

Class of 1971-72 to celebrate with 50-year reunion

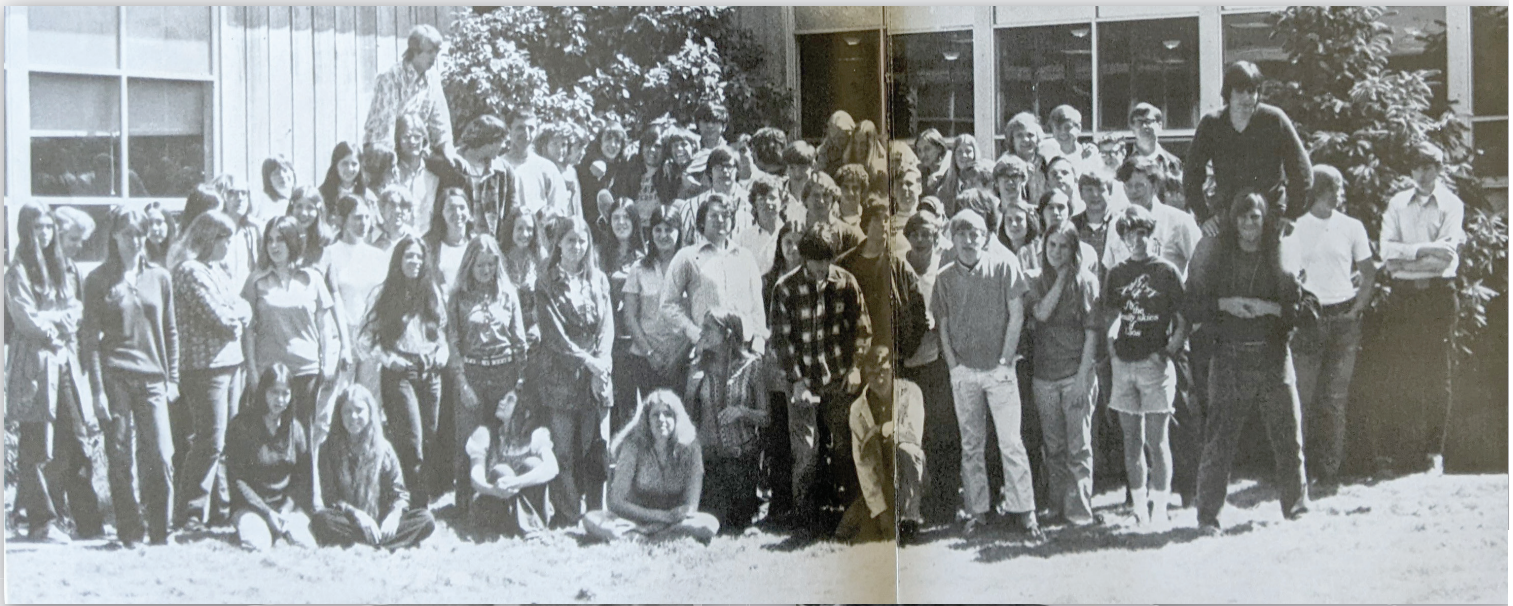
After being caught spying, 90 Russian diplomats were expelled from Berlin. The first cup of noodles debuted. Rapper Snoop Dogg was born in Long Beach, California, and Don McLean's "American Pie" was the top song of the year.

And in Seaside, 103 seniors comprised the class of 1971-72.

The class returns 50 years later, with a reunion scheduled Aug. 19 and Aug. 20, cul-

SEEN FROM SEASIDE

R.J. MARX



minating with a Saturday party at the Sons of Norway lodge with a Mexican theme, pot-luck dinner, corn-hole, horseshoes and music by one of Seaside High School's own student groups, Teddy and the Rough Riders.

Classes five years prior and five years after are invited.

The class of 1971-72 was close-knit, and loved not only baseball, basketball and football, but surfing, golfing, music and dancing, reunion committee organizer Craig Weston said.

