

Journey is 'the most important part'

Miss O from Page 1A

Her victory was decided by a score determined from the swimsuit competition, evening wear, on-stage response and talent. Mather drew a large applause from the crowd during the talent section when she belted the opera song, "Nessun Dorma."

Mather will now travel to Atlantic City, New Jersey, where she will compete for the title of Miss America on Sept. 11. Win or lose, Miss Oregon will have a busy year of traveling, appearances and involvement in charity events.

Mather said winning the crown represents a small piece of the entire experience. "The journey is the most important part," she said. "I'm so thankful God put me in this position."

Passing the crown

Ali Wallace, of Portland, who won the title last year, passed her crown to Mather.

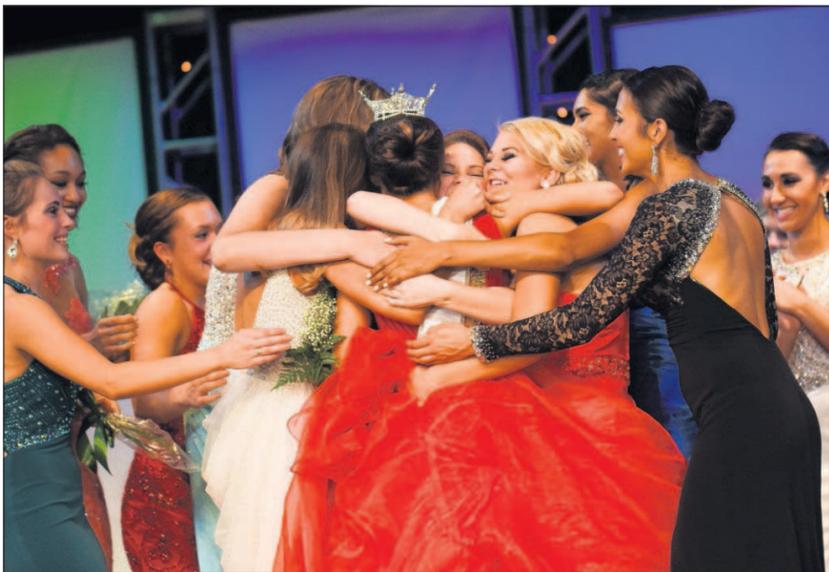
Wallace was the second in her family to win the contest, as her mother Tammy Wallace was Miss Oregon in 1987. "It's bittersweet because it's been my identity for the last year, but I'm excited to accomplish my other goals in life," Wallace said.

Prior to winning the crown, Wallace had never left the West Coast. Within the past year she's been to New York, New Jersey and even Japan representing her home state. She took this last year of school off to make all the travel events and appearances, but has begun taking classes again at Portland State and plans on finishing up her degree this year.

Locals on stage

Mather wasn't the only contestant to hail from nearby as Miss North Coast, Tess Rund, and Miss Clatsop County, Ryen Buys, also competed in the pageant.

Buys won the People's Choice Award in votes cast prior to the event. The award



Contestants surround the newly crowned Miss Oregon Alexis Mather during the Miss Oregon competition on Saturday in Seaside.

'The journey is the most important part. I'm so thankful God put me in this position.'

Alexis Mather



Miss Clatsop Ryen Buys waves to the crowd during the Miss Oregon competition on Saturday, July 2, 2016, at the Seaside Convention Center in Seaside, Ore.

qualified her to advance to the top 11, but her quest for the crown would end there.

"I looked out and saw so many people and local businesses here to support me, that was really great," Buys said. "It's been a time consuming last few weeks, but amazing getting to know all these girls."

Dana Phillips had been the director of Miss Oregon since 1986, but this was her first year not running the show. That's not to say she wasn't involved.

Phillips and her husband, Steve, are in charge of the Oregon Scholarship Foundation, which oversees the scholarship money for the contestants. "I might have retired from the

day-to-day tasks for Miss Oregon but I'll always be heavily involved with the organization," laughed Phillips.

Miss Outstanding Teen contest

The contest for Miss Oregon's Outstanding Teen was interwoven into the premier event with the younger girls participating in similar pageant disciplines.

Taryn Miller, Miss Teen Columbia-Pacific, won fourth runner-up. Also on stage were Miss Teen Clatsop County, Caitlin Hillman, and Miss Teen North Coast, Nikkole Sasso.

Moving up

Mather will now travel to Atlantic City, New Jersey, where she will compete for the title of Miss America on Sept. 11. The nationally televised event will feature women from all fifty states going up against each other in the same diverse fields of competition. Win or lose, Miss Oregon will have a busy year of traveling, appearances and involvement in charity events.

For Mather, winning the crown represents a small piece of the entire experience. "The journey is the most important part," she said after the crowning. "I'm so thankful God put me in this position."

Gearhart rental rules draw divisive debate

Gearhart from Page 1A

Heated discussion

The council discussion came after a heated comment period. "Hats off to everyone involved," said Matt Brown. He said the rules would make more homes available for long-term rentals and affordable housing. "I think this would be a good example of a responsible way to handle this that other communities in Clatsop County could follow."

