

Airbnb fails to meet city's rental standards

No longer a mom-and-pop, starving-student operation, the Airbnb Community is a \$30 billion global company. At the time of this writing, according to a March 2017 study conducted by CBRE Hotels' America Research, 40 percent of Airbnb's revenue is driven by multi-unit owner/investors. These are people who buy and rent out entire dwellings and then also rent out two or more properties — people for whom this is clearly a business and not simply a way to make ends meet or to supplement a fixed income.

Over the last years, Seaside, Astoria, and Cannon Beach have experienced the effects of this unregulated dynamic dramatically eroding the livability and small business environment in our towns. The proliferation of Airbnb's unlicensed, unregulated "illegal hotel" operations extracts profits from our communities. This proliferation broadsides local law-abiding owner/operators, nega-

GUEST COLUMN
CYNTHIA MALKOWSKI



tively impacts neighborhoods, zoning ordinances, regulatory compliance and tax revenues. Airbnb inventory consumes residences that otherwise could be available as affordable housing for local families. This consumption also perpetuates "urban creep," forcing unnecessary development.

Consequently, Airbnb impacts our natural environment, such as the a 40-unit Wahanna complex that was approved proximate to a wetland area based on the need for more affordable housing. If Airbnb complied with existing ordinances and if Seaside had monitored its activity, illegal Airbnb housing might have been available for families to rent and the wetlands would not have been an issue.

Failing to agree to operate in a transparent way, Airbnb also appears not to comply with short-term rental regulations, licensing, tax, zoning laws or any other public health requirements.

When Seaside (or Clatsop County) tacitly turns a blind eye, this creates an unfair playing field that disadvantages those of us who live here and who create jobs by participating in our community.

We are the ones who have to make it through winter.

Airbnb, in an attempt to maintain secrecy and unfair advantage, approached Seaside with its own contract called a voluntary collection agreement, which it wants the city to sign.

This is like a stranger approaching you to ask if you want some candy.

The terms imply that taxation and licensing will somehow be addressed, yet the city will not have access to the information it needs in order to verify

overnight stays and the number of Airbnb properties.

The contract would allow Airbnb to be audited once within a 48-month period, prevent transparency by failing to disclose the addresses for neighbors to know who is next door, side-step licensing requirements and be exempt from a tax look-back. Wow.

If Seaside inks this contract, we should all be able to have those same terms, which include voluntary disclosure agreements, not VCAs, that require entities to pay taxes, hold proper licensing, and open books for audits. Our municipal leaders must enforce compliance as a condition for Airbnb doing business within the city limits of our town. In addition, according to Seaside's two-year strategic goals plan, our leaders must move quickly to define the parameters and enforceability of VRD/STR permits. How much is too much? In the meantime, until this goal is

clearly accomplished, instead of approving VRDs by the handful every month as has been the trend, I request the following in order to protect our community:

- A directive to all entities such as Airbnb, Vacasa, Flipkey, VRBO, Homeaway, to cease business within the city of Seaside until such time that they demonstrate that they abide by the same rules as our other compliant businesses;

- A moratorium on any more VRD/STR licensing, until the city is able and willing to define its goals and the means of enforcing these goals;

- An overture on the part of the city to assure advocates of local businesses, affordable housing and land conservancy that our concerns regarding the threat by illegally operating entities will be substantively addressed.

Cynthia Malkowski is a Seaside resident.

OBITUARIES

Dick James Betzer

July 24, 1948 — Jan. 29, 2017

Dick James Betzer was born on July 24, 1948, to Ray and Althea Betzer in Seaside, Oregon. The youngest of three children, he had a passion for baseball and participated in Little League. Later, he coached his own team with good friend, Gary Nelson.

Living most of his life in the coastal community, Dick worked for 14 years as a logger for the Crown-Zellerbach Company. He also served 28 years in the Army National Guard at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon.

Becoming a fourth degree black belt in tae-kwon-do, he enjoyed competing and performing as well as teaching the art.

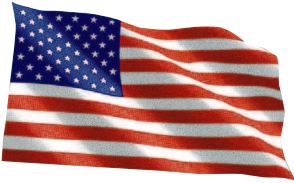
Moving to Kooskia, Idaho, in 2011, Dick spent his time hunting, fishing and camp hosting in the area.

