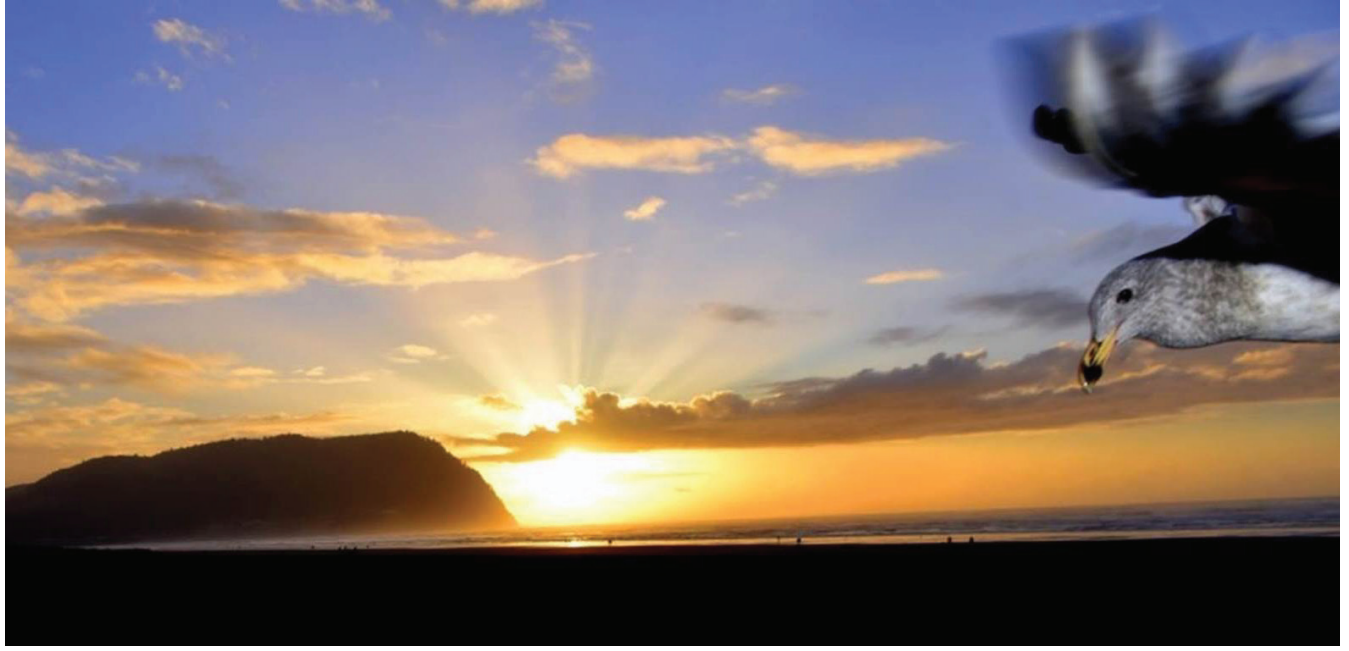
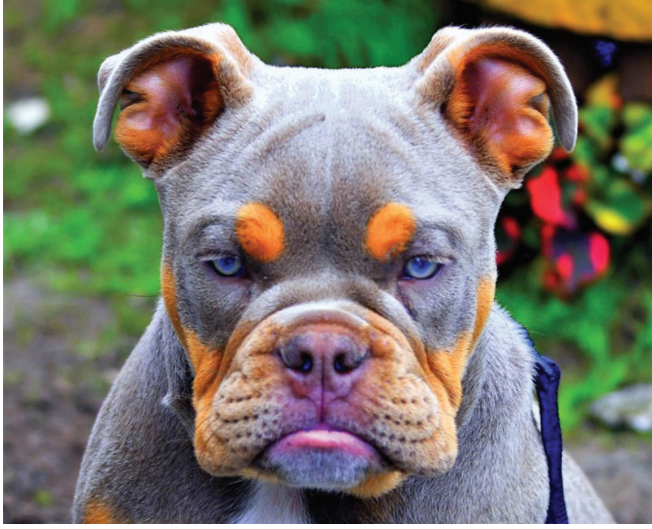


SignalViewpoints

Seaside moments

Photos by Lou Solitske



Broadway Middle School purchase is bad deal for rec district taxpayers

GUEST COLUMN
JOHN HUISMANN



I just read an article that was printed a few days ago touting a Sunset Recreation Center. It was complete with children holding up a sign. Broadway Middle School is an old, broken-down 73,000-square-foot building that needs millions of dollars in remediation, repairs and improvements before it would even begin to be usable for the things being talked about. The district's board of directors is trying to sell you a lie.

They tout a number of potential activities such as pre- and after-school activities. I have to ask, who is going to provide the transportation for the children? Wouldn't it make much more sense and be safer to have those activities at their schools?

They claim that it will provide indoor recreational space for citizens. I believe that the taxpayers just spent many millions to build new schools in a safe zone. There is a lot of recreational space in our new schools.

