

# Seaside Hall of Famers talk life, love and war

## Past, present inductees participate in 2015 Hall of Fame Program

By Katherine Lacaze  
Seaside Signal

If national best-selling author and Seaside Hall of Fame member Karl Marlantes could do anything in his life differently, he told Seaside High School students during the 2015 Hall of Fame Program held Sept. 25, "I would have talked to more girls."

Not "hooking up," he clarified, as several students laughed. But life brings us in contact with lots of interesting people, and Marlantes wishes his shyness had not kept him from getting to know and befriend more of those people — especially members of the opposite sex of whom he was particularly intimidated.

Marlantes was one of 12 past and present inductees who returned to their alma mater to address students the day before the Hall of Fame induction ceremony and banquet Sept. 26. The program was a new feature added during the last Seaside Hall of Fame induction ceremony in 2013.

The question of what he would do differently was one of several posed by high school students listening to Marlantes share about growing up in Seaside, fighting in the Vietnam War, working as an international consultant and writing an award-winning novel that took more than 30 years to publish.

Marlantes was born in Seaside in 1944, attended Seaside High School and graduated in 1963. "A lot is the same," he said. He played football on a team that went to a state championship; worked in the cafeteria scraping dishes alongside his grandmother, the school's cook; and roamed the same halls and classrooms as the students who attend the high school today.

One big difference was that for Marlantes and other male high school students, the draft hovered in their future like an unappealing inevitability.

"It was kind of like income tax," he explained. No one wanted to do it, but everyone expected to, he added. At 18, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps.

On a National Merit Scholarship, he attended Yale University for undergraduate studies. From there, he became a Rhodes Scholar and spent a term at University College in Oxford, England. However, guilt from seeing his fellow classmates serve overseas drove him to volunteer for active duty. In a matter of days, he was dropped in the Vietnam jungle with other service members to fight in a war that would be the topic of his award-winning book, "Matterhorn: A Novel of the Vietnam War."

Marlantes finished the book in the 1970s, after returning from combat and finishing his education at Oxford. It took 35 years after its completion to get the book published in 2010, he said. A year later, after



Author and Seaside Hall of Fame member Karl Marlantes, class of 1963, addresses students at the high school Sept. 25.

"Matterhorn" met with success, Marlantes published a second book, "What It Is Like To Go To War."

The formula to finding success as a writer, he told students, is "a combination of keeping your head down and not giving up, and luck."

"It's the nature of the beast; it's an industry," he said.

Marlantes recently completed a third book, which now sits in the hands of his publisher, along with his hope.

"Even after two successful books, as a writer, you don't know," he said.

The key is to approach writing like any other job: you get up in the morning and do it, whether you feel like it or not, he said.

Author Polly Campbell, class of 1986, also touched on the writing profession. She encouraged the young listeners to confront obstacles and adversity with the belief that "you can do this."

Campbell grew up in Seaside, a member of Seaside Heights Elementary School's original class. In first grade, she was diagnosed with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis. Because of that, she said, "I learned early on that I wasn't ever going to fit in, in the way I wanted."

"It has influenced, in the best way possible, everything I do today and everything I've done," she said.

In lieu of playing outside during recess, she



Author and motivational speaker Polly Campbell, a member of the Seaside High School Hall of Fame, speaks with a student.

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spent hours in the library, poring over biographies of world-changing leaders, like Mahatma Gandhi. One thing she found in common between these celebrities and leaders, along with herself, was they all faced difficulties and overcame them.

Instead of backing down from adversity, large or small, she advised students, "get curious about it." Growing up, she wanted to play basketball, an activity seemingly incompatible with her affliction. She started as a manager for the high school team — learning to keep score so they'd have to take her along to games, she joked — and she would fill in at practices. Finally, she got the chance to play in a game. She didn't do it particularly well, but she did it, and that sense of accomplishment is what she remembers, she said.

"I created that experience for myself," she said.

Throughout life, the students will receive a lot of feedback from others, both negative and positive.

"Weed out what's accurate for you," she said. "When you know you're capable of coping and managing and

learning from your decisions, you're free to do anything." Lastly, she encouraged the students to participate in their lives and engage experiences surrounding them.

"Do not sit on the bench," she said. "Show up, get a job, call your mom."

Create "a life that makes you happy," she added. "Own both your success and failure. When you are accountable for the things that don't go well, you can reap the awards of what does go well."

Others speakers for the 2015 Hall of Fame program included Ben Archibald, a professional football player; Ed Johnson, and educator, coach and environmental advocate and activist; Jill Gann, an educator and coach; Michelle Hawken Wunderlich, owner of Seaside Coffee House; Kelli Truax-Taylor, co-owner of Bruce's Candy Kitchen; Dan Clark, a visual effects artist and cinematographer; Jordan Lewis, a professor and international researcher; Jorjett Strumme, a Hollywood designer and stylist; Dawn Buzzard, the senior deputy district attorney in Clatsop County; and Rebecca Olson, a professor of Shakespeare.

## Teachers don't like Cannon Beach Academy proposal

### Parents also have concerns about school

By Dani Palmer  
EO Media Group

Teachers with Seaside School District 10 took the opportunity to stand and speak against a proposed charter school in Cannon Beach during a school board meeting Tuesday, Sept. 15. In a reversal of the August hearing, the majority of those who testified, including parents, opposed the school.

"It isn't an 'us vs. them,'" parent Michelle Wunderlich said. "I'm not against the charter school. I'm just very much for a strong district for everyone."

She said the charter would take away financially from the district. "It's affecting the whole pie too much for such a small piece," Wunderlich added.

Chuck Albright, a third-grade teacher at Gearhart Elementary School, echoed Wunderlich's sentiments. He said all students need an "excellent education" and the wants of 75 students should not be placed ahead of the needs of 1,500.

