

Miss Oregon crowned in Seaside

Pageant punctuated by love for retiring executive director Dana Phillips

By McKinley Smith
EO Media Group

The Miss Oregon pageant Saturday, June 27 was all about family.

Ali Wallace, of Portland, was crowned Miss Oregon the same night the organization celebrated the retirement of Dana Phillips, the longtime executive director of the scholarship program. The pageant event came to Seaside June 24, with the Miss Oregon contestant winning her crown at the Saturday completion.

"It's crazy because I've grown up watching the pageant," Wallace said. "So to be included in the sisterhood is just surreal, and it's hard to fathom."

Wallace is the daughter of Tammy Fazzolari Wallace, who was Miss Oregon in 1987. "Now she's my mom and my sister," Wallace joked, referring to the sisterhood of the Miss Oregon pageant winners.

Of the Clatsop County competitors, one girl from Seaside was honored in the top five for the Miss Oregon's Outstanding Teen pageant. Miss Columbia River Olivia Colburn, 15, was fourth runner-up in what was her second pageant. Last year, she got third runner-up but the pool of teen contestants was smaller.

"It was nice to get in the top five again," she said, and rewarding to know her hard work paid off.

She got involved with the program last year as a way to test her dance skills against others' talents. "I just really like the competition part of it, because I've done dance my entire life, and my studio doesn't dance competitively," she said.



Ali Wallace, of Portland, reacts after being crowned Miss Oregon 2015 during the Miss Oregon scholarship pageant at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center Saturday. More photos at www.dailyastorian.com



Miss Clatsop County Alexis Mather walks across the stage during the evening-wear portion of the Miss Oregon at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center Saturday, June 27.

For the talent category this year, she performed a pointe routine to an instrumental version of Sam Smith's "Stay With Me." Besides the talent category, which gave her an opportunity to perform and compete in front of a live audience, she also enjoyed the evening wear category.

Alexis Mather, Miss Clatsop County, received a \$1,500 scholarship as fourth runner-up in the Miss Oregon pageant. She received \$3,250 total in scholarships from the Miss Oregon pageant. Mather excelled Wednesday in the lifestyle and fitness swimsuit preliminary and Thursday in the preliminary talent competition with her operatic performance of "Nessun Dorma." Her platform issue was be a mentor your own way.

Miss North Coast Hannah Garhofer did not make it into the Top 10, but she did receive

the Tiffany Phillips Memorial Scholar-Athlete Award of \$1,000. As a teen contestant, she automatically received an additional \$200.

The event was punctuated with outpourings of love and support for Phillips from members of the pageant community, including former Miss Oregons.

"Every time I think about it I start crying," Phillips said. "I thought I was out of tears, but I keep crying."

"The outpouring was overwhelming to me and my husband," she added.

Now that she's stepped down as executive director, Phillips will be able to devote time to the Oregon Scholarship Foundation — she hopes to increase the amount of scholarships available from \$60,000 to more than a \$100,000 for contestants.

Miss Happy Valley Hailey Kilgore was crowned Miss Oregon's Outstanding Teen.



Miss North Coast Hannah Garhofer waves to the crowd during the Seaside parade Saturday, June 27.



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