

# 'The biggest night of our lives'

## Seaside High School grads celebrate at convention center

By R.J. Marx  
Cannon Beach Gazette

SEASIDE — Hundreds of family members, friends and supporters filled the Seaside Civic and Convention Center Monday night to celebrate the graduation of Seaside High School's class of 2018.

"For many of us, this is the biggest night of our lives," valedictorian Colton Carter said in addressing the audience. "The night we take our first step past the threshold of childhood into the real world."

Carter said classmates will remember people and the feelings in years to come. He traced the class's four years in high school, from 2014 as freshmen to this year, to senior year, "the home stretch of his marathon called high school."

Graduation Day is "a huge turning point," he added, with the diploma representing freedom to make informed decisions and take the next step in life.

Carter capped an evening program that included performances by the school band, chamber choir and a slide presenta-



Class of 2018 at Seaside Civic and Convention Center.

tion honoring each graduate.

Principal Jeff Roberts urged students to take the skills learned in high school and make their mark in the world. "Be kind, be humble and work hard," he advised.

Senior class president Corrie Falleur delivered a roll call as students stepped forward one by one to receive their diplomas from Roberts and district superintendent Sheila Roley distributed diplomas, accompanied by members of the district's board, Lori Lum, Patrick Nofield, Hugh Stelson, Brian Taylor, Mark Truax and Michelle Wunderlich.

Salutatorian Jessica Chisholm de-

scribed senior year as a time of being "on top of the world." She remembered the past four years, with unexpected friendships, obstacles and laughter. "By being here today it is clear that all our hard work and stress has paid off."

The past has shaped who they are now, she said. "We are going in different directions," she said. "But without the lessons high school taught, we wouldn't be where we are today."

She thanked family and friends for support. "High school has come and gone. As Dr. Seuss said, 'Don't cry because it's over — smile because it happened.'"

# Food truck proposal sparks debate

Food Trucks from Page 1A

City Councilor Mike Benefield expressed concerns that food trucks don't fit the aesthetic character of Cannon Beach, and that there were few places in town that could accommodate a "pod" of trailers.

"I love food trucks, but it just doesn't fit here," Benefield said.

Neroni said his proposal centered mostly around allowing businesses with parking lots to operate and manage food trucks on days or times of day when their businesses are closed. This would alleviate competition and parking concerns. It was the proposal he floated to other restaurant owners in town, he said, and it was supported.

As for the competition, Neroni said there was a similar concern when the city was contemplating a farmer's market.

"And we're doing well with the farmer's market. It's not taking away business," he said.

Overall Neroni wants the city to work with the restaura-

nt industry on a solution that allows food carts in a highly regulated way. Reviewing aesthetics, location, seasons of operation and limiting the number of permits the city can issue are all factors the city can regulate and enforce.

Neroni suggested the city form a committee to help design community standards for food trucks like it did when the farmer's market was first conceived.

"This needs to not just be fair for one, but fair for all," Neroni said.

While some hesitations remained, the council came to a consensus to look into ways to accommodate the steadily growing trend of food trucks at a future work session.

"I think food trucks could be a nice addition as long as it's done in the Cannon Beach way," City Councilor Nancy McCarthy said.



# Cannon Beach Academy faces budget shortfall

Academy from Page 1A

"Any break you can give us is much appreciated. It's a slower growth than we would like, but it's still growing."

City Councilor Mike Benefield voted to allow the city manager to sign the \$100 lease, but raised concerns about the school finances in the long run.

"When we negotiated the first time, we started low in the hopes of building up to something like \$1,000. It was built on hopes that the viability of the school would justify a higher rent," Benefield said. "It appears to me that's not the case."

Academy director Amy Moore said the budget shortfall is driven by a variety of unexpected renovation costs and a lag in people paying their pledged donations. The school still owes about \$26,000 for costs associated with installing a fire safety system a figure above their estimates, Moore said. Food, payroll and health care expenses also have exceeded what the board expected when the school budget was designed.

But one of the largest losses in revenue has been a



Poppy Stapleton turns in an assignment at the Cannon Beach Academy.

larger than expected attrition rate for pledges the academy was expecting to receive from donors. When the school began crafting its budget, they expected about \$155,000 in pledged donations, which factored in a 20 percent attrition rate, Moore said. The actual rate of people not paying their pledges has reached closer to 35 percent, meaning the academy has not received about \$54,000 they were expecting.

Moore suspects the shortfall is in part due to some confusion around what counted as the "first year" of the acad-

emy, as the opening of the school was delayed multiple years from when some donors made their pledge. Moore also said some could just be waiting to gauge the success the academy after its first year before committing any more money.

While the academy has faced many ups and downs, success for the academy in the future is a vision about which Moore feels confident. With 35 students enrolled and third grade added to the roster, Moore hopes to have 50 students walking through the

doors by the beginning of the school.

The school still has future funding hurdles to jump. Without 50 students, the academy would not receive enough funding to add another teacher and janitor — two positions the school needs. The academy is also waiting to hear back from the Department of Justice on an Oregon Department of Education grant, which makes up about \$200,000 of the \$675,000 in revenue they project having for fiscal year 2018-2019. With a larger student body, board members are hoping to form a committee next year as well to organize more consistent fundraising efforts.

"We're optimistic, we were naive, but we're making it work and we're growing," Rouse said.



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