

Will my sandwich card be honored at the brew pub?

Every town should have one.

In L.A., a city of neighborhoods, we lived on Mar Vista's Beethoven Street. The Beethoven Market was the place to go. Whenever our then 5-year-old son wanted candy, chips or simply got bored, we would stroll down the hill. It was the place to go for coffee, smokes if you smoked, milk, half-and-half and everything else you would need in a pinch. A terrifying moment came when I was teaching Sam to ride a bike. Lesson learned: never teach a kid to ride a bike going downhill. At breakneck speed I tackled him and the bike onto the grass before heading into traffic on Las Palmas. But we went to that grocery every day and never came away empty-handed.

Thus I can understand the poignancy of the closing of the Gearhart Grocery. Gearhart residents received the news their beloved market would be giving way to another barrel-and-oak establishment, a brew pub and smoked-meat deli, a sudsy version of the venerable Oregon jerky shop.

Although we've been here a little less than a year, we go to the Gearhart Market every day. I love getting Buoy Beer Czech Pilsner in the big bottles and the fact that they have Lange pinot noir. Along with turkey sandwiches, egg salad and more, all on your choice of breads. My favorite is "Dave's Killer." Their desserts never disappoint, with a small but delicious selection of pies and cakes.

The grocery store, owned by Molly and Terry Lowenberg of Sum Properties, has been for sale for over two years, struggling unsuccessfully to compete with Safeway, Costco and Fred Meyer.

If their plans move forward, the grocery would close and the interior remodeled. Meats will be smoked and beers brewed on-site. Families will be served at the nine tables, separated from a brewing area visible through a glassed area.

"It's really more deli than beer," engineer Mark Mead of Mead Engineering Resources, representing the owners, told Gearhart planning commissioners at a March meeting.

The owners have "been trying to figure out what to put in place of the store, and this is what they came up with," Mead said.

Mead said the owner felt the brew pub was needed "because there wasn't one in Gearhart itself."

"I would love to have some place, to get dinner," Planning Commissioner Virginia Dideum said. "This would be good for the community." Dideum was joined by Richard Owsley, Russ Taggard and Carl Anderson in supporting the plan.

Commissioners David Smith, Terry Graff and Jeremy Davis voted against the brew pub, citing the comprehensive plan's dictum: "The city will prevent the city from becoming a tourist destination."

For or against?

Opinions were divided: Baby Ruth and Snickers bars versus a growler refill. Bottom line was, opponents couldn't find a compelling enough reason to stop it, at least not according to the report submitted by Planner Carole Connell.

In weeks and days to come, the market became topic number one in Gearhart, supplanting the Neacoxie Barn and even the short-term rental debate. It was clear: You were either for us, or against us.

A postcard questionnaire was mailed to homeowners and asked:

"Do you want Gearhart Store to be a Beer Pub? NO. Yes."

"Reverse the comprehensive plan so Gearhart becomes more like Seaside? NO. Yes.

"Do you want overnight vacation rentals in our R-1 residential zones? NO. Yes."

It's pretty clear where that one is headed.

Passions run so high grocery employee Alyssa Logan



SUBMITTED PHOTO/SEASIDE SIGNAL

The Gearhart Grocery in an undated photo. From "Gearhart Remembered: An Informal History."

SEEN FROM SEASIDE

R.J. MARX



delivered an impassioned Facebook plea Monday:

"All of us at Gearhart Grocery love our community members, whether they frequent our store or not," Logan wrote.

"While we know that a brew pub will not replace grocery needs, we do believe it would be a great asset to the community. The fact of the matter is, that although people love us, they do not shop here nearly enough for us to be a successful, profitable business. This is what community members need to keep in mind when weighing the idea of a new business. As a store, we provide beer, wine and hard sodas — exactly what a brew pub would offer.

"While Gearhart is notorious for its tight restrictions, I do not believe that the potential brew pub violates any of these," Logan continued. "Every complaint we have heard, whether it be negative or positive, has been emotionally charged and inconsiderate of the business owners and buyers. By appealing or being unsupportive of this transition, you are also being unsupportive of your fellow community members.

"While we appreciate the community's concern, we hope that this open letter will give community members a fresh perspective and enough additional information to allow supportive attitudes and decrease the negativity while we move forward."

Clam shovels

Maybe the little corner store is the part of us that has never changed since we were little and first stretched out our arms to put a nickel on the counter. It is the world slipping away.

We love Ken's Market in Seaside. We go there when we don't even need anything and always buy something.

Cannon Beach Hardware, aka Screw & Brew, is one of my top five destinations in midtown Cannon Beach. You've got your brew, but you've also got your hardware and supplies.

