



Police changing response to mental health incidents

Crisis intervention training helps regional law enforcement prepare to deal with mental health scenarios

By Katherine Lacaze
Seaside Signal

During a three-day Crisis Intervention Training presented by Performance Leadership Institute, law enforcement agencies from

throughout Clatsop County became better equipped to deal with mental health crisis situations they frequently encounter in the field.

The training took place June 3 through 5 at Camp Rilea and Providence Seaside Hospital. Per-

formance Leadership Staff, which includes past and present law enforcement officers from all levels and licensed mental health professionals, and guest speakers lectured on the crisis cycle, mental health didactics, legal concerns, peace officer holds, the police culture, available local resources and suicide by cop, or instances when individuals perpetrate crimes to provoke an of-

ficer's response with the intention of committing suicide.

Nearly 30 personnel from Clatsop County Sheriff's Office, Seaside Police Department, Cannon Beach Police Department and Warrenton Police Department received basic information on mental health, as well as in-depth knowledge about particular disorders, such as autism, Asperger syndrome, bipolar disorder,

excited delirium, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety and schizophrenia, among others.

Performance Leadership Institute has been in contract with the Oregon Health Authority since October 2014 to offer the training in various counties around the state at no cost to local agencies.

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Gearhart adopts 2015-16 budget

The Harbor benefits from last-minute Gearhart budget allocation

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

As the City of Gearhart moved to fill the gap by reinstating a fence ordinance, the council acted to adopt the 2015-16 budget at its monthly meeting Wednesday, June 3.

Total resources in the general fund are 1.468 million, about a 2 percent rise from the 2014-15 budget. The amount covers \$466,819 for the police department; \$358,622 for the fire department; \$114,519 for the parks department and \$260,577 for administrative expenses, among other appropriations. A last minute allocation added \$1,000 to the nonprofit Astoria-based shelter, The Harbor.

There were no comments from the public prior to the budget vote.

The city council also took action by voting to impose taxes for the city's road district budget, appropriating \$99,100 for the general maintenance, repair and construction of roads and bridges.

Members of the council also voted to fix the compensation for the city attorney, chief of police, fire chief, auditor, treasure and judge, and to extend workers compensation to volunteers of the fire department, Planning Commission, CERT team and other organizations. The coverage amount is set at \$1,600.

At the meeting, Mayor Dianne Widdop read a letter from Julie Soderberg, Executive Director of The Harbor, which provides funding for those seeking services after experience sexual assault.

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'The BEST class ever'



Class President Calvin Pollard addresses his class.

JEFF TER HAR PHOTO

Seaside High School celebrates 99th graduation

96 students awarded diplomas at commencement ceremony

By Katherine Lacaze
Seaside Signal

Appreciation for the past, excitement in the present and optimism about the future were on the minds and lips of seniors from Seaside High School's Class of 2015 during the 99th Commencement Exercise on Monday night.

In front of a packed Pacific Room at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center, senior class president and valedictorian Calvin Pollard summed up his advice for his fellow graduates, and the student body as a whole, using word play directly relatable to them because of Seaside's location: ocean puns.

First, "be 'shore' of yourself," he said, encouraging his peers to be confident in their decisions and the ways they express themselves and to learn from their mistakes. The second piece of advice: Come out of your shell. As the students embark on the next phase of their journey, he said, they ought to be extroverted — at least every once in a while — in order to meet new people and have an array of daring, challenging and character-building experiences.

"Go explore life. Go out and find a niche," Pollard said.

Thirdly, he shared, they should "take time to coast," which means



Josh Chestnut receives his diploma.

JEFF TER HAR PHOTO

living in the moment, enjoying simple pleasures and making an effort to "sea" life's beauty.

"It's a cliché, but it's one a lot of us need to practice," he said.

Lastly, he encouraged his fellow graduates to "make waves," in one way or another, whether big or small. The things they do, he said, should make a mark, compel people to remember them and positively affect those around them.

"Don't leave this world without doing something like that, without stamping your claim into the ground," he said.

Leaving a lasting impression or legacy was a common theme during the commencement ceremony, which saw 96 Seaside seniors receive their high school diplomas.

The chorus of "I Was Here," written by Lady Antebellum, arranged by Alan Billingsley and performed by members of Seaside High School's Chamber Choir, summed up that repeated sentiment: "I wanna do something that matters, say something different, something that sets the whole world on its ear."

"I wanna do something better with the time I've been given and I wanna try to touch a few hearts

in this life; leave nothing less than something that says 'I was here,'" states the lyrics to the song, which featured solos by seniors Rebecca Misho and Luke Surber.

Valedictorian Allison Kilday echoed the idea of expecting greatness from themselves, even if they don't know precisely what that will look like. When she was entering high school, she said, her mom handed her a book on writing speeches and said, "Allison, it's never too early to write your valedictorian speech." As a freshman, she said, she was not entirely sure what shape her high school experience would take, but always before her was the belief it would be noteworthy and help her achieve a spot among the top-ranked students in her class. She encouraged her fellow graduates to take the same approach to life outside the walls of Seaside High School.

"We have a whole new adventure to live out," she said.

She also paid tribute to the people who got the Class of 2015 to their place on stage for a symbolic ceremony denoting one of the most significant adolescent achievements. Those people, she said, include parents, family members, coaches, teachers and community volunteers.

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Muscle and Chrome ready to flex

Cougar owner Fobert drives 'signature car'

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Muscle cars and their proud owners are coming to downtown Seaside for the Seaside Downtown Development Association's 12th annual Seaside Muscle & Chrome car show to be held June 19 and 20.

Among them will be Rod Fobert, who has been participating in the Father's Day weekend car show in Seaside since 2006. His Cougar will be this year's signature car. "I love going to cruise-ins to see all of the great classic cars and also for the camaraderie," Fobert, a Milwaukie resident, said. "I take my Cougar to many cruise-ins throughout the year — mostly the summer months. I especially enjoy car shows at the

coast though, and also regularly attend the Rod Run to the End of the World in Long Beach, and also in Lincoln City, in addition to Seaside.

Fobert is a member of the car club, The Unlimiteds, a group of friends and car people in Oregon that have built their cars. There are 12 members, with cars that include a 1966 Chevelle, 1970 Dodge Super Bee, and 1968 Camaro. "I have owned my 1967 Cougar XR7 ever since the beginning of my senior year of high school in 1982," he said. "It has been through many different 'phases' over the years. This is all thanks to the help of my life-long friends — we all help each other out with our cars and have started our



Dodge Charger Daytona on display at the 2013 Muscle & Chrome Car Show.

JEFF TER HAR PHOTO

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Downtown herb is curbed in Seaside

Highway 420 owner urges city to look ahead

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

The Seaside City Council moved ahead with a plan to prohibit medical marijuana dispensaries in the city's Broadway core. After a year-long moratorium on dispensaries, Monday night's vote was one step closer to excluding portions of the city from the sales of medical marijuana.

The council found an unusual ally in the plan to block medicinal pot sales from the city core, business owner Steve Geiger of Highway 420, an herbal paraphernalia

store and vape shop. He endorsed the downtown core exclusions, but urged the city to "embrace" legislative changes. "I would agree that I don't think medical marijuana is right for Broadway," he told the council. "Recreational marijuana is a different story. The tourist communities that embrace cannabis are going to boom, and you've got to get on the bus or get left behind it."

The legislation sets restrictions on where medical marijuana dispensaries can operate and allows the city to distribute business licenses to dispensaries, according to City Manager Mark Winstanley.

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