



Robin Montero won the award for 'Best Representation of Seaside.'

Jeff TerHar

Chalk art: City officials helped judge

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The event had 26 contestants and more than 100 people voted for the People's Choice Award, Melissa Ousley, the park district's manager of marketing and special events, said.

Bob Weidman was wearing a pair of Nike running shoes he had won at last year's inaugural chalk art competition, when he won best representation of Seaside. This year, Weidman, an artist and poet, paid tribute to downtown with a chalk art drawing of iconic images: flower baskets, sunshine and sea gulls.

Violet Hanna was in Seaside from Palm Springs, California. The artist and musician "just happened" to be visiting her aunt. She saw the contest underway and it "all fell into place."

Montero won for "Best Representation of the Spirit of Seaside," for her mermaid and Tillamook Head. Weidman won "Best Adult Entry" and Nicole Perez won "Best Kids Entry" and the "People's Choice Award" for her koi pond. Kelsey Potter won "Best



R.J. Marx

Bob Weidman pays tribute to the flower baskets throughout downtown Seaside. He won 'Best Adult Entry.'

Representation of Marine Life" for her octopus.

Judges were Seaside City Councilor Steve Wright; Ken Heman, of the Seaside Visitors Bureau; Katie McCloud, interim CEO of the Seaside Chamber of Commerce; and Kristen Klein, event director for the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce.

May Wallace and her daughter, Gina, taught a chalk art class the day before the contest. "We had help with setup and take-

down from eight volunteers," Ousley said. "I'm incredibly grateful for all the help."



R.J. Marx

Participants along the Prom create chalk art, part of the second annual Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District event.

Looking ahead at the Ocean View Resort

Change in ownership at Ocean Best Western

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

A focus on groups and upgrades to the restaurant are among the first upgrades planned at the Best Western Plus Ocean View Resort.

The property at 414 Fourth Ave. was built in the late 1980s, General Manager Mark Hopman said, and has had three owners.

New owners are Wright Hospitality, a general contracting company based in Seattle that specializes in hotel construction and renovations.

Columbia Hospitality, also based in Seattle, has managed the hotel since mid-June. The group also manages the Stephanie Inn in Cannon Beach, the State Hotel in Seattle and the Lark Hotel in Bozeman, Montana, among other properties.

"From all indications, all they want to do is become better," Hopman said at the Seaside Chamber of Commerce



R.J. Marx

Sales manager Tiffany Pedersen and General Manager Mark Hopman of Best Western Plus Ocean View Resort.

Wednesday morning meeting. "They've been really supportive. They just want everybody to get there, really supportive. They haven't taken anybody's job away. Everybody's transitioned at the same rate of pay, same responsibilities. So far it's been really good."

The Ocean View Resort's occupancy rate is higher than other hotels in the off-season from November to February, at more than 50%, which Hopman attributed to the

Best Western flag, performance, staff and rates.

The Ocean Bakery Cafe serves breakfast, pastries, salads and sandwiches. In months ahead, the cafe will move ahead with a more "beverage-forward" menu and happy hour, Hopman said.

The hotel will continue to fly the Best Western flag, which guarantees consistency, he said.

"The Best Western Plus here has got the same amenities as the one in Portland," added Hopman.

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