I stopped by Bud's on 101 in Gearhart last week, and could buy a quart of milk and a clam gun. Longtime residents may take that for granted, but I sure don't.

My friend Chris Anderson tells me he loves going into the Stop & Go on Highway 101 because they automatically ring up a grape soda for him the minute he walks in the door.

It's not just markets — it's the way we live.

David Smith remembered a time so civilized in Gearhart, landlords would lower or waive rent during winter months for businesses in town to help them survive the slow times. "During the winter landlords would waive the rent while the tenant went hunting and fishing during the winter, and then came back and when the season returned, opened up the business again," Smith said.

John Allen at Pacific Way is so old-fashioned he doesn't have wireless Internet at his cafe — for the sole reason of encouraging people to talk to each other. Now that's a novel idea.

Bob McEwan still drives a donkey cart around town, some days. It's nice that the grocery has carrots for his beloved Pancho. Will the new brew pub?



Will the sandwich card be transferable?

Exclusivity has no place at the Dorchester Conference

Did you know there's a large grease spot on our chest? April Fool! And, happy birthday to Debbie.

One upon a time when Bob Packwood was leading Dorchester, a local

SCENE & HEARD

CLAIRE LOVELL



person could go to the conference on a Friday night and hear the keynote speaker. There was excitement for us low-on-the-totem Republicans to be close to the big shots and hear what was going on in the party. Today, one has to be a paying delegate to get in on the speeches. I think it's a mistake, there's an exclusivity about it that borders on snobbishness — maybe we can read about it in the paper. Under the old rules, I have heard Ronald Reagan, Maureen Reagan, Nelson Rockefeller, Tom McCall and a host of celebrities whose names I'd have to find in old notes or pictures. It was especially irritating because I saw Tucker Carlson, whom I like, on the news the next evening. I have a snap of Bob Packwood and me at one of those conferences taken by his wife. I had a lot of fun. Only once was I able to go as a delegate. It's a lot of work at which I did not excel, tsk. Clarence Sigurdson was there in those times as well.

On March 12, the hills and I went to Astoria for the farewell to Dr. Neikes. It was held in the Barbey Marine Museum, which was once the railroad depot for S.P. & S. I think they called Mr. Barbey "Graham" in Astoria. That was his middle name. In Seaside where he lived before, we called him John. John Graham Barbey. That was so long ago. There was no formal service for doctor Bob. People just ate and exchanged stories. I saw only one person I thought I knew — a nurse mate from St. Mary's. I approached her and asked, "Are you Angie?" "My name is Tracey Ficken," she said. "You're not Tracey, you're Angie," I told her but she insisted. "Angie is my mom." Tracey is a nurse, too, and is an exact replica of her mother when we were both at St. Mary's. I don't know if she worked with Dr. Neikes. My experiences with him were mostly in obstetrics. He didn't want to be called until the baby had all but arrived. They told us we have an opportunity to say a few words but it never happened. Still, I'm sure the doctor would have been pleased to see the number of people who came to say goodbye.

Why isn't Seaside on the TV weather map from Portland? I don't know about you but I think our rain is just as important as the next guy's. (More important to me.)

We learned on Palm Sunday of the death of Charles McCarthy, a former pastor at the Seaside U.M. Church. He was not here long but endeared himself to our congregation. He later married a Seaside girl, Lorraine Allen Sarpola. Our sympathies to Lorraine, his sons and other family members.

Laugh line:

One evening, an older woman went on a blind date with a 93-year-old man. When she came home her daughter asked if she'd had a good time. "Oh, no," she answered. "I had to slap him three times." "Did he get fresh with you?" inquired her daughter. "No," answered her mom, "I thought he was dead." (Courtesy of Joel Osteen.)

Blessings for those whose goodness and generosity have brightened the days of the Easter season.

Kiwanis Pancake Feed comes to convention center

The annual Pancake Feed sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Seaside is Tuesday, April 5, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Seaside Convention Center. Tickets are adults, \$7; seniors, \$6; children, \$5; and families \$20. Contact a Kiwanis member for tickets; tickets are also available at the door.

All money raised goes toward youth activities in Clatsop County. Kiwanis sponsors

the Key Club at Seaside High School and the Builders Club at Broadway Middle School. Some of the other programs Seaside Kiwanis has supported are: Camp Kiwanilong, college scholarships, Seaside Kids, Clatsop County CASA, backpack programs, Safety Fair and more.

Seaside Kiwanis was chartered in 1925 and has been serving the community ever since.

