

Seniors volunteer time, skills in community

Students share testimonies at 23 annual Pacifica Project Presentations

By Katherine Lacaze
Seaside Signal

When Seaside High School Chris Anguiano made the pun, “We had to think outside the box on this one,” he was referring to the Pacifica Project he did with three other seniors that involved creating a scaled-down model of a Native American cedar plank house with a box for the foundation that doubles as a carrying case.

Anguiano’s statement simultaneously referred to the creativity required of the four students as they could not use nails, screws or other modern equipment to hold together the final structure, which was built as an educational tool for the Seaside Museum and Historical Society. Anguiano and his team – seniors Jensen Liu, Pedro Martinez and Bradley Weber — were among more than 90 students who presented their projects to judging panels and the community at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center on May 27.

‘A Short Story of a Long House’

Anguiano, Liu, Martinez and Weber were looking for an enjoyable project to do, and Hawes had received a letter from the museum about a project creating a replica of a Native American long house. Tom Horning, a local geologist, took the students on a few trips to gather cedar and showed them how to split the wood, which is chosen because it is strong, weather-resistant, versatile and abundant in this area. The students used a puzzle method with ropes to tie together small pieces of wood to create longer beams, a crucial part of the structure. “It’s indestructible,” Martinez said.

“Or close,” Anguiano added.

‘Inspire CHAOS — Supporting the Arts’

Seniors Rebecca Misho and Hayleigh Nagle, for their project, set about combating the loss of funding and support encountered by creative and fine arts in the public school system. In November 2014, they put on an event called Inspired CHAOS, which stands for Creative



During the annual Pacifica Project Presentations at Seaside Civic and Convention Center on May 27, Seaside High School Seniors Hayleigh Nagle, left, and Rebecca Misho give a presentation on the event, Inspire CHAOS, which they put on in November 2014 to raise money for performing and fine arts at the high school.

KATHERINE LACAZE PHOTO

Hearts and Old Souls, to fundraise for the high school’s choir and other arts programs. They chose the name, Misho said, because “what is life, but one chaotic roller coaster?” Planning the event, she added, lived up to the name, as it was both students’ first time organizing something of that caliber. “Becca and I both really had to put ourselves

outside of our comfort zones to pull this off,” Nagle said.

Misho agreed, adding, “Though stress got to each of us, we kept it together, knowing it would lead to something great.” The event was a collaboration with Holiday Helpers, a program operated through the Seaside Elks. Holiday Helpers sold raffle tickets that were drawn at the

event. The approximately \$650 raised will go toward providing Thanksgiving food baskets for those in need.

Serving the local food bank

Seniors Tristine Geer, Joey Jones, Floyd Stinson and Cassidy Williams volunteered at the South County

Community Food Bank under the mentorship of managing director Karla Gann. Their work included a donation drive to obtain personal care items, from hand sanitizer to tissues. Some of their other responsibilities included stocking shelves, folding clothes, recycling boxes, taking out trash and repackaging bulk foods. They discussed the food bank’s mission, volunteers, products and clientele. The pantry is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to receive donations and volunteer help. Each member of the group said they would be willing to do the project again, or continue volunteering at the food pantry. “It’s good to give back to our community,” Geer said.

Others from the 96-member group comprising the Class of 2015 spent their time putting on plays and fashion shows, coaching sports, mentoring the Broadway Middle School robotics team, assisting the Northwest Outdoor School and Seaside Kids Inc., making care packages for the troops, cleaning beaches and other natural environments, helping with Providence Seaside Hospital Foundation’s Festival of Trees and doing numerous other projects.

Camp Kiwanilong gets grant to make repairs, renovations

Site ready for Summer Youth Program to start June 21

By Katherine Lacaze
Seaside Signal

Camp Kiwanilong has been named a Gray Family Foundation “Success Story” after obtaining and implementing a \$35,000 maintenance grant and nearly \$17,500 matching funds to spruce up the 270-acre site in Warrenton that has generated countless camp memories for nearly 80 years.

The Camp Kiwanilong Board of Directors and volunteers, along with several contractors, have been busy the past year using the money to eliminate a number of items from the camp’s deferred maintenance projects list.

“Getting the grant was a bonus – just a shot in the arm,” said Marge Huddleston, vice chair of the volunteer Camp Kiwanilong Board.

In April 2014, the Gray Family Foundation board approved Camp Kiwanilong’s Camp Maintenance Fund proposal and awarded a 50 percent matching grant, which means the foundation gave \$2, up to \$35,000, for every \$1 raised by the camp, whether through monetary donations, donated materials or committed volunteer labor. Overall, the board raised more than \$52,000 to upgrade or fix only existing camp facilities, which is a criterion

for Camp Maintenance grant recipients.

