

Community togetherness drives building of new chair

If you drive through one of the more prominent intersections in Seaside this summer, you'll undoubtedly notice a new feature to the landscape in front of the Seaside Visitors Bureau and Seaside Chamber of Commerce offices. The building, which also serves as Seaside's information center and one of eight official Travel Oregon Welcome Centers at the Broadway and Roosevelt intersection, is now home to an oversized Adirondack chair.

The eight-foot tall by 7 1/2-foot wide structure is the brainchild of the Tourism Advisory Committee for the city of Seaside — a committee made up of Seaside City Council appointed community members to help advise and oversee the Visitors Bureau department. The group first discussed the idea of something like this well over a year ago at one of its monthly meetings. It was around the same time the group was also kicking around ideas for new welcome signage coming into town. While

SIDE RAIL
JON RAHL

the signage project is still in the works, with an estimated timeline to be completed later in 2017, the chair idea gained serious steam just a couple of months ago.

The Tourism Advisory Committee really liked the idea of a feature in the heart of town that could illustrate the fun our community offers while also creating a unique gathering place that people could have their picture taken. In early May, Visitors Bureau staff reached out to Seaside High School shop and drafting teacher Jeff Corliss to see if he'd be interested in the project for his students. We realized the end of the school year was rapidly approaching, but with the weather slowly improving it seemed like an



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Clockwise from left are Gabriella Bergman, Dalton Smith, Manuel Stewart, Kaytlin Kriska, teacher Jeff Corliss, Justin Marteeny, Eric Harwood, Troy Foster, Matt Miller, Matt Long and Nate Kerwin.

ideal time to greenlight the project. Corliss thought the project sounded fun and something his students could work on, so an idea suddenly became quick reality.

Corliss tells us that approximately 30 Seaside High School students had their hands on this project. From the drafting students to the kids that built and painted the chair in shop

class, it became quite literally one of the biggest projects of the school year. The chair makes grown adults look like little kids again and is representative of how this Seaside community often comes together, unites on a project or issue and makes something happen. I visited the high school while the work was being done and it was awesome to see a group of kids so proud of something that will hopefully greet visitors for many years to come.

If you stop by to visit the chair in person, don't forget to come into the visitor information center too. We offer great info on places and things to do along the coast and across the entire state. Have a great summer! Have a thought or a question about tourism in Seaside, or maybe an idea for a future column? Drop me an email at jrahl@cityofseaside.us. Rahl is the director of tourism for the Seaside Visitors Bureau and assistant general manager of the Seaside Civic and Convention Center.

LETTERS

Letters from Page 4A

zone off the coast of Oregon existed. Now the odds of a big Cascadia earthquake and tsunami in the next 50 years are roughly one in three. The north coast of Oregon has been told that they can expect to be without electrical power for six months. Evacuation planning has shown that the vast majority of the northern Oregon coast residents and visitors will survive a Cascadia event. North coast residents are planning on developing a new electrical generation capability, the Cascadia People's Utility District, which will mitigate long-term loss of power to the area.

Pacific Power services coastal Clatsop County and was approached about building a new renewable power facility above the tsunami inundation zone. To comply with State mandates for more renewable power to replace its coal-fueled electrical generation, Pacific Power decided to center its renewable power generation program on building wind farms in Wyoming. While the addition of renewable power projects are good, a project in Wyoming does nothing to mitigate the north coast's potential six-month loss of electrical power. After some investigating, all areas surrounding Clatsop County have electrical service provided by locally owned and controlled, non-profit People's Utility Districts.

The biggest opportunity for north Clatsop County consumers would be to choose to

build an independent source of renewable power for the area, so if damage to the Bonneville transmission lines threatens a six-month outage, we will have our own system in place. We don't need Pacific Power's permission — we can do it ourselves, and that's why Cascadia PUD needs to be formed. It costs you nothing and provides a future for the area. For more information about this process, contact me at 949-566-8664, or johndunzer@msn.com.

John Dunzer
Seaside

No place for crybabies

I am replying to the guest column written by A.J. Wahl in the June 23 edition of the Seaside Signal.

There were several Democrat talking points in her column in place of originality.

"...the affront to our democracy..."

"...marched against misogyny..."

"...in support of human rights..."

We live in a representative republic, not a democracy. There is a huge difference. Apparently, this is not taught in all levels of education any more.

Crybabies refer to the after-election rioters that posed as protesters and not the millions of individual voters. Some of these rioters were paid. Many of them were anarchists.

The political arena is a hot one and attacking is done by all sides. It's not a place

for those whose feelings are easily hurt.

Those with traditional American values hope that this is the beginning of the end for those that cling to such emotionally motivated destructive beliefs.

Terry Johnson
Seaside

Homes, not motels

With permanent housing in short supply countywide, the Gearhart City Council did well to pass the 2016 ordinance regulating and gradually phasing down short-term rentals. The beneficial result can already be seen: an increase in permanent residency, including long-term rentals.

