

Clatsop County needs ecologically sustainable jobs

Clatsop County Commissioner Lianne Thompson provided this testimony to the Oregon Joint Ways and Means Committee March 3.

Clatsop County Commissioner Lianne Thompson Co-chairs Sen. Devlin and Rep. Nathanson, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you tonight.

My name is Lianne Thompson, and I'm a Clatsop County commissioner. I appreciate the very great challenge before you in this session as you balance revenues and requests from all over Oregon. It's no surprise that there are more of the latter than the former. It's no surprise that many people are requesting — perhaps demanding — that you perform the impossible

GUEST COLUMN
LIANNE THOMPSON



job of meeting every request with agreement and funding. I'm from the government, and I came to help.

What I'm offering isn't immediately possible, but it's a direction forward. I'd ask your attention to wise investment in economic development that provides jobs in ecologically sustainable ways, jobs that grow the hearts and minds of the workers involved as they support our local and statewide tax base. Sen. Betsy Johnson has her Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center project in Scappoose.

I'm in favor of supporting that project with whatever "ask" she has for funding. I trust her judgment. I'm also requesting that you consider investing in factories all over Oregon that will use cross-laminated timber or other mass-timber technology to produce value-added timber products from our private, state, and federal forests. I'd like to see us building modular housing using mass timber techniques. We don't have specific requests at the moment, but they're coming soon. Please give them consideration as they provide jobs in rural Oregon. You know that rural Oregon desperately needs those ecologically sustainable manufacturing jobs, or we face becoming ghost towns or theme parks. Let's instead put tools in workers' hands, develop opportu-

nity for good jobs, so they can provide for themselves, their families, and their communities. The way forward in developing mass timber jobs, especially ones that will create modular housing (my personal favorite), is not clear right now. We're still in the early stages of developing the concepts and implementing them. It's not a "silver bullet," and it's not an immediate solution.

But working toward a future that makes better use of Oregon forests allows multiple benefits. If we have secondary production on our timber products in local manufacturing facilities, we do more than provide good jobs.

We also provide a way to pay for essential services, and I know you're committed to that by your membership on this committee.

Last and perhaps most important for many is that this future will give us the means to also protect and preserve forests in Oregon as wild places, places that provide clean air and drinking water, allow recreational opportunities, and species and habitat protection. It's a big dream, there's a lot of collaborative work to be done, but it's a dream that inspires both hope and common purpose for our shared value, a thriving Oregon. Thank you again for your work.

I am eager to work with you as we move forward.

Lianne Thompson is a long-time community activist who's currently serving as the elected Clatsop County Commissioner for District 5, the southern half of Clatsop County.

On your mark, get set ... spring break!

With spring break just weeks away, are you ready?

We've seen a little bit of everything when it comes to our weather over the past few months. And this winter has brought more occurrences of snow than any of the previous six winters I've lived here. Many life-long residents have echoed my thoughts and told me that it's one of the longest stretches of cold and wet weather they can ever remember. The mountains have reaped the rewards this year, much the way we did in 2015 where snow was scarce and sunshine and warmer temps were the talk of the town.

Two years ago, that weather helped spark a surge of winter business, and lodging tax brought in 30 percent more than it did during the January through March quarter of 2014. This year, our tourism friends in the mountains are seeing a lot of the same increases we did just 24 months ago. The good news on the travel front is that spring break is kicking off for some this very week (University of Portland is closed from March 13-17). We'll now see public schools and universities across the Pacific Northwest breaking at different points all the way through the week of April 10-14, where most Seattle area schools get some rest and relaxation.

The biggest spring break week happens March 27-31 when most Oregon

SIDE RAIL
JON RAHL



schools and universities, as well as the Boise and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho areas release for time off. Many Washingtonians have breaks April 3-7, including Tacoma, Olympia and the Mt. Vernon area. Clark County and Vancouver also break the first full week of April.

With an uptick of weekday business expected through mid-April, are there things you do to get ready for the beach seekers? Much like many of us might do at home with a little spring cleaning after the winter months, I treat this time of year as an awesome opportunity to really brush up on customer service skills and make sure Seaside visitors realize how much we appreciate them visiting.

Consumers have loads of choices when it comes to travel and it's a huge smorgasbord of options they can pick from. Our marketing efforts aim to keep Seaside as a top choice when it comes to vacationing but a nice string of good weather would complement those efforts greatly. I'd love to hear what you do to help kick off the spring season, so drop me a line at the email below if you have something you'd like to share.