City Councilor Tom Horning was a graduate of the class, as was Mark Winstanley, the outgoing Seaside city manager.

"We were emotionally talented and intellectually gifted," Horning said. "We were good at everything."

Dana See, the city's last "Miss Seaside," graduated from the class of '72 before heading to the University of Oregon in Eugene, where she dated and married Weston.

Chuck Methven, a class of '71-'72 graduate and retired businessman, said the class wasn't any more special than the other classes that came out of Seaside High School.

"Our city being small is what made all classes special," he said. "We all knew each other for most of our childhood years. Even if we weren't close friends with some, we still knew who they were. I suppose if you asked alumni from the other years they would claim their class was the best. Seaside was a wonderful place to grow up. I suppose that's why I chose to retire here."

Top, the Seaside High School class of 1972. Clockwise from right, the varsity baseball team; cheerleaders Victoria Daggatt, Linda Schneider, Evelyn Eddy, Lori Benson, Sandy Lemen and Lee Hartman; Seaside High School students on the knowledge game Hi-Q; and class officers Lisa Arme, Lyle Sales, Dan Spillman, Bill Eddy, Debi Howell and class president Jim Haubner.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dissatisfaction with hiring decision at City Hall

I'm expressing my dissatisfaction with the recent hiring decision of the Seaside planning director. The announcement to hire the interim planning director, Jeff Flory, to permanent planning director, revealed a lack of transparency in the hiring process, and without regard for minimum professional requirements for planning directors.

Comparing Flory's professional background (code enforcement, law enforcement) with the American Planning Association's minimum requirements for planning directors, you will see these stark discrepancies.

I acknowledge Flory's work as code enforcement officer, and his commendable job of improving the city's code enforcement system. I appreciate his stepping in to serve as interim planning director. But these credentials do not qualify him for planning director.

It is my understanding that in Seaside, among other city positions, the city manager and assistant city manager are the hiring authority for planning directors and convention center directors. City councilors are the hiring authority for city managers.

My concern is, knowing the formidable responsibilities of the position, and the skills necessary for the position, why was an underqualified person hired? Was this an oversight, or an intentional, but inappropriate, "promotion"?

Those who conducted this hiring should have taken the time to recruit a sufficient pool of qualified candidates in this field. Oregon has a tradition of producing good planners, and good candidates are out there.

We should be concerned that a more thorough effort was not made to fill this position, and require more transparency in the future, so it doesn't happen again.

Rebecca Read
Seaside

Convention center, city manager choices puzzling

As a Seaside resident, I am concerned that a new planning director and convention center general manager were hired without a professional candidate search; the process lacked transparency as well. A professional candidate search is important not only to assure qualified persons are hired but also to avoid cronyism and political patronage.

The City Council recently conducted a professional candidate search in replacing the city manager. There is no reason why the city manager or assistant city manager could not have used the same or similar transparent process to conduct a professional candidate search for positions as

important as planning director and convention center general manager.

It is also puzzling why the outgoing city manager filled these positions so quickly rather than leave it to his successor who has already been named to conduct a proper professional search. Taxpayers fund these positions and the process to fill them should be transparent and professional.

Laura Allen
Seaside

Consider Pat Roberts for Gearhart council

This letter was sent to Gearhart City Council. It is reprinted at the writer's request.

I think it would be helpful to appoint an individual with long ties to Gearhart and local and regional political experience who has no desire to stand for election in November 2022. If that person has voiced opposition to the recently defeated fire bond that would evidence your willingness to work together with a dissenting voice. We need to find solutions.

My recommendation is Pat Roberts. She authored a dissenting fire station bond opinion on the recent ballot. She is not on social media and does not partake in the sometimes toxic exchanges we have witnessed. She has been a Gearhart property owner since the 1970s.

