



NEXT STOP: ATLANTIC CITY



R.J. MARX

Miss Oregon 2018 Taylor Ballard; Kennedy Hjelte, Miss Oregon Teen; and Princess Abriela Taylor.

ABOVE Taylor Ballard receives a hug from runner-up Stephanie Magee after Ballard is named Miss Oregon.

BELOW Miss Clatsop County Haylie Moon of Cannon Beach rides in the pageant parade.



R.J. MARX

Ballard wants to help people 'feel comfortable in their own skin'

By Brenna Visser
Seaside Signal

For Taylor Ballard, the road to the Miss Oregon crown has been one of personal growth. The Portland woman rose above 23 contestants from across the state Saturday in the 71st annual Miss Oregon Scholarship Pageant at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center. She will compete in the Miss America pageant this September in Atlantic City. Ballard, who was Miss Northwest Wonderland of Portland, was inspired to start competing in 2014 on the suggestion of a friend. She saw the pageant as a way to get scholarship money for her

public relations degree at Portland State University, improve her communication skills and hone her dance moves. After her first competitions, Ballard took a year off to reflect and work through body insecurity issues. It was a year of struggling to find a balance in her own daily eating and exercise habits, which she said swung between "diets and binge eating" — but also a year that provided mental clarity. Her platform, "confidence under construction," was inspired by her time both in and out of pageants. "I wanted to work

See Crowning, Page 10A

Accessory dwelling changes get council OK

City Council limits accessory home size to 800 square feet

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

"The state said: 'Set a provision, set a limit and allow for it,'" Seaside Planning Director Kevin Cupples told members of the City Council June 25. "That's where we're at."

Cupples was referring to a state Senate requirement intended to help address the state's housing shortage.

In setting size limitations and other rules, councilors responded to the mandate to allow accessory dwelling units within any residential zone allowing detached single-family homes.

The rules are designed to increase the availability of housing in cities with a population of more than 2,500 throughout the state. "I'm very glad that we're making headway with accessory dwelling units," Cupples said. "I hope it will help with the shortage of housing. To what extent, I think we'll know when it's been in place for a couple of years."

Rules for accessory units

According to the ordinance, accessory dwelling units will be limited to one story, unless incorporated into the second story of a detached garage. Units may be an interior, attached or detached residential structure used in connection with a single-family dwelling.

See ADUs, Page 6A

Closing time

Cannabis shops seek to stay open till 10

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Owners of two Seaside cannabis retail stores individually came before the City Council June 25 to ask for the same thing: later hours of operation.

Current Seaside ordinance requires cannabis stores to close at 8 p.m. Brian Kulp, manager of Cannabis Nation, and Steve Geiger of Highway 420 each sought a change in hours to make the stores more competitive at prime hours.

Kulp, in seeking a change to 10 p.m., said 3 percent of his revenue goes directly to the city of Seaside. "I do think we are losing some revenue to neighboring cities," he said. He estimated an additional \$12,000 in revenue for the city alone.

Tourists would not need to risk driving to neighboring cities — 20 minutes to Cannon Beach or Astoria "should they want to participate or do that."

The state ordinance requires all cannabis stores to close at 10, while Seaside's rules limit sales to 8 p.m. "I do

See Closing, Page 6A

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 97
ASTORIA, OR

Teaching young people to learn from experience

By Eve Marx
For Seaside Signal

This summer, 27 interns are learning how to make the most of their life experiences through Foster Club, a national network for young people in foster care. Celeste Bodner, the executive director, founded the organization in 2002.

The Seaside-based organization empowers young people currently in and from foster care to connect, be inspired, and, possibly most importantly, master tips and strategies to represent themselves in order to educate and influence policy makes for foster care.

Built for youth, powered by youth, these young people are changing lives.

On a warm Monday morning in late June, the All Stars, a group of young people selected for their leadership abilities, convened at Foster

Club's seminar training room for a session called "Milestones," a story-sharing project. Several of them had recently returned from a youth conference in Montana.

The All Stars hail from all over the country, with interns from Texas, Florida, Arizona, Michigan, Missouri, New York. One young woman is an Oregon native. They range in ages from 19 to 24. All are veterans of the foster care system.

A significant portion of Foster Club's mission is helping youth who are currently in foster care understand their rights while they are in the system.

Many of these children are in their teens and Bodner believes they should have a solid grasp on their legal rights.

Through Foster Club programs, they learn the ins-and-outs of how



EVE MARX

The All Stars 2018: back row, Tasha, Yesenia, Zoe, Julia, Aryelle, Carson; front row, Sienna, Devon.

See Foster Club, Page 7A