



Seaside High School grads celebrate at convention center



COLIN MURPHEY/THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Graduates from Seaside High School watch as members of the audience file in to the convention center.

'THE BIGGEST NIGHT OF OUR LIVES'

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Hundreds of family members, friends and supporters filled the Seaside Civic and Convention Center Monday night to celebrate the graduation of Seaside High School's class of 2018.

"For many of us, this is the biggest night of our lives," valedictorian Colton Carter said in addressing the audience. "The night we take our first step past the threshold of childhood into the real world."

Carter said classmates will remember people and the feelings in years to come. He traced the class's four years in high school, from 2014 as freshmen to this year, to senior year, "the home stretch of his marathon called high school."

Graduation Day is "a huge turning point," he added, with the diploma representing freedom to make informed decisions and take the next step in life.

Carter capped an evening program



R.J. MARX

Class of 2018 at Seaside Civic and Convention Center.

that included performances by the school band, chamber choir and a slide presentation honoring each graduate.

Principal Jeff Roberts urged students to take the skills learned in high school and make their mark in the world. "Be kind, be humble and work hard," he advised.

Senior class president Corrie Falleur delivered a roll call as students stepped

forward one by one to receive their diplomas from Roberts and district superintendent Sheila Roley distributed diplomas, accompanied by members of the district's board, Lori Lum, Patrick Nofield, Hugh Stelson, Brian Taylor, Mark Truax and Michelle Wunderlich.

Salutatorian Jessica Chisholm described senior year as a time of being "on top of the world." She remembered the past four years, with unexpected friendships, obstacles and laughter. "By being here today it is clear that all our hard work and stress has paid off."

The past has shaped who they are now, she said. "We are going in different directions," she said. "But without the lessons high school taught, we wouldn't be where we are today."

She thanked family and friends for support. "High school has come and gone. As Dr. Seuss said, 'Don't cry because it's over — smile because it happened.'"

Campus logging, clearing underway

Excavation, foundation are first steps after permits obtained

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Construction parking and permits on a federal, state and local level are at the top of the list as the Seaside School District begins excavation and foundation work for the new middle and high school campus.

"A lot of good things have happened," project manager Jim Henry said. "We made it through our milestones."

Crews began logging and brush clearing at the site on Tuesday, Henry said at Tuesday's meeting of the district's board of directors.

Henry presented an updated monthly construction timeline and reviewed documents both submitted and to be delivered.

These include addressing concerns from a number of state, federal and local agencies, among them, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of State Lands, the Army Corps of Engineers and the city of Seaside.

"I think we're in really good shape," Henry said. "I anticipate getting DEQ approval 5 p.m. on (Monday) the 25th and action will begin Tuesday morning."

Construction estimates will be reviewed by the architect, construction management team, the school district and RLB Cost Estimators

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After 49 years, Breakway Lodge to close doors

Young Life property to head to market in fall

By Damian Mullinix
For Seaside Signal

For 49 years, campers have visited the Young Life camp at Breakway Lodge in Gearhart — but all good things must come to an end. The summer of 2018 will be its last.

In a letter announcing the decision, Lindsey Patchell, senior vice president for the Northwest Division of Young Life, said this will be the final summer of Young Life camping at Breakaway Lodge.

The decision came "after a lengthy discernment process, covered in earnest prayer," Patchell said. "It is best for our mission moving forward."

Given the small size, age and regulatory limitations of the location, Young Life determined that the ministry would be better served through other camping locations and programs, she said.

The age of the building was a key factor in the decision to close the camp, Breakaway Camp manager Jeff Johnson added.

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From Seaside to Monterey, a love of restaurants

Seaside boy makes good (food)

By Eve Marx
For Seaside Signal

When Kevin Phillips was just a lad, his father ingrained in him a love of restaurants.

At the Seaside golf course there was the Par-Tee Room, Phillips recalled. "An Asian gentleman owned and operated it. There was bleu cheese dressing they served that was different from any other. We would go there and have dinner; it was an upscale dining experience."

The family also dined at John's Meat Market in Portland which was a steakhouse

and The Crab Broiler, just south of Seaside, also a special occasion and destination restaurant.

Kevin Phillips was born in Seaside in 1959. He was the third of four children.

His family owned the Phillips Candy Company for more than 100 years, he said. He grew up in the '60s and early '70s when Seaside had "all the trappings" of a small town.

"I idolized my grandparents who had the candy business," Phillips said. "My grandpa Johnny paid me 50 cents an hour to sweep floors. My Uncle Steve owned the business until about two years ago. The place has always been a touchstone for me."

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KEVIN PHILLIPS

Kevin Phillips in front of Abalonetti Bar & Grill at Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey, California.