more than 8,000 square feet last summer.

The lease began Aug. 1 and runs until July 31, 2023, annual rent is \$73,840, payable in quarterly installments. After the first year of the agreement, the annual rental income will increase by 1.5% from the previous year's amount, to \$81,650. The lease agreement includes a cost per square foot and a stipulation for the service district to cover their portion of utilities.

The lease agreement includes exclusive use of the counseling offices, three classrooms and the computer lab as well as a janitor closet nearby. It includes a shared space of hallways and a men's and women's restroom located nearby.

The park district leases the service district one of the classrooms for storage.

"If we were to proceed down the road of discussing the lease, there would probably need to be some hard insu-

**THE LEASE AGREEMENT INCLUDES EXCLUSIVE USE OF THE COUNSELING OFFICES, THREE CLASSROOMS AND THE COMPUTER LAB AS WELL AS A JANITOR CLOSET NEARBY. IT INCLUDES A SHARED SPACE OF HALLWAYS AND A MEN'S AND WOMEN'S RESTROOM LOCATED NEARBY.**

lation of doors or temporary walls to secure their part of the property," Archibald said. "They don't necessarily need it secured to the point that anybody couldn't have emergency access through those areas but they'd like to kind of secure the building, and that makes sense for access purposes."

Heat in the building is still a bit of an ongoing issue, Archibald said. "The heat works extremely well in some parts of the building, not quite as well as others," he said. "I would expect that repairing the HVAC system will be an initial priority for us once we get the strategic plan back and start to move forward."

Lease conversations are expected to begin mid-summer, he said.

The education service dis-

trict shares the park district's optimism.

"We continue to be excited about the partnership with the park district," Dan Goldman, executive director of the education service district said. "The services provided by both agencies are complementary and, as we hopefully come out of the darkest days of the pandemic, we will help one another to multiply the impacts of our limited resources for children, families and community members. The facility, as aged as it is, needs quite a bit of TLC; but to date, the park district team has been responsive to our needs. We are looking forward to the continued collaboration and to serving the residents of Clatsop County from our new home in Seaside."



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From left: General surgeons Eric Friedman, M.D., FACS, and Manfred Ritter, M.D., FACS  
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