

## [Ocean Crest Resort breaks ground two years after devastating fire](#)

### Local News

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ELMA, Wash. - The Ocean Crest Resort will be breaking ground on their new dining room, two years to the date after the fire that destroyed the cliffside building was extinguished. The Resort is inviting everyone to be a part of the rebuilding process as they break ground during a public celebration on Saturday, June 22nd at 1PM off of State Route 109 in Moclips.

The Ocean Crest Resort restaurant originally opened in 1963 and has been operated by the Curtright family members since. Recognized by prestigious publications such as Gourmet, Bon Appetit, Northwest Best Places, Ford Times and Wine Spectator for its unique Northwest cuisine and outstanding wine cellar, the restaurant was also listed on Wine Press Northwest magazine's Best Northwest Wine List. Only two other restaurants in Washington state received the honor.

"When the Ocean Crest main building that housed the restaurant burned in 2011, it was a big loss to the county and a blow to North Coast tourism," said Mike Bruner, director of Grays Harbor Tourism. "All of us in the hospitality and tourism industry have anticipated this event. We welcome the return of one of the most celebrated restaurants on the Washington coast."

Locally sourced ingredients, seasonal menus plus award-winning clam chowder were the highlights of the restaurant in its heyday. Visitors would drive to Moclips from the Puget Sound Region to savor the fine dining and extraordinary views from the bluff-top resort. "After several years of red tape and frustration, we are delighted to be making progress in rebuilding one of the best restaurants in the Pacific Northwest," said third-generation family member Jess Owen who will return to the restaurant kitchen. "We intend to come back with the Northwest cuisine our customers love plus an extensive wine list that was saved after the fire. This dedication is why we have been successful for the last 50 years."

This groundbreaking event will also mark the Ocean Crest Resort's half-century on the coast serving the best to visitors. Following the ceremony, Emily's Confections will cater a reception. The \$1.6 million project designed by Al Gozart of Harbor Architects in Aberdeen will feature a one-level design seating 48 guests in the dining room and accommodating an additional 21 patrons in the lounge. A small gift gallery will return to the lobby.

The interior design by Kathy Williams showcases the dramatic restaurant views framed by a Pacific Northwest décor. General contractor is Nor-Cat Inc. of Cosmopolis. Once the restaurant re-opens sometime next year, it will employ a staff of 20.

**About Ocean Crest**  
The Ocean Crest Resort has offered year-round lodging to visitors of the North Coast of Washington for over half a century. Located on 100 acres of forested property overlooking the Pacific Ocean on SR 109, 18 miles north of Ocean Shores, the AAA-rated Ocean Crest has 45 units, an indoor pool, and an onsite spa. Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-684-8439 or visit their web site at

[www.oceancrestresort.com](http://www.oceancrestresort.com) Address: P.O. Box 7, Moclips, WA 98562. *Photo by Kelly Calhoun*  
&mdash; at [Ocean Crest Resort](#).