LETTERS

Clothing donations made big difference

I wanted to thank those businessmen in Seaside who recently donated dozens of dress shirts, ties and even suits to young men that are presently incarcerated in one of the Oregon Youth Correctional Facilities. Most of these young men have completed high school and some college while finishing a program called Employment Skills Workshops. Once a month for seven months they have focused on developing excellent employee skills, overcoming barriers to success and more while serving their sentences. They are preparing for transition out of the facility and into the work force. They were in need of clothes for their upcoming job interviews and that is where the men in this

community stepped up. Dozens of shirts and ties came into the Seaside Chamber office and even a half dozen suits. It was a phenomenal show of kindness and hope. I want to thank these men, most of who I do not know their names or businesses, for their generosity, while not judging but helping these young men to a new start.

Shirley Yates
Pastor, "At the Water's Gate"
Seaside

No beer

Having painfully sat through the Planning Commission meeting of March 10, I could not help but wonder if the "nay" voters had even read the Comprehensive Plan and understood its goals. Specifically, where in the good conscience of anyone does the approval of a "bar" in

the heart of the city of Gearhart fit the goal of maintaining a "residential community"?

The current "residential community" provides a wonderfully idyllic place where families, children and guests can stroll, ride bikes and visit with the rest of the community. Particularly, where our little kids and grandkids can stroll or ride their bikes without worry of being in a safe environment. I certainly am not going to allow my grandchildren to visit in front of a bar.

This approval should be reconsidered. The Gearhart Grocery has been a delightful cornerstone to downtown and a perfect place for our little ones to pop in for a treat and not feel threatened. A place that serves beer, be it a bar or a pub, is not a place for minors.

Please reconsider what Gearhart has always been about, and do not degrade it by approving the request to open a brew pub. Do what's right for Gearhart.

Rick Sabol
Gearhart

No thanks

The news that the grocery store we frequent is being replaced by a brew pub? That is the last thing we need, and will change the fabric of this small but close-knit community. I must say that I am in shock that this has been passed ("Brew pub plan gets conditional go-ahead," *The Daily Astorian*, March 14). It will be like having the firemen's ball 24/7.

It is not in the best interest of the people who live in Gearhart. My husband and I strongly object to this ridiculous approv-

al by members of the Planning Commission. There are more places to get a beer than one can count, so leave Gearhart out.

Liz and Ed Meany
Gearhart

WINGS event good

The Seaside and Astoria American Association of University Women held its 14th annual Women Interested in Going to School 2016 Conference Feb. 6, in collaboration with Clatsop Community College. WINGS has enjoyed community support from the media, individuals and the business community since the beginning, and we want to say a big thank you.

Sixty-six women experienced a potentially life-changing day. We couldn't have done it without the support of the writers and editors at *The Daily As-*

torian, Seaside Signal and Cannon Beach Gazette. In particular we saw a big bump in registration following the Jan. 28 story by Edward Stratton, "Outreach helps give Latinas wings."

We collected donations from 126 donors. Forty-one women attended the full-day session, and 25 women participated in the new half-day Latina session. We expect this initiative to continue to grow.

Local women can now see a path to a brighter future for themselves and their families and financial incentives to get started. Thank you so much for the continued support for WINGS.

Pat Lehman
Co-chairwoman, WINGS
AAUW Seaside
Bobbi Brice
Co-chairwoman, WINGS
AAUW of Astoria

SEASIDE
Signal

PUBLISHER
Steve Forrester

EDITOR
R.J. Marx

ADVERTISING
MANAGER
Betty Smith

CIRCULATION
MANAGER
Heather Ramsdell

PRODUCTION
MANAGER
John D. Bruijn

SYSTEMS
MANAGER
Carl Earl

ADVERTISING
SALES
Laura Kaim
Brandy Stewart

CONTRIBUTING
WRITERS
Claire Lovell
Jon Rahl
Esther Moberg
Katherine Lacaze
Eve Marx

Seaside Signal
The Seaside Signal is published every other week by EO Media Group, 1555 N. Roosevelt, Seaside, OR 97138. 503-738-5561 seasidesignal.com

Letter policy
The Seaside Signal welcomes letters to the editor. The deadline is noon Monday prior to publication. Letters must be 400 words or less and must be signed by the author and include a phone number for verification. We also request that submissions be limited to one letter per month. Send to 1555 N. Roosevelt Drive, Seaside, OR 97138, drop them off at 1555 N. Roosevelt Drive or fax to 503-738-9285. Or email rmarx@seasidesignal.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS
Annually: \$40.50 in county • \$58.00 in and out of county • e-Edition: only \$30.00

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Seaside Signal, P.O. Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103. Postage Paid at Seaside, OR 97138 and at additional mailing offices. Copyright 2015 © by the Seaside Signal. No portion of this newspaper may be re-produced without written permission. All rights reserved.