

Commencement: Class of 2019 looks to the future with hope and enthusiasm

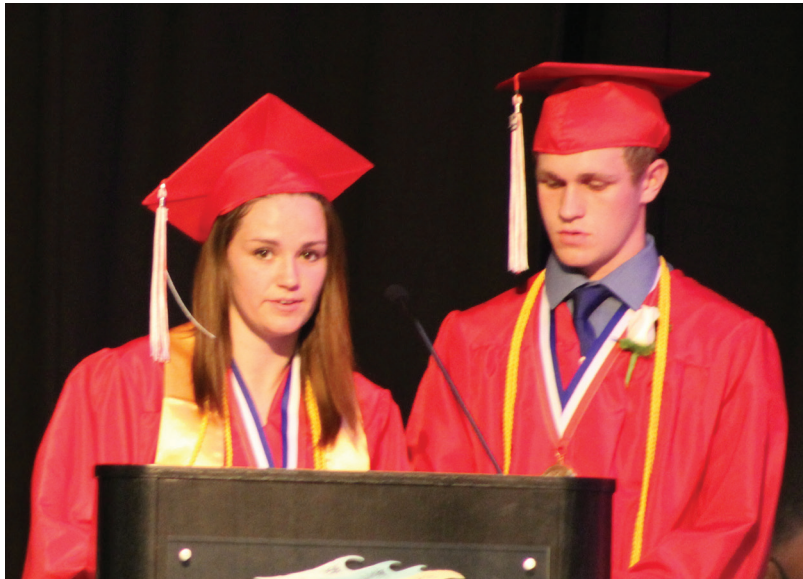
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“We often hear, ‘It takes a village,’” Principal Jeff Roberts said. “One of the most special things about our community is our village, and we look after our own. So tonight, we thank parents, guardians, grandparents, siblings, aunts and uncles, Dr. (Sheila) Roley, the Seaside School Board, the teachers and staff from Cannon Beach, Gearhart, The Heights, Broadway Middle School, and Seaside High School.”

During her salutatorian address, graduating senior Kendy Lin echoed that sentiment.

“This is cheesy, but without every single one of you in this room right now, we would not have become the person sitting in front of you,” she said. “With you, we have grown tremendously as individuals and learned from our mistakes.”

One of the class’ nine valedictorians, Alyssa Goin, during her speech with fellow graduate Chase Januik, encouraged her classmates to “bring the love our small community has given to us to your communities in the



Katherine Lacaze

ABOVE Seaside High School graduating seniors Alyssa Goin (left) and Chase Januik, two of the nine valedictorians for the Class of 2019, give their address during the school’s 103rd annual commencement ceremony Monday evening at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center. **RIGHT** Tori Tomlin celebrates graduation.



Jeff Ter Har

future, and give to them as ours has given to us.”

“We ask that you uphold the high standard that our generation has set thus far,” she added. “Change the world but don’t forget where you came from.”

Januik said that although people may perceive their

generation with negative connotations, having been “raised on iPhones and video games,” they are also a generation of kids with high ambitions and educated minds.

“We stand up for what’s right and we’re also forgiving,” Goin added. “We are

trend-setters, creative minds, and out-of-the-box personalities. ... This is the generation of inclusion, environmental caring, and cohesion.”

Fellow valedictorian Majestik De Luz agreed they have far to go in terms of making a significant impact. During her speech, she said

she wouldn’t describe high school as the best four years of her life, because “that would mean it’s all downhill from here, and I know that’s not the case.”

“I hope none of us have peaked in high school,” De Luz said. “I hope during the next four years, we each take

the opportunities that are in front of us, work hard, and turn ourselves into something special.”

The other valedictorians for the class of 2019 included Chloe Bartel, Chance Giguere, Dylan Meyer, Cori Biamont, Anna Hudleston, and Hayley Rollins.

Hudleston, the senior class president, led the class roll call as Roberts, Roley, and members of the school board awarded diplomas to the graduates as they crossed the stage. The choir, led by director Kimber Parker, and band, led by director Terry Dahlgren, provided music throughout the ceremony.

In his valedictorian address, Giguere urged his fellow classmates to make sure graduation is “not our last note, but the beginning of a beautiful and breathtaking symphony.”

“While some of people may see a sea of red caps and gowns, I look at all of you and see doctors, lawyers, athletes, actors, scientists and engineers,” he said. “I see a world changed for the better because of the contributions the Class of 2019 can make.”

Garden: Creating a harmonious space

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walls, installing flooring, and replacing base heating. The house itself is classic ’70s-style ranch charm, but it’s the property itself that beckons Graham to spend as much time as possible outdoors. “I like to plant what attracts butterflies and hummingbirds,” she said over home-brewed mocha lattes. “Plants are individuals. They respond to kindness.”

Graham said before she puts anything in the ground or in a container, she considers who will be visiting the space beside herself.

“Birds, salamanders, bees, butterflies, the point is to share the space with nature,” she said. She carefully selects plants that work in harmony with each other. In her over 20 years of professional garden design, she’s never had an outbreak of insects or pestilence.

Container gardening is one of her specialties.

“It’s an instant design that can change the look and feel of a place,” Graham said. “But you have to remember when you put a plant or tree in a container, it’s your hostage.”

