

# Little libraries up for auction to support big libraries

The promise of spring is in the air and this spring, little lambs and little free libraries are popping up at your nearest library! OK, so I made that part up about the little lambs, unless you count the kids who attend our preschool story times.

However, little free libraries really will be on display at the Astoria, Seaside, and Warrenton public libraries throughout the month of March. These little libraries are built by local community members and businesses and will be up for auction on March 23 at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center.

The little libraries, reading themed birdhouses, and other items will be auctioned off at the live and

**BETWEEN THE COVERS**  
ESTHER MOBERG



silent auction event. This fundraiser is in support of Libraries Reading Outreach in Clatsop County, a nonprofit that supports library programs and cards for all children in our county. In addition, it also provides county wide summer reading programs to help prevent "summer slide" which can happen if children don't keep up with their reading during the summer months. Children can regress up to an entire grade level in their reading,

**WHEN:** March 23, starting at 5:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Seaside Civic and Convention Center

**COST:** \$15; tickets available at the Astoria, Seaside, and Warrenton libraries.

which means teachers often have to spend the beginning of the following school year just helping kids get back up to where they should be for their grade.

About 2,900 children in our county live outside of the city limits of Astoria, Seaside, and Warrenton. Without the libraries reading and outreach program, most of the rural children living in our county would not have access to a public library's

books and services.

The outreach program is bridging the gaps for rural kids while supporting the work of our teachers and home-schoolers. The work of libraries reading outreach is a collaboration between the county, the three public libraries, and five school districts in our county and we need your support. The program started back in 2009 and is now transitioning to being fully community supported. We hope you will join us in supporting literacy and reading success for all youth to age 19 in our county.

Just last month, we had a child attend a drawing class at the Seaside Library who was very proud to have a library card through the

reading outreach program.

Currently over 650 children have active library cards at the three public libraries in the county and last year these children checked out over 31,000 items. If you know someone who might benefit from a Libraries Reading Outreach in Clatsop County library card, send them to their nearest public library in Clatsop County.

Please join us on March 23 starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center. The ticket cost of \$15 gets you in the door and you will have appetizers and desserts to nibble on while enjoying the silent and live auctions. Tickets are available at the Astoria, Seaside, and Warrenton libraries.

## OBITUARIES

### Barbara Robson Fraser

July 26, 1918 — Feb. 17, 2017

After a long life full of love and family, Barbara Robson Fraser, 98, passed away on Feb. 17, 2017, at West Hills Village, Portland, Oregon.

She was born on July 26, 1918, in Cochrane, Ontario, to William Robson and Florence Parker Robson, and was the fifth of six children. The Robson family left their Ontario homestead in December 1918 and moved to Detroit, Michigan.

Barbara attended Detroit's Commerce High School, and graduated as her class president in 1936. During high school, she was involved in a number of musical and drama activities. Immediately after graduation, she interned and was subsequently employed as a secretary by the Detroit Board of Education for five years.

Barbara Robson met George Fraser II on Palm Sunday 1938, at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Detroit, Michigan, and they were married there on June 24, 1939. They were happily married for almost 75 years.

Barbara is survived by her three sons, George Corwin Fraser III (Laurel), Michael Robson Fraser (Pamela) and Bruce Allan Fraser (Margaret); her nine grandchildren, Tamara, George IV, Aimee, Eric, Robson, Richard, Maya Christine, Holly and Patrick; and her 11 great-grandchildren.

Barbara was preceded in death by her husband, George; their daughter, Kathleen Anne Fraser; and their great-granddaughter, Madelyn Anne Fraser.

Barbara and George moved to the Oregon Coast in 1987, and lived there for 27 years. They were visited frequently by her grandchild-



Barbara Fraser

dren and great-grandchildren. Grandma Barbara always had a supply of card, domino and board games, and the time and patience to play with the children. They all fondly remember their visits to the "coast house."

Barbara was an active participant in many volunteer community and church activities throughout her life. She was especially proud of her association with the William Temple House as an assistant to Father Abbott, and later the writer/editor of Canterbury Times. She was also an active member of Chapter FE of PEO.

A memorial service will be held at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 2201 S.W. Vermont St., Portland, Oregon, at 2 p.m., on Saturday, March 4, 2017, followed by a reception.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to the William Temple House, 2023 N.W. Hoyt St., Portland, OR 97209; or to PEO Chapter FE, 92951 Astor Drive, Astoria, OR 97103.

The family wishes to express its thanks to the staff and residents of West Hills Village who brought friendship and comfort to her life.

### Lesley Margaret (Smiley) Graber

Sept. 29, 1957 — Feb. 17, 2017

Even on the darkest of days, she laughed and found hope. She was the strong of the strong, and although she was small, she stood taller than the tall.

