# OUR 115th Year

June 24, 2022 \$1.00

# Vista Ridge II returns to commission

Neighbors voice concerns

**By R.J. MARX** Seaside Signal

Developers of a 15-lot subdivision north in Seaside's east hills returned to the Planning Commission last Tuesday night. But after months of continuance, its reception was no warmer than when introduced last fall.

Resident Lief Morin said the application "is still just as deceptive as it was six months ago," failing to meet standards and ordinances. "The whole proposal is still rotten to the core."

The proposal, by Sunset Ridge LLC, seeks to divide the 6.62-acre subject property into 15 residential development lots, ranging in size from 10,000 square feet to a little more than 47,000 square feet.

According to the city's staff report, the current zone allows for five dwelling units per acre, so the 6.62-acre property has a development potential that would allow 33 dwelling units. A total of 15 are proposed.

See Vista Ridge II, Page A3

# Short-term rental tweaks approved by commission

**By R.J. MARX** Seaside Signal



Miss Meadowlark, Sophia Takla, after being named Miss Oregon 2022.

Photos by R.J. Marx

# Miss Oregon 2022 is crowned in Seaside



Sophia Takla is crowned Miss Oregon by Miss Oregon 2021 Abigail Hayes. Miss OregonTeen 2021 Moira O'Bryan at right.

Takla selected in program's 75th year

By R.J. MARX Seaside Signal

iss Meadowlark, Sophia Takla, was crowned Miss Oregon on Saturday night at the scholarship program's 75th annual event at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center.

Takla, a student at Boston Conservatory at Berklee College of Music, will receive a \$15,000 scholarship and represent the state at the Miss America pageant.

Takla was crowned by Abigail Hayes, Miss Oregon 2021, who was selected fourth runner-up at the Miss America pageant last December.

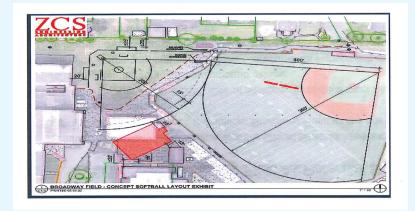
Evergreen teen candidate Déja Fitzwater was selected Miss Oregon's Outstanding Teen, winning a \$5,000 scholarship award. The Tigard High School student will head to Dallas, Texas, for the Miss America Outstanding Teen national competition in August.

Seaside's Planning Commission picked up where they left off in April with approval of tweaks to the city's vacation rental dwelling policies. They include density reductions, a waiting period after transactions and new construction, and a grace period for property owners and managers to clear out reservations when a property is sold.

"We carefully discussed and debated how to tackle the issue and make sure that we were doing our part to maintain a livable community for people that live here full time and for people that visit here," Commissioner Kathy Kleczek said at last Tuesday's meeting. "That was our goal, and we had a vigorous discussion about how to go about that. The fact that rentals for people that are attempting to reside in the area are disappearing was the motivation to look at the numbers and find a balance."

See Tweaks, Page A3

### Training facility complicates school softball relocation



Seaside School District B

Concept for a Broadway Field softball redesign presented by the Seaside School District.

#### Three sites considered by school district

**By R.J. MARX** Seaside Signal

The Seaside School District came to last Monday's City Council hoping to redevelop Broadway Field to meet the needs of athletes' softball play. "The recommendation is to use an underutilized portion of Broadway Field as many of the facilities are already in place," Susan Penrod, the district superintendent, said.

The field was developed in 2013 on land owned by the city, used by the school district and maintained by the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District. All three entities are party to future decisions.

See Field, Page A8



Entrance

R.J. Marx Entrance to the Mill Ponds at Alder Mill Avenue.

## Ordinance rollout shifts homeless traffic, camping

**By R.J. MARX** Seaside Signal

City councilors and staff expressed their desire to be humane while enforcing the city's camping ordinance.

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 establishes a permit program for temporary overnight camping on residential and nonresidential properties.

Campers arrive at 8 p.m. when the gate to the area opens with capacity

for 20 RVs and 30 tent campers, Police put Chief Dave Ham said,

Campers and vehicles must leave by 8 a.m. "We're getting pretty good compliance with people moving along and going wherever they end up going," Ham said.

So far, about 85 case files have been taken in relation to the ordinance. Of those case files, about 23 are permits to use the camping site. "We're still just trying to get everybody educated, including our officers and community members that have questions about it."

Six of the cases involve car impounds, he said. Cars, RVs or belongings are held for 30 days at the public works lot.

So far, the city has allowed access to property owners seeking access to their vehicles or belongings.

The program has gone smoothly and cleared out "a lot of the problem vehicles," Ham said.

Police have not issued any citations.

Despite a projected demand, overnight camping usage has been sparse so far, he said.

"What we're seeing at the Mill Ponds location is that there's only about three or four permitted folks that are staying out," he said.

See Ordinance, Page A3