She is familiar with the regional and local political process as a former Clatsop County commissioner. Most importantly, she has told me that she would accept the appointment and has no desire to be on the November 2022 ballot.

Please consider my dog-walking friend for this vacant position.

Bob Morey
Gearhart

Some Cove Beach residents feel betrayed by commissioners

Many of us who live in Cove Beach feel betrayed by our board of commissioners. It seems that the commissioners are not interested in what residents in our part of the county want — in what we were promised over past decades in the coastal residential zoning ordinance, meaning that short-term and vacation rentals were not a permitted use in this zone (nor in other residential zones in the county).

The commissioners are hell-bent on changing every residential zoning ordinance in the county to allow short-term rentals in every zone.

Once this new ordinance is passed then, as has already illegally occurred in our neighborhood, residences will be converted to commercial short-term rental or "mini-motel" businesses by property owners and investors who

can make a ton of money from their business property. No more neighbors and no more neighborhood.

Why are the commissioners making such a sweeping, life altering change to every residential zone in the county — they won't say. Is it because they or their families own short-term rentals? Is it because they own a beach home that could convert to a short-term rental (as for at least one commissioner), is it because they care more about supporting business investors who don't live in the county or state?

If this callous, dictatorial behavior concerns you or alarms you (as it does us), then please contact your commissioner and ask them why they are taking this action. Please let us know that you are not happy with this dramatic and unwarranted change by email NorthCoastNeighborsUnited@gmail.com.

Charles Dice
Arch Cape

Make objections known

It's a sad time for representative government in Clatsop County. Our board of county commissioners is poised to approve a sweeping ordinance, despite overwhelming opposition from impacted county residents, that will allow short-term rentals, which even county counsel identifies as commercial activities, in every residential zone in the county.

Amazingly, in just a couple of weeks, county planning staff was able to gather enough "data" to convince the commissioners to disregard both the 2019 Housing Strategies Report cautioning against short-term rentals in residential zones, an in-depth study comprising months of research in collaboration with county and city representatives, and the March 2022 recommendations of the county's own planning commission, also objecting to allowing short-term rentals in residential areas not capable of sustaining this kind of commercial activity.

At least one commissioner didn't need convincing, stating in the April 27 public hearing on the matter that she wouldn't change her mind regardless of any data obtained. Does this reflect the open-mindedness we expect in our government representatives?

So when your neighborhood has become a resort and you're awakened in the middle of the night by the vacationers in the house next door, you can thank the board of commissioners, who care more about the tax revenue brought in by investors' commercial endeavors, than the quality of life of the county's residents. If you oppose this travesty, please make your objections known to our county commissioners at commissioners@co.clatsop.or.us before the June 22 public hearing on short-term rentals.

Jeff and Denise Davis
Arch Cape

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Contact local agencies for latest meeting information.

MONDAY, June 13

Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., 989 Broadway.

WEDNESDAY, June 15

Tourism Advisory Committee, 3 p.m., 989 Broadway.

THURSDAY, June 16

Transportation Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

TUESDAY, June 21

Community Emergency Response Team, 5 p.m., 989 Broadway.

Seaside Planning Commission, work session, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

Seaside School District Board of Directors, 6 p.m., 2600 Spruce Dr.

MONDAY, June 27

Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., 989 Broadway.

TUESDAY, July 5

Seaside Community Center Commission, 10 a.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A.

Seaside Library Board, 4:30 p.m., 1131 Broadway.

Seaside Planning Commission, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

WEDNESDAY, July 6

Seaside Improvement Commission, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

Gearhart City Council, 7 p.m., www.cityofgearhart.com.

THURSDAY, July 7

Seaside Parks Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

MONDAY, July 11

Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., 989 Broadway.

THURSDAY, July 14

Seaside Convention Center Commission, 5 p.m., 415 First Ave., Seaside.

TUESDAY, July 19

Community Emergency Response Team, 5 p.m., 989 Broadway.



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