David Russell said short-term rentals represent a "sea change in our community, with a constant turnover of short-term rentals." He said transient lodging needs to be controlled and regulated "very strongly."

Opponents to the rules blamed a handful of bad owners for short-term rental abuses.

"I think we are looking for a problem where there is none," David Remer, who owns several properties in Gearhart, said. "I'm adamant about going after the issue, not the philosophy of 'strangers' coming to our town. We already have xenophobia. It's a national

issue. Where are we going with this? Hold me accountable. Make people behave. Fine me, toss me, do whatever you need to do, but give me a chance to do this properly."

Portland attorney Dean Alterman appeared on behalf of five homeowners. He said the proposed rules have "no factual base," and cannot be adopted by the city without one.

If the rules are ratified by councilors, voters would have a 30-day period to call for a referendum, City Attorney Peter Watts said, with an additional 90 days to collect petition signatures.

If those signatures are collected, the referendum would be placed on the ballot. "If this were adopted quickly and you got signatures quickly, this could be on the ballot within the November period," Watts said. "If not it would go to a special election in February."

"We're not attempting to eliminate short-term rentals," Mayor Dianne Widdop said. "What we are attempting to do is let everyone who has a short-term rental keep it and use it within the regulation."



Paula Madden, left, and David Remer, right, voice their opinions on proposed short-term rental regulations.



Gearhart residents and community members fill all the seats at the Gearhart Fire Station during a public hearing about Gearhart short-term rentals Tuesday.

Parade and more highlight the holiday

Parade from Page 1A

She was at the Seaside parade for the first time, along with a small group of friends.

She described them as "holiday freaks" who enjoy celebrating the spirit of each holiday to its fullest. The group was decked in sweaters printed with American-flags and fingernails painted with stars and stripes.

James Maki, of Kirkland, Washington, noted how parades are tinged in nostalgia because the concept of marching or proceeding through a city "started as a projection of military power." Historically, parades were used after victorious military conflicts to celebrate the homecoming of troops. Take, for instance, the well-known New York City Victory Parade of 1946, which celebrated the end of World War II. Today, they are a quintessential festivity reminiscent of earlier decades, a tradition passed down through generations.

Maki was visiting Seaside along with his brother and sister-in-law and their three school-aged daughters. Traveling to Seaside to commem-

orate the Fourth of July and vacation over the holiday is, for them, a family tradition. The girls said they enjoy watching the parade because of the music, the distribution of candy and the opportunity to "see the cool things," which this year included children riding unicycles, pageant winners, singing pirates, roller derby skaters, Sasquatch on wheels and a bevy of other colorful sights and sounds.

For Seaside's Jeremy Mills it is the pageantry — "the colors, the music, the excitement, the sense of pride in our nation" — that draws people to parades on Fourth of July.

His wife, Misty, agreed, adding she enjoys coming to Seaside's parade and seeing the amount and diversity of people in attendance, both participants and spectators, and "the pride they're taking in our town and our country."

Seaside's parade stands out because "of the effort they put into their floats" or other parade entries, Misty Mills said.

The parade was just the start. The Seaside Museum and Historical Society held



Four drum and bugle corps were one of the highlights of the Seaside Fourth of July Parade.

its old-fashioned social and silent auction. The four drum and bugle corps, featuring more than 500 performers, participated in a free concert at Broadway Field. The Northwest SkyLiners put on a stunt kite presentation at the Turmaround in the afternoon.

The holiday was capped in the late evening with Seaside's fireworks show, produced by Kriegshauser Family Pyrotechnicians and sponsored by community partners, such as the City of Seaside, the Seaside Chamber of Commerce and multiple local businesses and enterprises.



Members of the color guard for the Oregon Crusaders perform during the annual Fourth of July Parade.

Weed the Skipanon River by canoe with North Coast Land Conservancy

The wild, forested upper Skipanon River is lush with towering Sitka spruce, native sedges and invasive plants such as purple loosestrife, yellow flag iris, and ivy. North Coast Land Conservancy owns three properties totaling 106 acres along the Skipanon near Warrenton High School. The properties are impossible to access on foot, so staff and volunteers plan to ride the tide and weed the waterway by boat on Wednesday, July 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Invasive yellow flag iris seed pods.

The conservancy will provide canoes on a space-available basis. Volunteers may also participate with their own canoe or kayak. In either case, contact Stewardship Director Melissa Reich in advance (melissar@nclctrust.org or 503-738-9126 for RSVP and location, and to reserve a spot in a canoe if needed. Wear clothing appropriate for boating and the weather,

and bring lunch, drinking water, and gloves. There are no toilets or potable water on site. The conservancy will provide any necessary tools.

This stewardship day is a partnership with Skipanon Watershed Council. Get more information about this and other stewardship opportunities at NCLTrust.org.



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