He added that there would be diminished quality in the district regardless of the teachers' skills.

Without incentives, Gearhart fourth-grade teacher Sena Bergquist said she doesn't see how Cannon Beach Academy would attract the same high caliber teachers. And with the loss of up to 85 students, she's also concerned about how funding cuts would "negatively affect" the other schools.

Cannon Beach Academy Board of Directors President Ryan Hull said he sees a reduction in class sizes as a benefit for Seaside schools.

After the meeting he said the district would receive 20 percent of what the charter would get per student from the state if it sponsors the academy.

Seaside Union President John Meyer handed over a list of 11 points against the charter school signed by a dozen people, the majority of whom were district teachers. Meyer said he is not comfortable with the academy's curriculum and would only be OK with a

school in Cannon Beach if it is managed by the district.

### A sense of belonging

Hull said Cannon Beach Academy wants to be a part of the district. If the school district supports the academy rather than the state, he added, there would be "set checks and balances." The academy would have to give annual reports and could be closed if it doesn't meet measurable goals.

"We're part of the district still," he said. "We're not an outside entity, but we are different."

The academy would have its own curriculum which, Hull admitted, wouldn't be for everyone. But it would provide options that would benefit many students, he added.

Seaside's Kevin Widenor joined Hull in speaking on behalf of the academy. He said Cannon Beach residents pay a "great deal of taxes" and deserve their own school, one he thinks will work for students.

Cannon Beach Elementary was closed in 2013 for financial reasons and fears for student safety. The building lies in the tsunami inundation zone. The charter school has already been denied twice by the district, citing lack of an adequate location and secure start-up funds.

Hull addressed those concerns in August. The school has a conditional use permit from the Cannon Beach Planning Commission allowing it to modify and occupy a ground-floor portion of the former Athletic Club at 171 Sunset Blvd., and the academy has collected donations and created a balanced three-year budget.

Meyer read through the charter's proposal and said "the numbers just don't match," adding he doesn't think the academy would even be able to receive bank financing.

Cannon Beach Academy officials would like to meet with district officials to work through such concerns, Hull said.

### Thirty day review

Under state law, the school district has 30 days to ensure a charter's application is complete, which it



DOUG DOUGHERTY

did on June 22. It then has 60 days to hold a public hearing, which occurred on Aug. 18, and 30 days after that to render a decision. Hull argued that the continued hearing went over that allotted time frame. Under that statute, he said, a decision concerning the charter school's fate should have been issued by Thursday.

Despite feeling the school district went over the legal time frame, Hull added that the academy's board has voted to work with Seaside 10 over the next 30 days.

"At the end of the day, my goal is focused on getting a public charter school for Cannon Beach," he said. "If that means 30 days more, we'll take it."

Under state law, the State Board of Education may also grant an extension of the timeline "if the district has good cause for requesting the extension."

Superintendent Doug Dougherty said both parties agreed to the extension.

At the end of day, what matters is that the district can trust the academy to be safe with the students, financially stable and educationally strong, Hull said. If Cannon Beach Academy meets that criteria, the school should be approved, he added.

Dougherty said the school board will look to state criteria for its decision making.

The board has 30 days to issue a decision. If it says no for a third time, Cannon Beach Academy could again appeal to the State Board of Education.

The next school board meeting is Oct. 18.

## Seaside School District seeks buyer for 13 acres on Clatsop Plains

### District says it doesn't need vacant property

By Katherine Lacaze  
Seaside Signal

Seaside School District 10 needs a Realtor. At its Sept. 13 meeting the board authorized the sale of 13 vacant acres on the Clatsop Plains near Warrenton.

The property, zoned for residential or agricultural use, consists of three neighboring parcels.

"At this point, what the board would like to do is contact a Realtor and just find out what our options are with this piece of property," Superintendent Doug Dougherty said.

The school board has the option to declare district property as surplus and authorize its disposal if it is no longer useful to the district.

The district received the Clatsop Plains property as a gift from a family in the 1960s. At this point, the board does not see a future need for the property, Dougherty said.

### Enrollment numbers steady

At the meeting, Dougherty also shared approximate enrollment numbers for the 2015-16 school year. Gearhart Elementary School has 295 students enrolled; Seaside Heights Elementary School, 461; Broadway Middle School, 335; and Seaside High School, 435. Total enrollment is 1,526.

Dougherty said these numbers represent the students in class the day data was collected. Official enrollment numbers were submitted to the Oregon

Department of Education Thursday.

In general, Dougherty said, "we are just about the same as we have been for the past four or five years."

As per the Sept. 15 numbers, Broadway Middle School's enrollment for 2015-16 decreased by about 6.4 percent from the 2014-15 school year, which included 358 students, according to the Department of Education.

At Seaside High School, there was an increase of less than 1 percent, or from 431 students in 2014-15 to 435 students in 2015-16.

Seaside Height's enrollment also increased by about 10 percent, or up from 418 in 2014-15.

Gearhart Elementary School's enrollment fell by about 11 percent, down from 332 in 2014-15.

## Juried art show to benefit The Harbor

Seaview Manor Bazaar at Seaview Manor presents a juried art show and handmade crafts Friday, Oct. 23, and Saturday, Oct. 24, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Seaview Manor is located at 135 12th Ave.,

Seaside. The event features juried art and handmade crafts by local and international artisans including holiday and personal items, home décor and gifts.

Items are priced between \$5 and \$400. Pro-

ceeds are donated to The Harbor, the domestic violence and sexual assault resource center serving Clatsop County; for more information, visit [seaviewmanorbazaar.blogspot.com](http://seaviewmanorbazaar.blogspot.com).

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