

Statements on short-term rentals were misleading

The false and misleading statements in the article published in The Daily Astorian on May 16, 2017, entitled “Short-term Rentals Rules Under Fire,” cannot go unchallenged. The article begins by stating, “The City of Gearhart misrepresented a challenge to new short-term rentals, a Clatsop County Court judge has ruled.” This statement is not only false but misleading. The written “ORDER” published by Judge Dawn M. McIntosh makes no such statement and there is no known oral statement made by the judge. We suggest The Daily Astorian publish the order issued by the court to allow citizens to reach their own conclusion.

The article goes on to state that “A summary of a ballot initiative to ‘repeal and replace’ the legislation underwent significant changes as a result of the decision, issued by Judge Dawn McIntosh on May 4.” This statement is also not only false

GUEST COLUMN
JEANNE MARK

but misleading. A comparison of the summary of the ballot prepared by Gearhart’s city attorney with the summary set forth in the court’s order show that the changes made by the court were minor, insignificant and few. The court cleaned up some grammar and combined certain portions of the original summary into one sentence that were originally more than one sentence. All material statements in the original summary were left intact.

Given the above stated truths, why would Gearhart property owner David Townsend declare, “This is a huge win. What we’ve said solidly from Day One is that the current regime at City Hall is very solidly against vacation rentals. The city

was trying to completely manipulate the language. The judge agreed with us, that they were 99 percent wrong. I’ve been doing this a long time and it’s the first time I’ve seen a judge completely rewrite and take everything from one side.” David Townsend made this statement in order to mislead the reader into believing that it took a court of law to protect the residents of Gearhart from its own City Hall. The fact is City Hall is not solidly against vacation rentals, The city did not try to manipulate the language, and the court did not agree with them 99 percent. This was merely an attempt by Mr. Townsend, to use his word, to manipulate public opinion against City Hall’s intention.

You may ask, who is David Townsend? He is not a resident of Gearhart, but resides in Sacramento, California. If you were to Google him you would find that David Townsend is the founder and president of Townsend Raimundo Besler

& Usher. For more than 35 years he has created and directed winning multimedia, communications, political and public affairs campaigns. He provides strategic consultation to corporations, statewide coalitions, elected officials and trade associations in addition to directing state and local issues and candidate campaigns. It is difficult for one to believe that a person with Mr. Townsend’s vast experience would state “it’s the first time I’ve seen a judge completely rewrite and take everything from one side.” But then that is what a political consultant/strategist would be paid to say.

So what else is known about Mr. Townsend? If you check with the Oregon Secretary of State you will find that Mr. Townsend has registered a political PAC to support his opposition against the short-term rental regulations. He calls it “Gearhart Citizens for Fair and Reasonable Government.” Who are these “Gearhart Citizens” who support this

PAC? Public records show that that there has been a total of \$14,962.50 contributed to the PAC either by cash or by in-kind contribution. The records further show that \$2,487.50 has been contributed by people living in Oregon and \$12,475.00 has been contributed by people living outside the state.

The opposition to the short-term rental regulations is not a residents-based opposition: per City Hall records, 109 permits were applied for. Of that 109, four were from Gearhart residents. The remaining 105 were from non-residents, mostly from Portland, Washington, California, Idaho, Alaska, Minnesota.

Those opposing the current regulations are doing so to protect their for-profit investments. We don’t believe the actual residents of Gearhart want their city turned into a commercial investment property community where “short-term rental property owners” become known as “for-profit investment property owners.”

OBITUARIES

Larry Lee Haller

April 25, 1934 — May 21, 2017

Larry was born in Sweet Home, Oregon, to Alma and Joseph Haller.

He graduated from Milwaukie High School. He received a bachelor of science degree from Oregon State University, and a master’s degree in administration from the University of Oregon.

He married Joyce Cumberland in 1956. In 1960, he moved with his family to Seaside, where he taught and coached at Seaside High School until he retired in 1989.

Larry devoted his life to community service. He served on the Seaside City Council for 22 years. He was a member of the Seaside Kids, Jaycees, Rotary, Miss Oregon Pageant, Masonic Lodge, Providence Seaside Hospital Board, Seaside Convention Center Board, and the Chamber of Commerce. During these years he received many



Larry Haller

honors and awards.

He is survived by his wife, Joyce; daughter, Kristi; son-in-law, Todd Shaffer; son, Scott; daughter-in-law, Cheryl Harrison; a brother, Bill; and several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life is planned for later this year.

Donations may be made to Seaside Kids, P.O. Box 275, Seaside, OR 97138.

Dan Michael West

Feb. 22, 1952 — April 17, 2017

Dan Michael West, 65, of Seaside died on April 17, 2017 in Seaside.

He was born in Dallas, Oregon, on Feb. 22, 1952, the son of Dan and Irma (Pisila) West; his parents both unfortunately passed away when he was a young child, and he was lovingly adopted by Don and Thelma (Koski) Rundel.