He passed away while snow-birding in Parker, Arizona, on Jan. 29, 2017.

Dick is survived by his wife, Hannah Betzer of Kooskia, Idaho; a daughter, Kimberly Betzer of Warrenton, Oregon; a son, Tyson Betzer of Kalahea, Hawaii; seven grandchildren, a



Dick James Betzer



great-grandchild; a brother, Jim Betzer of Tillamook, Oregon; a sister, Bonnie Pyryt of Seaside, Oregon; and many friends.

Please join us for a military service and celebration of life on Sunday, June 11, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the American Legion in Seaside, Oregon.

Contributions to the Disabled American Veterans would be appreciated.

Obituary Policy

The Seaside Signal publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Mary Rose Wiese

May 12, 1924 — May 23, 2017



Mary Wiese



Mary passed away peacefully in her sleep Tuesday morning, May 23, 2017.

She was born May 12, 1924, in Portland, to Anton and Nina Konzich. She was raised in Jewell, and attended Jewell Grade and High schools, where she was a scrappy basketball player.

Moving to Portland after graduating from high school, Mary went to work at the J.C. Penney Co., quickly moving up to lower management with her keen business mind.

She met Larry Wiese at a dance, where Larry was drumming in the orchestra. They were married on Sept. 28, 1946. Both Larry and Mary worked at the American Lumber Co. in Vernonia until 1950, when they moved to Molalla, Oregon. Mary then became a housewife, looking after her two children, Edward and Douglas.

In 1963, the family moved

to Gearhart, Oregon. After purchasing Bud's Drive In and Motel and selling it in 1973, Mary worked part time in real estate with Tarbell in Seaside. In 1983, along with her son Douglas, they opened Dooger's Seafood and Grill.

Mary retired again in 1994. Finally having the time to pursue one of her true passions, Mary took her contract bridge playing skills to multiple masters levels.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband, Larry; her son, Edward; and four step-siblings, Ann, Francis, Eva and Tony. She is survived by her son, Douglas; her favorite daughter-in-law, Mary Jean; two grandchildren, Carnegie and Elie; a sister, Patricia Hanthorn; and a brother, Henry Konzich.

Caldwell Luce-Layton is handling the cremation, and there will not be a public service.

LETTERS

Letters from Page 4A

that this stove is expected to come up to standards required by stoves equipped with catalytic converters. Of course, there is apparently no way to get it certified. I am supposed to destroy it and recycle the cast iron, acquiring documentation and expense along the way.

There is no such thing as magic. Fuels for wood burning stoves and automobiles are hydrocarbons. As one might expect, the hydro part of these compounds is water, and the carbon part is carbon. When they are burned they turn in to water, don't try to drink it until mother nature has done her thing, and carbon compounds, mostly carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide. There are many contaminants in wood, diesel and gasoline. They, too, survive the burning process.

A catalytic converter essentially tries to burn the fuels more completely. Probably it does something along these lines — when it is new. Unfortunately, catalytic converters quickly lose their ability to do the job they are reputed to do, and they are expensive to replace. Some of you probably have found this out already.

Every atom or molecule of gasoline, diesel or wood that is burned becomes part of the emissions, unless it is an atomic reaction. To more completely burn the fuel, the catalytic converter needs — guess what? More fuel. The catalytic converter is supposed to do its job at higher temperatures. Higher temperatures are

not something one needs in either a wood burning stove or an internal combustion motor. Many folks have already found this out, the hard way.

We are sacrificing more fuel to more completely burn fuel. More pollution being the end result. The end product in catalytic converted stoves and automotive vehicles is hopefully less carbon monoxide and more carbon dioxide. Carbon monoxide, as pointed out by aficionados of catalytic converters, is a poison gas.

Carbon dioxide, we are led to understand, is causing global warming, and is threatening to exterminate human and most other animal life on this planet.

There are many experts in this field who would compromise their expertise, education, morals and name by lying.

There is no magic.
Benjamin A. Greaves
Seaside

Pub is good for Gearhart

It is regrettable, but an unfortunate sign of our times, that Gearhart pub owner Terry Lowenberg must not only seek permission from the city government to install four lottery machines in his place of business, located on his own property, but that he must appeal to that government on the grounds that the machines will be "good for Gearhart and good for Oregon" ("Gearhart's video lottery decision challenged," The Daily Astorian, May 12).

