



Four contend for vacant city council seat

Opening after Barber appointed mayor

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Four candidates stepped forward to fill a City Council vacancy. Norman Brown, John Chapman, George Stacey and Steve Wright each provided a minimum of 10 signatures from Ward 1 residents and

filed forms with the city indicating interest in filling the remaining two years of Jay Barber's four-year term.

The opening comes after Barber was appointed mayor to finish the remainder of former Mayor Don Larson's four-year term. Larson died in December after serving 14 years as mayor.

"We have a very difficult task before us," Barber said. "We have four applicants, all of whom are very highly qualified."



Norman Brown

John Chapman

George Stacey

Steve Wright

Brown, a three-year Seaside resident, is retired after a career as a human resources manager and director. He is a member of the city's parks ad-

visory committee.

Chapman, a 23-year resident, is a business owner and property manager of Seaside Factory Outlets. He has served

on city advertising and budget committees.

Stacey, a former high school teacher and broker with John L. Scott Real Estate, is a member of the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District. He is a 50-year Seaside resident.

Wright, a Seaside homeowner for nearly five years, is a current member of the Budget Committee and Planning Commission. He is the former

chief financial officer of Columbia Grain Inc.

"The process that will now happen, the council will interview each of these applicants and in an open meeting we will vote to appoint," Barber said.

City Council members will interview the candidates Monday from noon to 4 p.m. Each interview is expected to take about an hour, Barber said.

The council aims to decide at the last meeting in February.



By Katherine Lacaze
For Seaside Signal

Some men demonstrated great skill while maneuvering with two, or even more, dance partners during the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District's Daddy Daughter Dance.

On the dance floor, a trio of girls sang along to pop star Katy Perry's "Roar," a man clasped the hands of two dance partners as they twirled in unison and a father held his tiny daughter, surrounded by a billowing blue dress, and swayed to the music.

These and other memories, some tender and some bright, were in the making during the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District's fourth annual Daddy Daughter Dance, held Feb. 4 at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center.

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Seaside sees dip in grad rate

Numbers up over five-year period, but slip in 2015-16

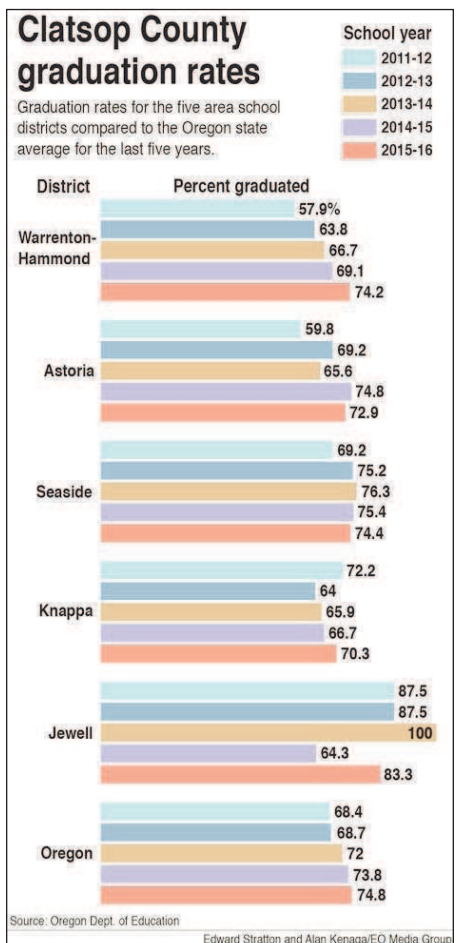
By Edward Stratton
EO Media Group

There was one bright spot in the county's school graduation rate statistics: Over the past five school years, Warrenton High School has steadily climbed from the worst to nearly the best in Clatsop County at graduating students in four years.

Seaside, which has historically had a stronger graduation rate, increased from 69 to 74.4 percent over the past five years. But over the past year the grad rate dipped a point. Over the same period of time, Astoria High School has increased from less than 60 percent to a nearly 73 percent four-year graduation rate.

Knappa, which boasted the second-highest graduation rate five years ago at more than 72 percent, fell off into the mid-60s for three years, but built graduation back

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Sweet treats that can make a difference

Rotary Foundation, Rec District partner together for fundraiser

By Rebecca Herren
Seaside Signal

Gourmet appetizers, tempting treats, wine and beer, silent and live auctions and afternoon music by pianist Lynn Archibald was as sweet of an affair as A Sweet Affaire had to offer on Sunday, Feb. 12, at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center.

For the past 10 years, A Sweet Affaire has been an annual fundraiser to benefit Sunset Park and Recreation Foundation. It has shared in the organization and fundraising efforts with Seaside Rotary Foundation over the past few years to support both foundation's scholarship programs and community projects.

According to Skyler Archibald, the district's executive director, the event brought in \$20,000 with almost 200

community members in attendance. The paddle bid raised over \$4,000 for the foundation. This is Archibald's second year participating in the event since taking over as executive director. "Every year we have new auction items and try to switch up the format. Adding new restaurants gives the event a fresh new look every year."

Archibald pointed out that even though A Sweet Affaire is the district's biggest fundraiser of the year, the partnership with Seaside Rotary has worked out well. "This is a really good partnership and I really like working with them, they bring a lot of skill and expertise to the event and you feel that you're really making a difference in someone's life."

Kevin Leahy, executive director for CEDR, agreed with Archibald about the importance of the event for both foundations. With the Rotary's philosophy of giving back to the community, Leahy



REBECCA HERREN/SEASIDE SIGNAL

First of the many winners of the Spin The Wheel game at A Sweet Affaire were Brian Owen, Chamber of Commerce executive director, who one a \$45 gift certificate to Pig 'N Pancake and Shelly Saunders, who won a \$50 gift certificate to Uptown Cafe.

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