Raised in Bellevue, Washington, he was a 1970 graduate of Bellevue High School, and then attended Eastern Washington University. In 1973, he entered the U.S. Navy, and served as a broadcast journalist aboard the USS Jouett until honorably discharged at San Diego, California, in 1977.

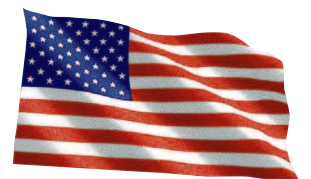
During his career, he worked for Northwest Paperbox for 15 years, and prior to that for Rundel Products for two decades.

Dan moved to Seaside from Portland in 2008, and has been an area resident since that time. He was a member of the Seaside American Legion, and was a devoted fan of both the New York Yankees and Oregon Ducks. He had a quick wit and a great laugh, for which he will be remembered.

He is survived by his daughter, Rhiannon West Chamberlain of Portland, Oregon; his brother, Mark Rundel of Seattle, Washington; his sister,



Dan West



Wendy Rundel of Ashland, Oregon; grandsons Henry and Jack Chamberlain of Portland, Oregon; and a son-in-law, Bill Chamberlain of Portland, Oregon.

Private family graveside services were held at Ocean View Cemetery in Warrenton on April 29.

The family suggests that contributions in his memory be made to the Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway, Seaside, OR 97138.

Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria handled the arrangements.

June Elizabeth Sellers

Feb. 6, 1932 — May 14, 2017

June Elizabeth Sellers, age 85, passed away peacefully at home on May 14, 2017, in Astoria, Oregon.

She was born on Feb. 6, 1932, in Afton, Tennessee, to Joseph F. and Nancy Grace Childress, the youngest of seven children. She was raised in West Virginia until the age of 12, and then her family moved west to Oregon. She graduated from high school in Vernonia, Oregon, and then trained as a nurse at Good Samaritan in Portland, Oregon.

She married Bobby Elton Sellers on Aug. 5, 1950. June devoted her life to taking care of people, whether it was her family, or as a caregiver to the elderly and ill. She attended Grace Community Bible Church in Astoria.

June will be remembered for her quiet strength and selfless love for her family. Her generous, sweet, and kind nature made everyone feel special. She could make you laugh with her quick wit and sense of humor. She loved cooking and telling stories, so you never left her home without a full stomach and a full heart.

She is survived by her three children, a daughter and son-in-law, Barbara and Barry Craft of Long Beach, a son, John Sellers of Warrenton, Oregon, and a son and daughter-in-law, Joseph and Teresita Sellers of Knappa, Oregon; five grandchildren, Eric and his wife Stefanie, Amy, Sarah, Hillary and Shawn; and six great-grandchildren, Tristan, Lucas, Aiden, Elise, Kaelise and Shamus. She is also



June Sellers

survived by an uncle, Harry Childress of West Virginia and children; a sister-in-law, Clarice Sellers of Orlando, Florida; and numerous nieces and nephews whom she loved dearly. She was preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, Bobby.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 27, 2017, at Grace Community Baptist Church, 1195 Irving Ave. in Astoria, Oregon. A reception will follow.

Her interment will be with her husband at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon.

The family would like to extend their gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Croos and family for providing attentive care and comfort over the past few years.

Remembrances may be made to Lower Columbia Hospice in Astoria.

Hughes-Ransom Mortuary in Astoria, Oregon, is handling the funeral arrangements. Visit www.hughes-ransom.com to leave a message and/or sign the online guest book.

LETTERS

Letters from Page 4A

development on north Wahanna and pushing forward a zoning change to allow a 40 (!) unit housing project as an example of the political will needed to provide affordable housing. The punch line is “every time there is a re-zone or up-zone where there are single family dwellings, we’re going to face lots of opposition,” according to our newly minted mayor.

Count me among the nimbys’ because life is already too cheap on the Wahanna-bahn.

Gary Durheim
Seaside

Ordinance makes sense

A group of short-term rental owners are attempting a voter initiative on the November ballot to alter the STR regulations adopted by the Gearhart City Council in September 2016. It is important for voters to understand the changes that would be made if the initiative passes.

- Twenty-four-hour representative and neighbor notice: This change would eliminate neighbors being given the owners’ and their representatives’ contact information, and the requirement that the representative respond to the vacation site within 30

minutes.

- Parking: This change would eliminate the requirement that there be one outside parking place per bedroom on the property.
- Septic capacity inspections and cesspool prohibitions: This change eliminates the requirement of the property owner to demonstrate the existence of a working septic system.
- Remove the limitation on the number of STRs: This would lead to unlimited rentals throughout Gearhart.
- Increase the maximum occupancy: Currently, occupancy is limited to two persons over the age of 2 per bedroom. This change would allow two persons per bedroom, plus an additional three persons over the age of 12, and an unlimited number age 12 and younger. There is no residential septic system in Gearhart designed to handle this occupancy load.

The city’s complete short-term rental ordinance is available on the city website or at City Hall, and a copy of the STR owners voter initiative is also available at City Hall. Please take the time to look these before you consider signing in favor of getting this initiative on the ballot.

Dianne Widdop
Gearhart

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