



CHAMPIONS!



Seaside Head Coach Bill Westerholm celebrates his team's victory after Seaside defeated Valley Catholic 71-63 in the 4A State Championship game on Saturday, March 11, in Forest Grove.

DANNY MILLER/EO MEDIA GROUP

By Gary Henley
EO Media Group

FOREST GROVE — Small in stature, big in heart.

And pretty good in quickness, defense, passing, ball-handling, speed, shooting ability, etc.

Add it all up, and it equaled an unbeatable combination for the Seaside High School boys basketball program, over the course of the 2016-17 season. And ultimately, it gave the Gulls' their first-ever state championship.

With their 71-63 win over Valley Catholic at Forest Grove High School late Saturday night, the Gulls indeed made school history, as they returned home with the town's first state championship in boys basketball.

Was there ever a doubt?

The Gulls were ranked No. 1 at the Class 4A level almost from Day 1 of the season.

With the returning state Player of the Year and a host

of quick and talented (but not very tall) athletes, the Seaside boys showed early on that they would be nearly impossible to beat.

They lost just once, to Valley Catholic, Feb. 10. After that, the Gulls closed out the regular season with two must-wins. And with their colors of Red, White and Columbia Blue, they flew past the competition in the playoffs and the state tournament, winning five in a row — including two victories over the Valiants.

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Gearhart 9-1-1: Committee says firehouse needs to be replaced



R.J. MARX/SEASIDE SIGNAL

The Gearhart Firehouse could be underwater even in a medium size tsunami.

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Members of Gearhart's firehouse committee presented findings Tuesday night and left the audience with life-and-death questions to ponder.

Goals of the committee are to replace the 59-year-old firehouse, built of unreinforced masonry and considered inadequate by modern standards, at a cost voters will approve.

Of nine locations studied, the committee narrowed the choices down to three: Gearhart Park; the current site at 670 Pacific Way; and Trail's End, directly across from the fire station on the south side of Pacific Way.

Sites north and east of the city were considered but rejected from primary consideration.

"We're really dealing with the best of a series of bad sce-

narios," firehouse committee co-chairman Jay Speakman said. "We have no perfect answer, so we came up with what we thought as a group was a lot of bad choices. I hate to put it that way — but when you're looking at the Big One, there's no perfect location."

A change of plan

A 2006 plan which included a firehouse building

with a City Hall component was defeated by voters, City Administrator Chad Sweet said. "That was a large building with beautiful pictures, 17,000 square feet. People said, 'That's not needed around here. That's too big.'"

This time around, committee members eliminated the City Hall component and reduced the size of the public

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Appeal decision awaits at Pearl Oceanfront Resort

Height at issue in hotel variance council appeal

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

A snafu in the submission of a legal notice delayed a decision on the future of a new hotel on the Prom.

But parties in favor and against a height variance allowing construction of the proposed three-story, 45-room Pearl Oceanfront Resort on 341 South Prom made their cases before city councilors during an appeals hearing Monday night.

Because of an 8-foot grade difference between the east

and west sides of the building, a variance was needed to allow the increase to 60 feet for the roof height at the west building wing, an addition of 15 feet over the 45 feet allowed by city zoning.

The Planning Commission granted the variance in January, a decision appealed to the City Council by Susan and Dan Calef, owners of a duplex at 25 Avenue A. This is their second appeal of the proposed structure. City councilors returned the project to the Planning Commission last year after rejecting a setback variance approval.

"The hardship is developing this property at all, given not only the 8-foot grade

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From princess to queen

Program raises scholarship funds, self-esteem

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal



R.J. MARX/SEASIDE SIGNAL

Miss Oregon 2016 Alexis Mather and Hannah Garhofer.

"Oh my goodness!" Hannah Garhofer said after being crowned Miss Clatsop County. "So many emotions right now! I'm thankful for this opportunity to serve Clatsop County, because it truly takes a village to raise a child. And they have raised me for the past 20 years."

Garhofer was one of three young women awarded the Miss Clatsop County Scholarship Program's top honors Saturday night, March 11, at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center. Winners receive scholarship awards while serving as ambassadors to the community.

Nicole Ramsdell, 15, of Astoria was selected Miss North Coast's Outstanding Teen. She attends Astoria High School.

Peyton Sims was named Miss Clatsop County's Outstanding Teen. Sims, 13, is an eighth-grader at Broadway Middle School in Seaside.

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