Seaside, Oregon, is where she made her home; she was known and loved by all that she met. Lesley Margaret (Smiley) Graber was born on Sept. 29, 1957, and she left the world on Feb. 17, 2017; the best for her was yet to come.

She is survived by her daughters, Denise (Alan) Leadingham of Greenup, Kentucky, Ronda (David) Dunn of Proctorville, Ohio,

and Desiree' (Ryan) Lynch of Ashland, Kentucky; 13 grandchildren; a soon-to-be great-granddaughter and a great-grandson; a brother, Steve (Darrell) Smiley of Kalispell, Montana; and a sister, Lynn.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harry Stuart and Margaret Mary Smiley; as well as her very beloved sister, Desiree' Laurie.

Hughes-Ransom Mortuary and Crematory in Seaside is in charge of the arrangements. Please visit [www.hughes-ransom.com](http://www.hughes-ransom.com) to share memories and sign the guest book.

## LETTERS

### Speculation in Gearhart

I write this letter reluctantly, not because I have something else I'd rather be doing, but because I think the subject is none of my business — though, as a resident of the city of Gearhart, I am assured it is my business.

A *Daily Astorian* headline asks "Is gambling 'good for Gearhart'?" (Feb. 8) in the matter of the owner of a soon-to-open brew pub being required to ask the city for permission to install four video lottery machines in his place of business, on his own property. The question cannot be answered, as no one is qualified to speak for "Gearhart," much less to know what is "good" for it.

In the course of my life of 79 years, I doubt if many more than half the decisions I have made for myself have been "good" for me. Even less would be the probability that I can know what will be good for another person, and it is entirely out of the question that I can accurately guess what will be good for a town of about 1,000 residents and numerous visitors.

In a free enterprise economy, such as we have in this country, consumers "vote" with their dollars. If a business receives enough "votes," it will thrive; if it does not, it will wither and die. There is no way to predict its future, because it is not known how future generations will care to spend their dollars. It is hubristic for any group of citizens, including a so-called Planning Commission, to decide now what will be good for my children or grandchild-

dren, or any other future residents of Gearhart.

In the current matter of video lottery games, I am with Thomas Jefferson in principle — whether a man install four or 40 gambling machines, it "neither breaks my leg nor picks my pocket."

Louis Sargent Gearhart

### Free the zoo animals

I am an eighth-grader at Broadway Middle School. Zoos are bad. The animals live in cages, the food is horrible, and the animals only have family to rely on.

First, the animals live in cages. OK, imagine yourself being in a cage, how lonely you would be. And, think how the cheetah and the tiger and the reptiles and the birds are feeling right this very second, all alone and most likely crying — like you probably would be doing.

Second, the food is horrible. The food is pretty artificial. The animals get lazy because they can't chase after the "food" or their prey in zoos. The animals do not get a lot of food in zoos. And they don't get enough vitamins, iron, nutrients and bacteria killers. And they are bored enough to sleep all day. Imagine yourself, how worried you would be. If I were you, I would make signs to say free the animals, protest, tell every zoo to let them go and write in newspapers.

So as you can see zoos are bad. The animals live in cages, the food is bad, and they only have family to rely on.

Hayden Spratt Gearhart

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

### Tuesday, March 7

Seaside Community and Senior Commission, 10 a.m., 1225 Avenue A.

Seaside Planning Commission, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Seaside Library Board, 4:30 p.m., 1131 Broadway.

Thursday, March 9  
Seaside Convention Center Commission, 5 p.m., Convention Center, 415 First Ave.

Gearhart Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

Wednesday, March 15  
Tourism Advisory Committee, 3 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Thursday, March 16  
Seaside Tree Board, 4 p.m.,

City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Gearhart Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

Seaside Transportation Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway

Tuesday, March 21  
Sunset Empire Parks and Rec District, 4 p.m., 1225 Ave. A, Seaside.

Seaside School District, 6 p.m., 1810 S. Franklin, Seaside.

Tuesday, March 28  
Seaside Airport Advisory Committee, 6 p.m. City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Wednesday, April 5  
Gearhart City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

## Candidates sought for rec board

The Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District is still seeking district residents interested in becoming a candidate for one of five board seats that are up for election this May. Although three of the current board members have expressed their interest in running for re-election, all five of the board positions are up for election this year. Three of the positions are three-year terms, and two are two-year terms.

Interested individuals

will need to pick-up a candidate filing packet from the front desk of the Sunset Pool located at 1140 Broadway in Seaside. Packets must be submitted to the Clatsop County Elections Department, 820 Exchange St, Suite 220 (2nd floor) in Astoria, no later than 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 16.

The cost to file is \$10, however, the fee will be waived if the candidate is able to gather 25 signatures from registered district voters.

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