

Levy: Funding would continue for five more years

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The department currently has six full-time employees — chief, two division chiefs and three firefighters — and about 30 volunteers, he said.

Gordon Houston, a full-time Portland firefighter, continues to volunteer in Seaside and serve as volunteer deputy chief, he helps coordinate all the recruitment, including the resident volunteer program, currently with four interns participating.

“We’ve been pretty successful over the years, with volunteers and our resident program,” Houston said. “Since I’ve been here for 20 years, we’ve had close to 50 people get jobs full time, some of them here.”

The interns live in rooms above the station. “This program has been crucial for not only the students but to assist with staffing calls,” Daniels said.

Even with the extra help the levy could bring, volunteers remain essential, volunteer association president Jason Schermerhorn said. “That’s really the backbone of the fire department,” he said. “We do a lot of work and I’m learning something new every day while helping people. It really is a great



Genesee Dennis, Joey Daniels, David Rankin, Gordon Houston and Jason Schermerhorn of the Seaside Fire Department. At right, Katie McCloud of the Seaside Chamber of Commerce.

R.J. Marx

organization.”

The measure would need to be submitted to the

county elections official by Sept. 8 to appear on the Nov. 8 ballot.

If passed, the new levy would not take effect until November of 2023.

Armitage: State senator presents legislative wrap-up

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“This is a really exciting piece of legislation because I think it helps everyone,” she said. “Everyone move forward. Both sides came to the table as well as small woodland owners and came up with some commonsense agreements.”

The accord provides tax credits for small woodland owners and creates a new framework for how future water-related changes to Oregon’s forest practices will be made.

Senate Bill 1579, known as the Economic Equity Investment Program, aims to provide “culturally responsive services” to disadvantaged individuals, families, businesses and communities in Oregon as a result of discrimination, language proficiency, economic status or

residence in a rural location.

“The reason I jumped into support it pretty enthusiastically is that rural communities are also one of the disadvantaged communities outlined in that bill,” Armitage said. “Seaside would qualify for some of the support and the grants that are in this legislation.”

With the passage of additional child care funding, she said the Legislature seeks to address the overwhelming regulations for those who

want to start a small child care business. House Bill 4011 creates qualified mental health associate incentive program within Oregon Health Authority.

“We really want to address the business side of child care,” Armitage said. “And really empowering more folks to start these businesses be successful and pencils out.”

Armitage said she plans future town halls both via Zoom and live.

“I am really looking forward to seeing folks face to face and having conversations with fellow policymakers, both local and statewide, about housing and cybersecurity in particular,” she said.

Melissa Busch, a home health nurse from Warren, is unopposed in the Democratic primary and will face Weber for the state Senate seat in November.

Armitage said at the time of her appointment that she would not run for the seat.

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