The Gearhart City Council, in denying the request, is quoted as saying, "there is no evidence of demand for the machines in the central city core." Of course there is not. The "evidence" of demand can only come after the machines are installed, and the measure of that "demand" will become evident from the amount of money patrons spend on those machines.

Mayor Matt Brown is then quoted, after casting his "no" vote against the machines: "It's hard for me to see a public need was proven." It is not for Mr. Lowenberg to secure a public need. That, in fact, is the business of government, and those public needs are a fire department, police protection, clean water, paved roads, etc. After needs, come enjoyments, or, those things, great and small, which can make life an occasional delight rather than a daily struggle to secure needs.

Enjoyments are private, personal and individual. No one else but me is qualified to say what I will need by way of enjoyment. Mr. Lowenberg is hoping, as all business people hope, to provide,

profitably, a modicum of enjoyment to those residents of, and visitors to, the city of Gearhart. His success can only be measured by the number of patrons who visit his pub, and the amounts of dollars they choose to spend. If he is successful, he will have thereby provided that evidence of demand, which the Gearhart City Council and Mayor Brown require of him.

And, what could be better for Gearhart, better for Oregon, or better for all people, than those moments of convivial enjoyment which we are fortunate enough to find here and there?
Louis Sargent
Gearhart

Ask about Fixed Rate Home Equity Loans!
503-738-8341

Bank of the Pacific
Member FDIC
NMLS# 417480

NORTH COAST DOOR CO.
Serving the North Oregon Coast for Over 28 Years

Pre-Hung Doors • Garage Door Sales
Installation • Complete Trim Packages
Stair Parts • Door Hardware

R.J. & Bonnie Wynia CCB #214816 • 1303 Front Street • Tillamook, OR
503-842-5300
northcoastdoorco@hotmail.com • www.northcoastdoorco.com

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

FLOORING

CCB# 205283

Carpet Corner
Flooring • Installation • Carpet Cleaning

3470 Hwy 101 Suite 102 • Gearhart, Oregon
503.739.7577 • carpetcornergearhart.com

SECURITY

COASTAL ALARM

SYSTEMS
503-738-9003

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

Residential & Commercial: Burglary & Fire Protection, Video Surveillance, Central Station Monitoring, Remote Arm/Disarm

LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED

Seaside, Oregon • www.CoastalAlarm.net • info@CoastalAlarm.net
CCB# 201010 • Reg.# 977689-99

FLOORING

Laurelwood Compost • Mulch • Planting MacMix
Soil Amendments

YARD DEBRIS DROP-OFF
(no Scotch Broom)

503-717-1454

34154 HIGHWAY 26
SEASIDE, OR

Laurelwood Farm

LANDSCAPING

BOB McEWAN CONSTRUCTION, INC.

EXCAVATION • UNDERGROUND UTILITIES
ROAD WORK • FILL MATERIAL
SITE PREPARATION • ROCK

OWNED AND OPERATED BY MIKE AND CELINE McEWAN

503-738-3569

34154 Hwy 26, Seaside, OR
P.O. Box 2845, Gearhart, OR

SERVING THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST SINCE 1956 • CC48302

CONSTRUCTION

Randall Lee's 0% FINANCING AVAILABLE

Flooring America

Window Treatments, Fabric, Designer Wallpaper, Visit Our Counter Tops, All Flooring and Miele Vacuums Outlet!

2311 N. Roosevelt Dr., Seaside, OR 97138 • 503-738-5729
rlflooring@yahoo.com • www.RandallLeesFlooring.com

Randall Lee's Flooring Outlet • 3579 Hwy 101 Gearhart • 503-738-6756
Warehouse pricing • Open to the Public • Hundreds of instock rolls & remnants • In House Binding

LAWN CARE

Timberland Lawn Care & Home Maintenance LLC.

Ask About Our Handyman Services!
Excavating • Fences • Yard Maintenance and More!
CCB#212982

503-440-2480
TimberlandLawnCare@yahoo.com

BUSINESS DIRECTORY