



Look what I got!

Sydney Van Dusen



Seaside High School celebrates Class of 2019!

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

During Seaside High School's 103rd annual commencement, the overwhelming swell of vibrant Seagull red was matched in intensity only by the palpable emotion flowing from the sea of family, friends, mentors, teachers and other community members flooding the Seaside Civic and Convention Center. Cheers rocked the building, cameras and smartphones flashed continuously, and some homemade signs waved in the air as hundreds of spectators joined together to share their pride, joy and affection for the 110 students who stepped onstage to receive their diplomas Monday night.

See Commencement, Page A7



Jeff Ter Har

Ban the bag!

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

The City Council took the first step Monday night to a single-use plastic bag ban.

Residents from throughout the region — from Long Beach, Washington, to Arch Cape — came to support a ban. And by night's end, the crowd, including three fifth-graders from John Meyer's Heights Elementary School class, erupted in applause after a unanimous vote.

The new ordinance would prohibit plastic carry-out bags, similar to state legislation approved in Salem on Tuesday.

See Bag, Page A7

GEARHART FIREHOUSE

Location Map

- (A) Gearhart Park Station
- (B) Pacific Way Station
(Current Location)
- (C) Highpoint Station



Three sites presented in a survey to Gearhart residents. "C," the High Point site, was the clear favorite.

Report ahead, but process for firehouse is no slam-dunk

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Gearhart officials voted to approve a \$10,000 geotechnical study on June 5, the first step in a new firehouse plan, but not without some tempers flaring in a verbal exchange between Councilor Kerry Smith and Mayor Matt Brown. Funding for the study is critical to move ahead on a new firehouse and resiliency station.

After years of research by a firehouse committee, public forums and most recently, results of a survey, officials determined the High Point site, a privately owned property on North Marion Avenue near 12th Street, to meet many of the needs identified for the new structure.

City staff requested funds to perform a geotechnical investigation for the proposed new fire station to give a summary of our work and geotechnical recommendations and conclusions for support of the proposed structures.

The report will allow the city to further explore the foundation requirements to better anticipate costs for fire station construction.

The report is considered essential before

purchase. Officials hope to get the project on the November ballot, which would require a county filing by Aug. 17.

The cost of the project is about \$8,500; the city requested \$10,000 to do the study. Funds will be transferred from the building reserve fund.

But while it appeared the transfer of funds for the geotech study was a slam dunk, councilor Smith asked if the city had considered a vertical evacuation site at the fire station.

"Is there going to be any geotech report for the east side of City Hall?" Smith asked.

"We are following a process, and we are trying to get to a conclusion," Brown responded. "If we continue to willy-nilly throw things out 'what if,' we're never going to get to the end of the process." Brown said.

"Excuse me, Matt, this isn't willy-nilly," Smith said. "I'm asking for a second geo-report. I'm not stopping the first one."

"We're doing due diligence on the public's No. 1 choice," Brown said. "Where did the committee come up with a vertical evacuation site?"

"But have they even thought of putting the fire station here with a vertical evacuation

See Firehouse, Page A7

Becky Graham's garden is her sanctuary

By EVE MARX
For Seaside Signal

Becky Graham moved to Gearhart not long ago after selling her dream home in Knappa.

"It was my dream home but it felt isolated," the Portland native said. "And my dad lives in Seaside." Within two months of selling her Knappa paradise, she asked the universe to direct her to a wonderful neighborhood where she could grow her garden.

Almost immediately her real estate agent told her about a 1970s-style ranch in Gearhart; it was love at first sight. The house, sadly, had been vacant for some time and had a defeated, neglected aura. The property itself was in shambles. Graham, who said this house is her third fixer up, saw only potential.

On an overcast day in late May, Graham, a professional garden design consultant with her own business, Harvest Moon Design, shared her thoughts on outdoor living, the importance of planting for pollinators, and creating environments that embrace and welcome nature. Every spare moment the first two months she owned the house was spent repairing

See Garden, Page A7



Courtesy Becky Graham

Becky Graham on an Astoria worksite.