The majority of Graham’s professional work is



Eve Marx

Becky Graham loves repurposing old metal and other salvaged finds.

in Astoria where she maintains numerous commercial accounts. Creating a harmonious garden at home is where her heart lies. In addition to twinkly outdoor lighting, her garden has a water feature. She recently excavated hundreds of pounds of broken up chunks of cement buried below her front yard’s surface, salvaging the fragments to create a mosaic of pavers to form pathways through her contemplation garden.

In Graham’s world, there is no waste. She’s a composter to be sure and a repurposer. Weeds, if they are pretty, are permitted to thrive; wild flowers and

meadows are encouraged. “When I nurture plants, they nurture me back,” she said. “My garden is both my playground and my sanctuary.”

An auspicious piece of advice she offered is to set aside a portion of your yard to be wild. “Even if it’s just a corner by your back fence, there should be a place where nature can do its thing.”

Becky Graham’s Harvest Moon Design is available for commercial as well as private consultation. Contact her through her website, www.harvestmoondesign.com or text 503-791-7664.

Firehouse: After heated discussion, council approves firehouse site study

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tower on it?” Smith returned.

“Kerry, have you not been following this process that we’re trying to get to?”

“Oh, man, that is the wrong thing to say,” Smith snapped.

“And what is the right thing to say?” Brown asked.

“Don’t tell me I’m not following this process, partner. That’s irresponsible.”

“I think it’s irresponsible of you to bring this up.”

“Let’s move on,” Smith said.

Move on they did, with a little encouragement from City Attorney Peter Watts.

“It would be nice if we could get everything on the ballot and then you as councilors could engage in the advocacy to make sure people have a proper understanding of the pros and cons and benefits and burden,” Watts said.

Ultimately the momentum of the project, stressed again by Brown and attorney Peter Watts, led councilors to vote for the transfer.

Reita Fackerell was the

lone no vote, citing the uncertainty of the bond process needed to fund the station.

Discussions for purchase of the High Point site are underway and could be presented at an executive session at the end of this month, City Administrator Chad Sweet said.

No date has been determined.

“None of this stuff in the plan is a slam dunk,” Brown said. “But if we don’t follow some sort of plan, then we don’t have a plan.”

Bag: Seaside takes lead in plastic bag ban

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Retailers may charge customers a reasonable pass-through cost — no less than 10 cents a bag — for a recyclable paper bag or reusable bag. The penalty for violating the ordinance would be a fine of up to \$100.

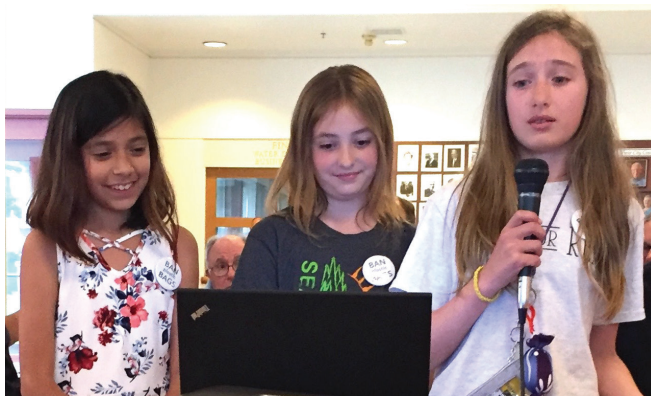
Fifth-graders Mariliz Leon-Mejia, Madeleine Menke and Theia McCarthy recommended that consumers embrace reusable bags.

“Plastic bags are not very good for the environment,” the students said. “And neither are straws. We need to take a break from plastic bags. And that break starts now. ... If we stop using plastic bags, we will make the environment better for all of us.”

Joyce Hunt, of Seaside, who helped craft the bill, thanked the mayor and City Council for their support. She was among the residents who circulated petitions calling for the ban, gathering more than 130 signatures and another 100 online.

Correspondence to the city in favor of the ban included the state Department of Environmental Quality, which supports bans on single-use plastic bags and a fee on single-use paper bags.

The Northwest Grocery Association also supported the ban, contingent on a pass-through fee refundable when



R.J. Marx

Fifth-grade students Mariliz Leon-Mejia, Theia McCarthy and Maddie Menke from The Heights Elementary School show support for a plastic bag ban in Seaside.

a consumer reuses the recycled paper bag with a grocery purchase.

SOLVE, which removes trash from beaches, says plastic bags clog waterways, damage farmland and provide an “ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes.” Also, plastic bags are manufactured using petroleum, a nonrenewable resource.

The impact of plastics on the environment was stressed Monday night.

Seaside resident Russ Mead offered photos of damage to the osprey nest in Broadway Park, with a photo on “osprey cam” of a plastic bag littering the nest.

The bag is gone now, Mead said, “but this is what happens.”

Seaside’s Martin Letourneau said in California,

which has had a ban in place since 2016, “most people adjusted quickly and easily.”

Alex Carney, of Seaside, called for a ban “for our community and for our children.”

Seaside would be the first city in Clatsop County to enact a ban.

“We live in a pristine environment and we want to keep it that way,” Mayor Jay Barber said. “I think this is a good first step — there are other steps we will need to take — but it’s a first step.”

The City Council could amend the ban based on public feedback before a second reading of the ordinance scheduled for June 24.

“My hope is that people who have a concern will come talk to us,” Barber said. “The train is rolling down the tracks.”



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