



Team togetherness

THE SARAH LACOSTE & MARCUS BROWN WEDDING

STORY BY MARILYN GILBAUGH • PHOTOS BY JESSICA STARR

Sarah Elizabeth LaCoste lived most of her life in Seaside. Marcus Steven Brown lived most of his in Astoria.

“We crossed paths for the first time in the sixth grade,” said the bride of her first Marcus sighting. But K-12 Seaside students pretty much stay in Seaside. The same is true for Astoria, though I knew of Marcus through his sports. I come from a huge sports-crazy family,” Sarah said. Marcus was a wide receiver on the Astoria High School Fishermen’s football team and played third base on the baseball team. Sarah played volleyball, basketball and golf for the Seaside Gulls.

Fast forward 15 years. Long after that initial sixth-grade sighting, Marcus and Sarah connected on Facebook.

“Marcus messaged me about the Beavers. We’re both avid fans, which is putting it mildly. He also asked me if I had plans for Valentine’s Day. I didn’t. T. Paul’s Supper Club was our first date. It was perfect,” said Sarah adding emphasis with her signature phrase, a happy “Yep!”

During their meal, befitting Valentine’s Day, Cupid took aim. Bingo. They fell in love and that was that.

“Our love and passion has been growing ever since. A year and a half later, daughter Maisyn Brown was born. She is the great

addition to our love story,” said Sarah.

“Valentine’s Day 2013, three years after our first date, I woke up that morning to find Marcus holding our daughter with one hand and a ring in his other. Maisyn was wearing a onesie, and on it Marcus had printed ‘Mommy, will you marry Daddy?’ He was down on one knee; I accepted and burst into tears. Before he proposed, Marcus had called my parents asking for their blessing, so they knew what was up at our house. My dad told us that call was one of the proudest days of his life,” Sarah said.

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“Marcus is a pretty romantic, not gushy, but a romantic and thoughtful guy,” added Sarah’s mom, Sally.

Engaged for year and a half, Sarah graduated from Oregon State University with a degree in political science while Marcus is working on a degree in OSU’s forestry program. They chose a September wedding date.

“We both have super large, involved families,” Sarah said. Trying to include everyone’s schedule proved no easy task, but they made it work with much help from relatives and friends.

The rehearsal dinner was held two nights before the wedding on Thursday at Cannon Beach’s Lumberyard Grill. It was one rol-

licking wedding weekend kickoff, DJ included. Thursday rather than Friday due to (what else but) a football game. Sarah’s brother, Kevin, a senior at Seaside High School, was the Gulls varsity quarterback for four years and there was a Friday night game. The Gulls won!

Wedding day excitement building, Sarah’s Aunt Julie Payne arrived from California to do her magic with all of the flowers.

“Our color scheme was pretty much autumn tones. I told her to do whatever she wanted to do. She did an awesome job,” Sarah said.

Sept. 27, at 1 p.m., 400 or so guests filled Seaside’s Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church. As Sarah would say “Yep, it was big!”

“I told Sarah, with your union we’re going to be related to most of Clatsop County,” her mom said.

Seven bridesmaids dressed in autumn yellow and an equal number of groomsmen in charcoal tuxedos, plus three little flower girls in flouncy finery; daughter Maisyn and cousins Berkley Sturgell and Grace Brown, took their places. Sarah’s middle school teacher, Melissa Linder, struck up “Here Comes the Bride,” and the bride’s father, Kevin, proudly brought his daughter down the aisle to meet her groom, making just one quick stop. Pausing ever so briefly at the first pew, Sarah passed an “I love you more” note of endearment meant for her maternal grandma, Pat Payne, with whom she shares a special bond.