According to state law, a short-term rental is for 30 days or less; locally, most short-term rentals are for the equivalent of a weekend, and can occur one after the other in the same house, in a series of disruptions to the surrounding neighborhood that include noise (loud parties, barking dogs, gunning engines, etc.), invasion of neighbors' privacy, crowded on-street parking and traffic hazards, not to mention the silent hazards of littered garbage, overloaded septic systems and accelerated pollution of groundwater throughout the city. Short-term rentals contribute nothing to the "diversity" of the community; on the contrary, they shatter the very idea of community in a neighborhood.

By contrast, long-term rentals provide permanent housing for those who wish to

settle in Gearhart for a month or more, to live and perhaps to earn a living wage within the Clatsop County economy, and to become good neighbors to nearby permanent residents.

Renting out the family cottage for a month or more is a traditional and viable means of covering the costs of ownership for seasonal Gearhart homeowners. Unlike the problematic case of short-term rentals, no special regulations are required by the city, since those long-term rentals are considered a residential, non-commercial use.

The "repeal and replace" petition now being promoted in Gearhart — the so-called "Gearhart Vacation Rental Ordinance Initiative" — if successful, would repeal the 2016 law that the City Council had worked on for so many years with so much public input.

The petition is a direct assault on city government, second-guessing the dedicated work of elected representatives: it would allow every single-family dwelling in Gearhart to be commercialized as a short-term rental, with little or no regulation as compared with the existing 2016 ordinance. The quiet small-town atmosphere of Gearhart would quickly disappear as the town transformed itself into a destination resort.

Citizens of Gearhart, please don't let that happen. The "repeal and replace" initiative can only benefit absentee landlords who will profit from turning homes into motels.

Nancy Derrah
Gearhart

OBITUARIES

Marilyn Simantel

Sept. 29, 1939 — June 16, 2017

Marilyn Simantel died June 16, 2017, at home in Seaside, Oregon. Marilyn was born Sept. 29, 1939, in the small farming community of Waltham in southern Minnesota, the third child of Alvin and Verona Wuertz.

In 1962, Marilyn married Marcus Simantel. They have four children, Amy Lin, Angela Jane, Adam Mark and Ana Maria. Marilyn was an amazing wife, mother and the proud, proud grandmother of nine beautiful grandchildren.

She was known for her love of music and was an accomplished pianist and vocalist, doing solo work and singing in numerous groups that varied from Sweet Adelines to the Oregon Chorale, which toured Europe twice. Marilyn is known by her grandchildren for doing crossword puzzles and reading books. She had a substantial collection of books on U.S. presidents and first ladies.

Marilyn attended public high school in Austin, Minnesota, Concordia College in St. Paul, Concordia Teachers College in Chicago, and received her master of education degree from Portland State University. She taught elementary school in New Orleans and New York before moving to Hillsboro, Oregon, where she taught for 30 years before retiring in 1997. She was highly regarded by her peers, by her students, and by



Marilyn Simantel

their parents for her professionalism and her success in the classroom.

Marilyn volunteered extensively, and felt strongly about the importance of her work with CASA and the Dougy Center in Portland, Oregon. After retirement she and Marcus moved from their farm to a downtown Portland condo, where Marilyn took advantage of book readings, lectures and various classes. She had a love for the Portland Central Library, where she also volunteered hundreds of hours.

In 1999, Marilyn was diagnosed with pulmonary hypertension, which made life in retirement a constant challenge. Her incredibly positive attitude always impressed her family and friends and she will be greatly missed by all.

Memorial donations may be made to the Pulmonary Hypertension Association.

Jeremy Sisseck

Dec. 6, 1977 — June 16, 2017

Our most beloved son, brother, and friend, Jeremy Sisseck was born on December 6, 1977 to Carey Birkenfeld and Michael Sisseck. He was raised in the Seaside area.

He was an entrepreneur and loved being involved in all of his business endeavors. His kind, generous and caring spirit will be remembered and treasured by all who knew him. He was always there for everybody and knew just the right thing to say and do to help them out. He enjoyed life to the fullest and loved snowboarding, helicopter skiing, running, bicycling, and spending time with his family and friends. He was planning on retiring soon, simplifying his life and then enjoy traveling the world.

He will leave a big hole in the lives of his parents, his sister Cassie and husband Chris, the love of his life, Ashley Grider, his grandmother Alice Sisseck, his aunt and uncle



Jeremy Sisseck

Irene and Perry Smith, uncle Jerry and aunt Sandy Sisseck, and aunt Diane Haight. His cousins Alice and Dustin Crawford, Amy and Charlie Hill, Jordon Dobson, Keith Smith, Sally and Jeremy Tietz, Tim Smith, and Rachel Sisseck will miss him too.

The celebration of life will take place July 15 at 3 p.m. at Camp Rilea Warrior Hall. In lieu of flowers please make a donation in Jeremy's name to your favorite charity.

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.

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