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Joshua Heineman

Tillamook Rock Lighthouse is situated 1.2 miles from the Prom.

FIVE VIEWS OF SEASIDE HISTORY ON THE PROM

New interpretative signs along famed walkway

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Five new interpretative signs along the Prom offer a glimpse into Seaside's history.

City engineer L.C. Rogers designed and J.H. Tillman constructed what would become 8,000 feet of seawall stretching 1.5 miles and built at a cost of \$150,000. The

Promenade, fondly called the Prom, was dedicated in a well-attended ceremony on Aug. 7, 1921. It is the only concrete boardwalk along the oceanfront in the Pacific Northwest.

Since that time it has been the destination for countless visitors.

In 2021, the city celebrated its 100th anniversary with fanfare and a day of festivities.

The sign project is the culmination of a grant proposal the Seaside Visitors Bureau submitted to and was awarded by Travel Oregon in 2021 in connection with Prom Centennial efforts, according to Joshua Heine-

man, director of tourism marketing for the Seaside Visitors Bureau.

The city received \$14,000 for design, construction and fabrication of the interpretative signs. The total cost for this project end-to-end was about \$15,500, with the balance covered by the city advertising budget.

"The subject matter for each sign simply came from the themes and questions that would occupy my mind while walking the Prom during the pandemic," Heineman said, partnering with the Seaside Museum &

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City passes overnight camping ordinance

City could clear camp at 10th and Necanicum

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

A new ordinance designed to get homeless campers off the street and establish an overnight parking program was approved by the City Council on Monday night.

The City Council voted 5 to 2 to enact rules designed to close a homeless RV camp on 10th Avenue and Necanicum Drive and present alternatives for overnight shelter.

Tom and Roxanne Veazey, who live near 10th and Necanicum, see this as the first step toward clearing the camp.

"It's a start," Roxanne Veazey said. "In the long run, what they did in putting all those people in the Necanicum lot didn't do any service to those people. They're not going to walk over into the bathroom to use the restroom, they're going to use the bushes. Then they're going to take whatever comes out of their sewage and they're going to put it in the trash."

The ordinance is intended to protect the safety of residents and regulate the use of public and private property by establishing time, place and manner guidelines for homeless camping. It puts in place a permit program for temporary overnight camping on both residential and non-residential properties. Vehicles, including vans or motor homes, would need to be registered in compliance with vehicle insurance responsibilities.

Without locations for people to go, "then basically the public streets are fair game," Police Chief Dave Ham said. "The fact is that if we don't have locations to identify for somebody to go with

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Necanicum RVs, campers receive notice • A3

Gearhart adopts parks master plan

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

A multiyear process came with approval of a new parks master plan for Gearhart. The City Council unanimously adopted Ordinance 932 in a first reading at a special meeting last Tuesday. The new rules amend the city's comprehensive plan, zoning and subdivision ordinances to implement the plan.

The parks master plan solidifies Gearhart's commitment to open space, recreation and outdoor activities now and into the future, Mayor Paulina Cockrum said.

This is the first parks plan for Gearhart.

"The comprehensive plan calls for a parks master plan and the City Council has sought to create that plan for about 10 years," she said.

The parks plan, designed to look two decades into the future, was developed after the state awarded the city \$15,000 grant funds for the project, part of the 2019 local government grant program from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

The plan became a priority after the city enacted short-term rental regulations and a new safety complex, Cockrum said.

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School district renews focus on Broadway Field

By KATHERINE LACAZE
Seaside Signal

After a survey and geological testing, the Seaside School District Board is moving away from Wahanna Field as the potential location for a new softball complex and instead focusing on Broadway Field.

"Wahanna Field doesn't provide a good development location for this facility," consultant Brian Hardebeck, of Day CPM Services, told the school board during a meeting last week.

The new or upgraded facility must meet requirements outlined in a resolution with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights to provide more equity between girls and boys sports facilities. The school

district has until June 2023 to complete the project.

In February, the school board voted to focus on Wahanna as the top candidate for the new facility, while not ruling out three other viable options. This sparked further investigation into the site, which included a regular survey, geologic testing and a wetlands delineation study.

"We were a little disappointed in the results we received, primarily from the geologic testing," Hardebeck said. "Findings there were not conducive to recommendation of further development on that property."

The soil doesn't have enough lateral resistivity to handle foundation loading for construction, with a rock layer that wouldn't

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The school district is directing its attention to softball upgrades at Broadway Field.

R.J. Marx



Pot revenue could help some offset firehouse bond tax hike

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

A Gearhart city councilor has suggested using money from the city's cannabis taxes to help low-and-moderate income residents absorb higher property taxes if a \$14.5 million bond measure for a new firehouse is approved in the May election.

"In my conversations with people out in the community canvassing and at the fire station, open houses and mayor's coffees, quite a few people asked me about what are you guys doing for the people who can't afford a tax increase?" City Councilor Brent Warren said at a special meeting of the City Council last week. "This program is designed to those people who will really struggle with a tax increase. I can guarantee you there are low-and-moderate income people living in Gearhart."

With a second cannabis shop recently opened on U.S. Highway 101, city staff expects tax revenue to increase. The city could set aside \$30,000 of the tax revenue for a program that could help residents earning up to 80% of area median income through a subsidy.

"If we run out of funds, we can either be allocated additional funds or terminate the program," Warren said. "This program is designed for those people who will really struggle with a tax increase."

City councilors were reluctant to take on the tax break before the May 17 vote on the bond measure.

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