

Service to the community with a crown and a sash

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Miss Clatsop County 2016 Ryen Buys was one of four ambassadors of the Miss Clatsop County Scholarship Program at a recent Seaside Chamber of Commerce breakfast.

The program provides \$6,000 in scholarship funds for higher education.

"My platform is early diagnosis for scoliosis," said Buys, a Seaside High School senior and co-captain of the cheerleading team. "I chose it because I have scoliosis, and I had to wear a back brace the entire sixth-grade year, 20 hours a day."

Buys stressed the importance of early diagnosis.

"I believe it's really important for younger kids in elementary school to get diagnosed early so that they have the opportunity to wear a back brace like I did, instead of having an invasive surgery putting a metal rod in your back, and making it very hard for your everyday life," she said.

Buys and other titleholders were crowned Feb. 20, Chelle Sollars, president of the Miss Clatsop County Scholarship Program said.

"These girls are amazing," Sollars said. "All of these



Nikkole Sasso, Caitlin Hillman, Chelle Sollars, Tess Rund and Ryen Buys.

R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

girls have earned scholarships. We've got eighth-graders sitting with money in scholarship accounts waiting for when they're ready."

Miss North Coast Teen Tess Rund, 21, studies women's and gender studies at the University of Oregon.

"I had never been in the pageant world before," Rund said. "I learned so much about interview schools — it's not just the onstage stuff. It's the behind-the-scenes, meeting people, service, networking. That's definitely been eye-opening."

Eighth-grader Caitlin Hillman, Miss Clatsop County's Outstanding Teen 2016, attends Broadway Middle School in Seaside.

"Dance is really my passion," Hillman said. "I want

to share my love of dance throughout the community, and show how it has many health benefits, not just a regular sport, but many health aspects different from other sports in our community."

"I don't think we realized how much we impact other people," Buys said. "Every time I'm in my crown and sash little girls come up to me with their faces lit up and say, 'Oh my gosh, you're a princess! You're what I strive to be.' I didn't know that would happen. Every time I go out, someone notices me."



Submitted Photo

The General Federation of Women's Clubs Oregon donated comforting toys, books and games for children who have experienced abuse and neglect. The gifts will be distributed by The Lighthouse for Kids and volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates.

Women's group donates books and toys to children

The Daily Astorian

The General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) Oregon held its annual meeting recently in Tolovana Park. In existence since 1899, the group has the motto "Growth Through Service," and undertakes many projects benefiting people in Oregon.

The service project this year provided comforting toys, books and games for children who have experienced abuse and neglect. The gifts will be distributed by The Lighthouse for Kids and volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) in Clatsop County.

"Thank you, GFWC Oregon," Ann Lederer, CASA

Program Manager, said.

"Through your generosity, our CASA volunteers will have the great pleasure of bringing a new, age-appropriate book to a child in foster care who may have had to leave their belongings behind or who perhaps haven't had access to many books."

Marvin Bemudez, director of The Lighthouse for Kids, commented, "The good work that the GFWC performs for the families in our communities requires a large army of caring people. That is what this group represents, a large army of dedicated caring women that take the time to serve those that need the most, our children. Thank you, GFWC."

Seaside Masons award bikes to readers

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Submitted Photo

Marcel Atwi and Lauren Kropf of Seaside Heights Elementary School each won bicycles in a "Bikes for Books" drawing. They are pictured with Evergreen Mason Bob Cook.

SEASIDE — Evergreen Masonic Lodge in Seaside sponsored the "Bikes For Books" program to encourage elementary school children to read books. The program is aimed at third, fourth and fifth graders in the Seaside school district.

During the month of May, each time a student read a book and reported on it, he or

she got to enter their name for a drawing. At a special awards assembly held at Seaside Heights Elementary School on May 27, the name of one boy and one girl was drawn to be the winner of a new bicycle. Third grader Lauren Kropf, and fourth grader Marcel Atwi were this year's winners. Two more bicycles are being awarded at the Gearhart Elementary School on June 16.

Wheel Fun Rentals offers free biking for Big Brothers Big Sisters

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SEASIDE — Wheel Fun Rentals, located at 151 Avenue A, 407 S. Holladay Drive and 15 First Ave. in Seaside, is participating in the 10th year of the Biking Buddies Program, which gives free one-hour rentals to Big Brothers Big Sisters volunteers and

their Little Brothers and Sisters. The program is valid for either one multi-rider product that they can ride together, or two single-rider products that they can use side-by-side, and the program is unlimited.

For information about Wheel Fun and the Biking Buddies Program, go to <http://bit.ly/1TVvrZ6>

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