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Cockrum resigns as Gearhart mayor

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Paulina Cockrum has resigned as mayor of Gearhart, citing personal reasons. In a letter to the City Council, staff, the Planning Commission, volunteer fire department and residents, she said the resignation was effective last Thursday. "It has been my pleasure to serve on the Planning Commission 2008-2015, City Council 2015-2020, and truly an

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Harsh reception for Gearhart council after firehouse bond defeat • A6

honor to serve as mayor for the past year and a half," she said in an email statement. "Together we have accomplished great things."

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Paulina Cockrum



Kerry Smith

Smith to fill mayor's unexpired term

Stresses need to 'move on'

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Kerry Smith, the Gearhart City Council president, will serve as interim mayor after Paulina Cockrum's resignation last week. His term of office begins immediately on appointment and continues

through the unexpired term of Cockrum in 2024.

Last month, two-thirds of voters said "no" to the \$14.5 million bond measure to build a firehouse and a police station on property off Highlands Lane north of the city. The election was driven by passion on both sides, with competing social media campaigns and sign wars.

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Park district proposes increase in nonresident rate

Fees would go from 50% to 75% above resident fees

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

To see if you are in the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District, review your Clatsop County tax statement. It will show "Sunset Park" in the list of assessments if you are inside the district boundaries.

The Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District will consider its fee structure for both in-district and out-of-district residents who use the district for its programs and facilities.

The district's last fee increase was in 2017, executive director Skyler Archibald said. "We have talked about it numerous times before the pandemic, but we didn't move forward with it at that time," he said at last week's board of directors meeting.

"We'd like to keep our industry resident's rates low at the same level right now," he said. "But we do need to increase our out-of-district resident rate to help offset the fact that we're serving those large communities. They are not necessarily lifting the same amount of weight on the load that we're all trying to carry. So we'd like to propose an increase in our nonresident rate from 50% roughly as a couple that were a little lower to 75% and then consider elimination of all options for all options district residents."

Rising wages and utility bills impact the bottom line and cost of doing business,

Archibald said.

Archibald presented a fee comparison, assessing the out-of-district rate with that of an in-district resident, which ranged from a 45% to 50% difference in cost.

The fee review also included comparisons between fees in other districts, including the Bend Park and Recreation District, Chehalem Park and Recreation District in Newberg and the Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District. Each of those had fees slightly higher than Sunset Empire in general admission, 10-day pass, monthly and annual fees for residents and non-residents.

"By and large, SEPRD programs and access cost less than counterparts in other agencies throughout the state," he wrote in a presentation. "Other districts may utilize an out-of-district rate with rates similar or in some cases lower than SEPRD."

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Police clear homeless camp



Photos by R.J. Marx

Police meet with residents after clearing of the parking lot begins. A car is in the process of being towed in the background.

Overnight campers directed to new permit site

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal



Patricia Tewalt and dog at the lot at 10th Avenue and Necanicum Drive. She worries what will happen to others, including a disabled neighbor.

Two trucks and police cars gathered along Necanicum Drive last Tuesday as the city prepared to clear the homeless camp at a city-owned lot between 10th and 11th avenues.

Liaisons from Clatsop Community Action delivered tents, sleeping bags and referrals for assistance.

"This is the first day that we are going to try and clear out a few of the vehicles that are remaining here," Police Chief Dave Ham said. "We're going to get it started. Hopefully, that will prompt a few others and they start making their moves on their own."

The lot, previously used as a staging area for construction, became a temporary campsite last year after the city redirected overnight trailers off of the roadway.

But as the numbers of RVs and campers continued to grow, so did complaints.

Last fall, neighbors presented a petition with more than 100 signatures protesting the encampment and

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A 75th anniversary for Miss Oregon

Competition returns with anniversary, parade

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

The 75th Annual Miss Oregon Competition and Miss Oregon's Outstanding Teen Competition returns to the Seaside Civic and Convention Center June 16 through June 18.

This year, 20 Miss Oregon and 14 Miss Oregon Outstanding Teen candidates will travel to Seaside to stay at the Saltline Hotel and compete for more than \$170,000 in scholarships, Beth McShane, director of the program, said.

Lilly Boothe, 18, of Clatskanie, was crowned Miss Clatsop

County 2022 in Seaside on March 19. Boothe, a former Miss Clatsop's Outstanding Teen, is studying speech communications at Oregon State University. Her talent is musical theater.

Miss Clatsop Outstanding Teen Aliciyah Miguel-Cloninger is a 15-year-old sophomore at St. Helen's High School.

The anniversary event comes

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Moir O'Bryan, Miss Oregon's Outstanding Teen 2021 and Abigail Hayes, Miss Oregon 2021.



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