

LETTERS

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improvement costs to move the high school and middle school further up the hillside.

Given that school enrollment has been declining, the diversion of students into the charter school and any new growth in the area has been forecast by the State of Oregon as retirees, the argument to spend 280 times \$82,000 or \$23 million for growth seems like a loser. Also, it is quite feasible to locate a new middle school above the tsunami inundation line on the current district's Seaside Heights site without having to incur the \$10 million site development costs.

The district has already committed to using the athletic fields at Broadway Park for the high school. The existing Broadway Middle School could be made into a full high school. It could be brought up to seismic and almost new condition by adding labs, rebuilding and upgrading the gym and replacing inadequate roofing, electrical, plumbing, mechanical systems and windows for about half the cost of a new high school — a savings of about \$20 million.

The tsunami safety requirement for schools is that the structures survive a 9.0 earthquake and that students be able to access high ground within 20 minutes. A rebuilt high school at the Broadway site with an adequate Wahanna Creek bridge would meet these requirements.

In addition to cost savings, high school traffic, which is considerable, would not have to use Spruce and Wahanna and would have better access to a signalized Highway 101 intersection. Also, with this solution for the high school, it would not be necessary to expand the growth boundary of Seaside, which means that construction could begin sooner and the district could avoid potential interest charges. It should be pointed out that approval for a growth boundary expansion is by no means a certainty. The rebuilt Broadway gym could serve in off-hours as a very useful community recreational facility.

So, if we eliminate the additional space for 280 unlikely to come new students that saves \$23 million. If we eliminate the bulk of the site costs for going up the hill that saves \$10 million and if we rebuild the Broadway facility instead of building a new high school that saves another \$20 million. The \$100 million bond now becomes \$47 million. The saved taxpayer money of \$50 million can now be used for seismically improving local bridges so that everyone

can now escape a Cascadia tsunami; even the school kids who spent 71 percent of their time at home (probably in the tsunami inundation zone) rather than school.

It's all very great to spend money but when you increase property taxes, the housing and rental costs go up, and with a minimum wage seasonal workforce, things just become worse.

John Dunzer
Seaside

A first time for everything

As a resident of Clatsop County for the last six years, I have paid my taxes, picked up trash on the beach, volunteered for several worthwhile organizations and paid attention to what's happening locally and in the wider community. I grew up in a white, middle class family in the 40s, 50s and 60s when it was considered very impolite to talk about religion and politics around the dinner table, let alone stand on a street corner in broad daylight with a protest sign.

Now I'm ready to march down a city sidewalk with hundreds of like-minded women and men in support of something I thought was expected in our society — respect. I was wrong and naïve, so consequently I will be walking in Astoria Saturday, Jan. 21 in the Astoria Women's March. That is the day that women all over the country will be involved in organized activities, marches and rallies to raise awareness of the dangerous tone and rhetoric of the incoming administration.

But this letter is not about what I personally believe. That will be clear enough on Saturday. It is about the fact that I can freely and without fear, express that belief. The fact that I can join a group of local women, some working, others retired, busy with families, businesses and ordinary life who are taking the time to organize and take action is frankly remarkable.

Bravo ladies! Bravo to the men, partners and families who support them, and bravo to the community who listens. We are all better for this.

Please support us Saturday, Jan. 21, at noon at 12th and Exchange streets, as many of your neighbors and friends from the Columbia/Pacific area will demonstrate for the rights of everyone to peacefully express their opinions about the need to protect the environment, the safety of minorities, women and others, health care and education for all, and above all, respectful discourse.

Pat Wollner
Gearhart

OBITUARIES

Elizabeth Kate 'Katie' Barker

Sept. 29, 1936 — Dec. 17, 2016

Elizabeth Kate "Katie" Barker was a fifth generation Oregonian whose devotion to her state's history and natural beauty was surpassed only by the love she had for her family and her vast network of friends. She died on Saturday, Dec. 17, 2016, at age 80.



Elizabeth "Katie" Barker

Katie was born in Portland, the only child of Gerald E. and Elizabeth L. Moore. She graduated from Oregon State University, and lived for the past 44 years in Lake Oswego and Cannon Beach. She volunteered at the Cannon Beach Arts Association Gallery and was a devoted supporter of the Cannon Beach Food Pantry, the Cannon Beach Library, and the Tillicum Foundation, which runs Coast Community Radio in Astoria.

A former home economics teacher, she started and ran a property management company, Barker and Calkins, that thrives today. She developed and owned Brooklyn Gardens, a residential and commercial property in Southeast Portland.

Her ancestors include some of the most significant people in Oregon history, including missionaries Chloe Clark Willson and William Holden Willson, the first treasurer of Oregon, who were instrumental in establishing the city of Salem and what became Willamette University. Her great-grandfather was J.K. Gill, who founded and ran a chain of bookstores. Her grandfather, E. B. London, established an apple and pear orchard in Oregon's Hood River Valley, where Katie spent her summers as a youth.

At age 15, she climbed Mount Hood, as her mother and grandmother had done before her, starting a lifelong love affair with the Mazamas mountaineering group.

In the 1960s, she and her husband, Louis, bought a small cabin on the presidential streets in Cannon Beach and she spent summers there ever since. She cherished her time there, referring to it as her sanctuary. She loved the cool breezes, winter storms, fresh seafood,

gravel roads, beach bonfires, and years of children and then grandchildren playing croquet and badminton in her yard. It would be impossible to count the blackberries she picked in town, much less the number of pies she baked them into.

She often regretted the limited opportunities for women in her era, noting she had the skills to have gone into engineering if only she had had the encouragement.

In retirement, Katie was an active volunteer. In addition to the Cannon Beach organizations, she supported Multnomah Falls, Portland Public Schools, OHSU, and a women's scholarship fund at Portland State University in honor of her longtime friend, the late Oregon State Sen. Nancy Ryles, among others.

Katie loved sharing her creativity with her family. She was always thinking of projects at her home and her beach cabin, in her garden, and with her grandchildren.

She traveled the world but always found the greatest beauty in the Pacific Northwest, particularly at the coast.

She is survived by her husband, Louis Barker; three children, Betty, Charles and Neil Barker; and four grandchildren, Harry Barker-Fost and Chloe, Oscar and Amelia Barker.

Memorials may be made to the Cannon Beach Food Pantry, PO Box 852, Cannon Beach, OR 97110, or the charity of your choice.

Obituary Policy

The Seaside Signal publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior. Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria. For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

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Deadline to enter is Wednesday, January 25th at 5pm
Entries will be printed in The Daily Astorian on January 31st.
Human babies only please!