Deadline for tourism grant is getting near

While spring break season is one thing that can help travel surge in our area, the City of Seaside Visitors Bureau's tourism grant program is also designed to drive new tourism business. The tourism grant program has long distributed funds towards both the Seaside Jazz Festival and Independence Day Fireworks. This year's fiscal awards for the 2016-17 financial year also went to Halloween Happenin' — developed by the Seaside Downtown Development Association, and January's A Capella Festival.

Do you have an event you've been itching to develop during the September through May time period? That's the preferred time of year for applying programs, but if you have any idea to help increase tourism in Seaside, this may be the tool that helps get you going. The deadline to apply is Friday, April 14 and you can learn more at seasideoor.com/industry.

Have a thought or a question about tourism in Seaside, or maybe an idea for a future column? Drop me an email at jrahl@cityofseaside.us. Jon Rahl is the director of tourism for the Seaside Visitors Bureau and assistant general manager of the Seaside Civic & Convention Center.

Cleanup team



Kristen Harvey

Kristen Harvey and 22 other employees from digital marketing agency, Logical Position, teamed up with the nonprofit, Solve Oregon, and "stormed" a Seaside beach to help the environment. Around 125 pounds of garbage were collected from the beach and properly disposed by the two groups.

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OBITUARIES

Gregory Scott Lawson

Aug. 17, 1961 — March 10, 2017

Greg was the son of Kenneth Steven Lawson and Norma Jane Lawson (Seiders). He was raised in the Seaside area, and graduated from Seaside High School.

Greg was never married. He

was an accomplished baker for nearly 40 years, and was dedicated to his career. He enjoyed fishing, collecting antiques, barbecues with his friends and caring for his pets.

Greg is survived by his mother, Norma Lawson of La Pine, Oregon; and his siblings, Kelli Shultz of Tigard, Oregon, Terry Jo Lawson of Warrenton, Oregon, and Brian Lawson of

Warrenton, Oregon. He was preceded in death by his dad, Kenneth "Steve" Lawson. Greg also has many other relatives and friends who will remember him fondly.

Georgiana F. Hay

April 1, 1926 — Feb. 8, 2017

I'm sorry to advise everyone of the death of Hallmark Inns & Resorts co-founder, Georgiana F. Hay, on Feb. 8, 2017. Mrs. Hay was 90 years old.

Mrs. Hay and her late husband, Bill Hay, first entered the hospitality business when they purchased property in Cannon Beach, Oregon, in 1948. The property contained a single house with a four-car garage and, almost immediately, Bill converted the four garage units into hotel rooms.

A year later Bill, with help from his father, Glen Hay, constructed another 18 units, and the Surfview Motel opened for business. This property is the site of the current Hallmark Resort & Spa in Cannon Beach. With the success of the Surfview Motel, other motel ventures followed. Over the next 50-plus years, over 40 hotels were either newly constructed or acquired and renovated.

Mrs. Hay was very active with the business, and



Georgiana Hay

always traveled with her husband to scout locations for new hotels, or to look at existing hotels. Bill Hay passed away in 2002. Mrs. Hay is survived by a son, Gary A. Hay; daughters, Lynda J. Allred (William Allred) and Pamla MacLean (Frank); seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Per Mrs. Hay's instructions, no funeral will be held, but a celebration of life will be held in mid-April when everyone in her family, and friends, can attend.

Natalia Fife Torres

Jan. 28, 1928 — March 3, 2017

Natalia Fife Torres (née Galvani) passed away on March 3, 2017.

She was born Jan. 28, 1928, in Seaside, Oregon. Natalia (Pat or Patsy to her friends) grew up in Seaside, where her father, William H. Galvani, was mayor.

She is survived by her children Regan Lee, Alicia Torres, Dorian Torres Mullnix and Alan Mark Torres; and three grandchildren, Gabriel and Shannon Mullnix and Vivianne Torres. She also leaves behind her beloved dog Lucy.

Natalia loved the Oregon Coast and moved to Newport after living in California for several years. She moved to Long Beach, California, after a stroke, where she was lovingly cared for by her daughter, Dorian.

Natalia loved music, and played classical piano, was an avid reader and lover of



Natalia Torres

mystery books and crossword puzzles, and loved dogs. She worked hard raising four children and became a registered nurse to support her family. We will miss our mother, who was funny, irreverent and smart and took care of her family with hard work and sacrifices. We will miss her very much, but know she is now in a better place, free of pain.

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