The camp, which is located between Long Lake and a wooded area bordering the ocean near Fort Stevens, received donations from about 100 area individuals and businesses, Huddleston said, adding, “a lot of local companies are generous with donating their time, services or products.”

Kiwanilong was one of 13 camps in Oregon in 2014 to receive the \$35,000 grant, which is awarded each year to facilities that “have maintenance and improvement needs, serve Outdoor School, are geographically dispersed and reflect the Gray Family Foundation’s values regarding inclusion and multi-cultural diversity,” according to the foundation’s website.

“We were selected because of the good work we were doing, but we were in need of some help,” Huddleston said. “It was kind of an honor to be chosen a ‘Success Story.’ They wanted to put us on their website. It felt good.”

With the grant money, Camp Kiwanilong was able to complete 11 maintenance projects on several camp facilities. Some repairs to the Boyington Lodge, the main gathering spot, included rehabilitating ill-functioning windows and doors; refinishing the main room floor; restoring kitchen cabinets, walls and work areas; repairing waterline problems under the sink and dishwasher; making

the fireplace and chimney efficient and safe; repairing the interior log walls and removing rot on an exterior wall. Two Pioneer Cabins got new foundations and siding repairs. The food storage building also received repairs; three facilities were pressure washed and treated; and the camp removed hazardous trees and limbs along paths and in the main camp area.

While the facilities are very rustic – “they’re never going to be the Taj Mahal,” Huddleston said – the grant accounted for big improvements and, more importantly, allowed the camp to knock out a greater number of deferred projects in a single year. The camp had to complete or at least start all the projects by Oct. 1, 2014, but could begin implementation as soon as funds were received. The board now has until June 1 to turn in a final report.

Summer program and year-round use

Camp Kiwanilong, or “Camp K,” is well-known for its resident Summer Youth Program, when the camp hosts about 100 young campers for a week at a time. The Summer Youth Program, which is in its 37th year, will operate six weeks this summer, from June 21 to Aug. 1. Each session has a different theme, and the camp is offering a shorter session, from July 14 to 18, for third- through sixth-graders. Session five, from July 19 to 25, is targeted for older



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Inside the Boyington Lodge at Camp Kiwanilong, in Warrenton, repairs and additions included chinking, replacing lodge cabinets and doors and strip lighting.

youth in grades seven through nine. The other four sessions are open for all third- through eighth-graders.

Because of donated funds from many Friends of Camp Kiwanilong, the camp can offer financial assistance, known as Sparkyships, to many Clatsop County children who are in need. The Sparkyships often are based on teacher recommendations.

The camp also offers a two-year Counselor-In-Training program, where older youth focus on learning and developing techniques to serve physically and mentally disadvantaged youth and incorporate those campers into the general population. The counselor program requires two summers of training. It is open for youth who have completed ninth grade, are

age 15 or older and have been accepted into the program, which will run from June 28 through July 11.

History of the camp

Camp Kiwanilong’s first week-long youth camp, directed by Neal Maine, was in July 1975. That was the same year Clatsop County leased the camp to an independent board of directors, which currently has nine members, to operate and maintain the facility as a nonprofit organization. The board signed a 99-year lease with payments of \$1 per year, Huddleston said.

The Astoria Kiwanis Club sponsored the original project to build Camp Kiwanilong in 1936, but the Great Depression-era Works Project Administration cleared the land and built trails. The camp

then was leased to the Girl Scouts of America from 1936 to 1975.

Besides hosting the Summer Youth Program, the site also is used throughout the year by various groups, such as the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, the Linfield College Track Team, the Columbia County 4-H program, church groups and numerous others. The site also is used for weddings and family reunions. The most recent data shows 2,261 youth and 1,846 adults used the camp site in 2014. Prior to that, 4,337 individuals were hosted in 2013 and 3,500 in 2012. The site’s capacity is about 140 for over-night events.

Camp Kiwanilong is a budget camp and its only paid staff member is Ranger Amy Koch, who works part time. Groups are required to bring their own staff members, if needed.

To bring awareness to the camp and allow donors to see where their money has gone, Huddleston said, the camp is holding a public open house from 1 to 4 p.m., June 6. During the event, attendees can tour Camp Kiwanilong and see the completed projects. For more information, call (503) 861-2933 or www.campkiwanilong.org, or call (503) 298-0767 to register for camp.

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