They also tout sports tourism and childcare. Is it now the policy of the district to compete against private companies?

What's going on here?

The truth is that you have not been told is how much it costs.

Skylar Archibald, the district's executive director, told you in 2018 that it would be much more expensive to buy the middle school than to approve the \$20 million plus they sought to remodel the Sunset Pool building. You did reject that plan at the ballot box.

In purchasing the middle school, the district board claims to have done due diligence, in other words investigating the facility prior to the purchase. What they did not do was to get bids on actually making the building usable again. This is also part of due diligence.

In this failure, they have violated their fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers. Fiduciary responsibility means that they are required to act in the conservative best interests of the taxpayers. I wonder if this breach is covered by their director's insurance?

So, what needs to be done to make this 73,000-square-foot building usable? First, you need a new roof and replacement of leaking windows. This alone will cost at least \$5 million, if not more. Then there are the issues of asbestos, mold and lead paint remediation. This will add another \$5 million to the cost.

We have not even begun to

address the structural needs of a building this old. Some of the walls are crumbling as they were not properly built to begin with. The heating and ventilation systems need to be totally replaced. What will it cost to bring this building up to current codes as will be required? The answer is many millions of dollars.

With what you are paying for the new schools, does this make sense to you? Are you taxpayers willing to pay that much more because a few folks seem nostalgic for Broadway Middle School? I'm retired and on a fixed income. I know that I can't afford it. Can you?

BRIEFS



Latham joins Columbia Memorial in Seaside

Board-certified pediatrician Dr. Whitney Latham, D.O., joined CMH Medical Group & Urgent Care in Seaside.

Latham previously worked in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she was a clinical associate professor of pediatrics for Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences. She provided outpatient and nursery care for Oklahoma State University Pediatrics, inpatient care as a pediatric hospitalist for the St. Francis Children's Hos-

pital and was also active in pediatric intern, resident and medical student education. She was an attending physician for current Columbia Memorial pediatrician Dr. Emily Pirmann during her residency in Oklahoma.

Latham earned her doctor of osteopathic medicine degree from Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences, in addition to completing her residency and internship there. She takes special medical interest in newborn care, early childhood development, nutrition and wellness.

Carter wins Elk award

Westin Carter was selected as the Most Valuable Student boy in the Northwest District of the Oregon State Elks Association. The judging was held



at Newport Elks Lodge with competitors ranging from St. Helens to Florence. As a district winner, Westin will receive \$1,800 from the association. As a state finalist, his application has been forwarded to the association, to compete against students throughout Oregon for further awards. Carter was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship by Seaside Elks Lodge.

Carter plans to major in business finance with a minor in marketing. His goal is to enter an accelerated program that allows him to graduate in four years with both a bachelor's and master's degree.

He is also interested in

playing college soccer and plans to weigh soccer offers before committing to a university.

After college, he plan on gaining corporate experience as a financial advisor before building his own financial advising firm. "This pandemic highlighted how financially vulnerable many Americans are," he said. "I am passionate about teaching personal finance as a means of helping people provide for their family's security, achieve their dreams and in turn help one another."

Advantage Dental opens in Seaside

A new dental office opened this month at the Seaside Outlets. Advantage Dental Oral Center becomes the 52nd Advantage dental practice in Oregon and

among 80 practices overall throughout six states, with 200 dentists and 800 support staff.

The Advantage Dental practice in Astoria has closed.

Dentist Hatai Jivagunchainan, referred to as "Dr. Jiva," offers routine dental care, restorative treatments, endodontics and oral surgery. For more information, call 971-704-7011.

'Game of Tiaras' opens high school drama season

Seaside High School Drama announces its first production of the new year, "Game of Tiaras: A Stay-At-Home Play," by Don Zolidis, will be available to stream at home from Feb. 12 through Feb. 18.

The comedy combines aspects of "Game of

Thrones" and "King Lear."

Senior Lucas Ethridge appears as the King, juniors Elizabeth Jesberger as Cinderella, Gracie Klemp as Belle, Kaiya Taylor as the Snow Queen, Sophia Reynolds as the Mermaid, Abigail Sills as Snow White, Lilli Taylor as the French Prince, Riley Wunderlich as Prince Charming, sophomore Parker Davis as Smeagol and a supporting cast full of eccentric characters played by sixth- through 12th-grade students.

The play is directed and produced by Susan Baertlein.

Visit bit.ly/36j6nYe to purchase tickets.

The cost is \$10 for individuals or \$20 for a household.

For more information, contact Seaside High School at 503-738-5586 or email SusanBaertlein@seasidek12.org.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Contact local agencies for latest meeting information and attendance guidelines.

TUESDAY, FEB. 2
Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District, board

workshop, 4 p.m., sunsetempire.com.
Seaside Planning Commis-

sion, 6 p.m., cityofseaside.us.
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 3

Gearhart City Council, 7 p.m., cityofgearhart.com.
THURSDAY, FEB. 4

Seaside Parks Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., cityof-seaside.us.

SEASIDE Signal

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