



SUBMITTED PHOTO/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Preschoolers play outside at the Cannon Beach Preschool & Children's Center.

Cannon Beach Preschool

Preschool from Page 1A

"It's a pretty big deal," Bisping said. "We have a high-quality curriculum and we include our families in every aspect of the center."

Oregon's Quality Rating and Improvement System, which programs choose to participate in, is a partnership with the state and Western Oregon University. The rating system works to improve the quality and consistency of childcare and early learning programs — which play a critical role in brain development.

For a three-star rating, a program must support all children's learning and development through its curriculum, follow a written philosophy that defines its values and goals, perform annual screenings on children, and maintain an accessible and appropriate indoor environment. Star ratings are also based on meeting standards in health and safety, family partnerships, personnel qualifications, and administration and business practices.

The Cannon Beach Preschool & Children's Center,

a nonprofit founded in 1977, aims to provide high-quality childcare, early childhood education and school preparation for children from six weeks old to age 6. The preschool and children's center currently has six teachers and 30 students from Cannon Beach, Seaside, Garibaldi, Manzanita and Gearhart, she said. The center has separate rooms for infants six weeks to 2 years, toddlers ages 2 to 3 and preschoolers ages 3 to 6.

The curriculum, centered on play and honing creativity, helps children build fine and gross motor skills and supports cognitive and social-emotional development, Bisping said. "We have ample room for our children to play and learn."

The upcoming Savor Cannon Beach Wine Walk is a major fundraiser for the children's center.

"We're an affordable option. We're focused on our students' needs as opposed to dollar signs," Bisping said. "We are not focused on how many kids we can pack into a classroom. We focus on the children."

Onward to Miss Oregon

Contestants take the stage at Miss Clatsop County Scholarship Program

By Katherine Lacaze
EO Media Group

Five contestants will advance to the state stage after winning titles at the Miss Clatsop County Scholarship Program Saturday in Seaside.

Ryen Buys of Seaside won the Miss Clatsop County crown and Tess Rund of Astoria is Miss North Coast.

Pageant weekend started Friday, Feb. 19, with a benefit dinner, which was a chance for the 20 contestants to relax and "have some fun" with family and friends before starting competition in full force, program Director Sandy Newman said. The dinner, attended by about 200 people, also raised money for scholarships. The contestants gave two-minute speeches on their platforms.

Interviews in front of judging panels were held Saturday afternoon, ahead of the main event that evening. During the pageant, the contestants competed in various categories, such as formal wear and talent.

About 700 people attended the event, which normally sells out at 500.

This year, "I have added 250 (seats) because of the number of contestants and the caliber of the contestants," Newman said.

The pageant is the preliminary competition of the Miss Oregon Scholarship Program and is part of the Miss America Organization.



JOSHUA BESSE/EO MEDIA GROUP

Ryen Buys walks out into the spotlight after being crowned Miss Clatsop County 2016 at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center.

For 13-year-old Taryn Miller, of Scappoose, who won Miss Columbia-Pacific's Outstanding Teen, the opportunity to compete in Clatsop County was a pleasure, as Columbia County does not have its own pageant.

"I'm super happy I can compete here," she said.

Miller said she enjoys the whole pageant experience, from gaining confidence to be interviewed by several adults to making friendships with the other girls that endure beyond the end of the night.

Most importantly, the pageant is an opportunity for her to promote her platform, "Lupus — Raising Awareness." Miller's mother has the autoimmune disease.

"I just want everyone to know what lupus is," she said. "It's not curable, so by spreading awareness and other people helping out, I'm hoping we will find a cure later on."

The winners are ...

The three girls from out of county competing in the teen pageant were eligible to win the Miss North Coast's Outstanding Teen and Miss Co-

lumbia-Pacific's Outstanding Teen titles, but not the Miss Clatsop County's Outstanding Teen title, which was reserved for Clatsop girls and won by Caitlin Hillman, 13, of Gearhart.

Nikkole Sasso, 14, of Astoria, won Miss North Coast's Outstanding Teen.

Sasso started in the non-competitive Princess program when she was 5 years old. This was her second year competing in the program at the teen level. She enjoyed the interview process and "learning more about myself and figuring out that what I'm saying, people want to hear," she said.

Sasso not only promotes her platform, the "Astoria Wishing Tree Program," but also volunteers with it, as well.

"It definitely helps get across the point if you're very active with (your platform)," she said.

Buys, 17, of Seaside, won Miss Clatsop County. Buys, a

senior at Seaside High School, did a cheer routine for her talent; her platform is "Shriners Hospital for Children: The Importance of Diagnosing Scoliosis."

The Miss North Coast title was won by Rund, 21, of Astoria, who attends the University of Oregon. Her platform is "The Ideal Body is Your Own."

Of the 20 contestants competing for the Miss or Outstanding Teen titles at the pageant, nine started in the Princess program. Miss Clatsop County Scholarship program is about mentorship, said Newman, who started volunteering with the program in 2000. Just as the contestants are required to have a personal platform, she said her own "personal platform is mentoring to young women and the future leaders of tomorrow through the Miss American Organization."

The teenagers and young women who competed in Clatsop County this year are "just a great group of girls," according to Newman. From the start, they have been prompt, engaged and dedicated. Yet Newman has seen growth and development in confidence and skills, as well, she said.

"For those lucky few who actually win a title and do a year of this, the growth is incredible," she added.

With the field of county representatives narrowed from 20 to five girls, Newman and others now will help the contestants prepare to take the stage at the Miss Oregon Scholarship pageant this summer at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center.

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