

Project: 'People consider domestic violence dirty laundry'

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"I was viewing the media and what they had to show of Donald Trump, and it kind of got me thinking about women's rights, especially the way he was talking about women and to women," she said. "So I decided to take the women's studies class just to kind of educate myself a little better. Before that, I wouldn't have considered myself a feminist. I was just kind of going through the motions, and not really paying attention to the kind of oppression women face."

Logan said she comes from a family with a history of addiction and domestic abuse, and of not talking about women's issues. "In my life, that was the norm, to see women being treated poorly."

Logan said Stokes' classes started making her think about all the challenges and inequalities women have faced, from the wage gap and other discrimination to domestic violence. Since then, Logan said, she's in a lot more debates, voted for the first time and took part in the women's March in Astoria last month. Still, she said, changing people's minds is not easy.

"Usually when I approach people about politics, they're way more willing to banter about it and have a civil argument," she said. "But when it comes to women's studies, it's



Katie Leedy, a student at Clatsop Community College, hangs T-shirts for the Clothesline Project to raise awareness about violence against women.

like, 'Shut up; that's not real.' And I feel like that's the reaction I get with 75 percent of the people I bring it up to."

Airing dirty laundry

In 1990, the Men's Rape Prevention Project released a statistic showing that while 58,000 American soldiers had died in Vietnam, 51,000 women had been killed by partners during the same time frame. The statistic galvanized a coalition of women's groups in Cape Cod, Mas-

sachusetts, to start an educational and prevention campaign — using the symbolism of laundry, commonly seen as women's work — to address violence against women.

Stokes, who has taught at the college and organized the local Clothesline Project since 2010, said people often don't understand the continuing prevalence of domestic violence. More than one-third of all women and one-quarter of all men have experienced rape, physical violence or

stalking by an intimate partner, according to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"People consider domestic violence dirty laundry," Stokes said. "No one wants to air their dirty laundry, and yet it's happening everywhere."

Stokes said the Clothesline Project provides an easy form of grassroots activism through which people can be artistic and express pro-



Clatsop Community College Community members and students from Clatsop Community College's women's studies class spent a night last month painting T-shirts for the Clothesline Project, which is on display in the third-floor lobby of Towler Hall through March 22.

found feelings. The shirts for the project were provided by The Harbor, the region's nonprofit advocacy group for vic-

tims of domestic and sexual violence. The group provides a 24-hour crisis hotline at 503-325-5735.

Warrenton: 'We're dealing with how you grow a district'

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over the past decade, topping 1,000 students for the first time this school year.

Part of the challenge is space. Warrenton Grade and High schools are both hemmed in by wetlands, which require mitigation elsewhere to fill and build on. The grade school, which is the sixth-most-populous K-8 school in the state, is also hemmed in by houses on two sides. Any new con-

struction will also require more landscaping and parking spaces.

"One of the concepts was maybe building behind the back of the high school in the wetlands," Rankin said. "That's a money pit, too, and it's a time-consuming thing."

Growing up and afield

With a reduced potential bond and a lack of space, the school district has talked about focusing any bond on one

property. One idea is adding a second story at the high school to move middle school grades and ease crowding at the elementary school.

"It alleviates the problem here and lets us focus on a single property," Jeffery said. "And then what kind of space would be sufficient for a (grades) 7-12 high school?"

Another option raised has been to move either John Mattila Field at the high school or the track at the grade school

somewhere else, opening the fields up to development.

"Why don't you buy the city park?" asked Rankin. "They never use it anyway."

Jeffery said one concept has been to swing a deal with the city to provide maintenance for the park and build a football stadium there. Rankin said the district could take its baseball programs to the city park.

The district also owns several acres in Hammond from

the demolished Fort Stevens Junior High School. The property has little value now, but the school board has discussed having it rezoned and subdivided into housing lots. But Rankin said the upfront costs of building infrastructure and utilities for a subdivision would be huge, with no return on the investment for years.

A good problem

Jeffery said that since becoming an administrator in

2001, he's overseen budget cuts up until his last few years at Warrenton.

"This is a really fun problem to have," he said. "We're dealing with how you grow a district."

Jeffery said that next month, he will bring in a company that builds schools to further educate the district on what it could do with a \$20 million to \$30 million bond, or what it will need to satisfy the demands of a growing district.

Bill: Memorial set for Saturday

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Leather, said. "He would walk all over town. I was just one of the many places he'd stop by. I knew him for years. Every day he would come in and say 'hello' for 10 or 15 minutes, then he'd go on to the next guy."

The attack

Thomas, a Seaside High School graduate, joined the military at 17.

The attack that killed almost 2,400 people and launched the U.S. into war took place two months after Thomas' 20th birthday.

"As a very young sailor in the United States Navy, Bill had a front-row seat to history," Capt. Bruce Jones, former Coast Guard Sector Columbia River commander said at the 2015 Pearl Harbor ceremony in Seaside. "But he was much more than a spectator. He fought back, returning to his ship, the USS Medusa, as the attacking Japanese aircraft swarmed overhead. And he manned aircraft guns alongside his shipmates, and in the midst of great chaos and devastation."

"He often told the story of looking up during the attack and seeing one of the Japanese pilots looking down with a sheepish grin on his face while showing his gold tooth," Vandenberg said. "He told me he will never forget the look on his face and how it later made him sick to his stomach as he recalled that fatal day."

"If you had a baseball or a stone you could have thrown it and hit a plane," Thomas told the Seaside Signal in 2011. "They were that close."

Thomas was severely wounded in action later in the war while serving aboard the USS Phelps, a ship that fought at the Battle of Midway and protected forces at Guadalcanal.



The Daily Astorian/File Photo
Pearl Harbor survivor Bill Thomas, right, tossed the wreath into the Necanicum River during the Pearl Harbor Day of Remembrance ceremony in 2015. At left is Clatsop County Veterans Service Officer Luke Thomas.

Thomas was sent to Alameda, California, for convalescence, Beal said, and lived and worked in San Francisco for many years.

After travels on a dredge to Alaska and Vietnam as a civilian member of the Army Corps of Engineers, Thomas returned to the Northwest in a maintenance capacity for schools in Portland.

In remembrance

In the 1970s, Thomas moved to Seaside where he rallied for veterans and proposed a Pearl Harbor memorial on the First Avenue Bridge, Beal said.

Thomas was "the impetus" for Seaside's Pearl Harbor remembrance, former Mayor Don Larson said in 2015.

The annual event brings the community together to reflect on the attack that left a lasting impression on the country's collective memory.

"The remembrance ceremony for him was one of the most incredibly poignant points of connectivity between current times and the dark days of World War II," Johnson said.

"Bill wanted to make sure the Pearl Harbor remem-

brance ceremony would continue long after he was gone so that the youth and citizens of our community would never forget the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country," Vandenberg said.

Thomas was "very involved" in the planning and scheduling of speakers during the annual ceremony, Vandenberg added.

"He knew more about naval history than most people forget," Beal said. "He had limited education, but he was self-educated. He was an amazing guy in a lot of ways."

Due to ill-health, Thomas was unable to attend Seaside's 2016 ceremony, but he was honored in a written statement from Johnson.

"Bill was only 20 when the world turned upside down," Johnson wrote. "He was tested in ways many of us never are. These young men and women understand that war is not a video game ... It's a pleasure and honor to say thank you to Bill Thomas."

A memorial for Thomas takes place Saturday at 1 p.m., American Legion Post 99, 1315 Broadway, Seaside.

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