

Former teacher bequeathes \$700,000 for scholarships

SEEN FROM SEASIDE

R.J. MARX



A former Seaside High School teacher and coach will make a difference in the lives of future generations.

Carol Stutesman died last May, but with the donation of just under \$700,000 to Seaside Scholarships, the Carol Stutesman Scholarship will benefit local high school seniors for years to come. Funds will be delivered to two separate scholarships for graduating Seaside High School seniors, one academic four-year degree program scholarship and one vocational degree/certificate scholarship.

“She had a real heart for kids, especially who weren’t connected to college so much but vocations, kids that showed a promise in those kinds of areas as well as academics,” former teacher and coach Ginny Hamer said. “Carol never married or had children herself, so all her students in her class were very, very dear to her.”

Stutesman taught at Coquille High School and Oregon City High School before her 29-year career at Seaside High School. She taught business and vocational classes that included personal finance, computer applications, accounting and

graphic arts. Her business classes often earned students college credit.

“Carol and I started teaching together in the ’80s when she came to our district,” Hamer said. “I was coaching volleyball at the time and she became part of that program right away.”

Along with teaching duties, Stutesman quickly developed into coaching basketball and softball and led the 1988 state 2A volleyball champions, which went 13-1 to win the Cowapa League title before defeating Sweet Home in the state championship.

Hamer serves as co-personal representative for the Stutesman estate with former Seaside High School teacher Karen Mattocks.

“It’s such a fantastic opportunity for the Seaside students with the amount of money that she gave to the foundation,” Mattocks said. “Teaching was just so incredible to her. That was her family, her life, she really connected with a lot of kids. She truly wanted to give back to the Seaside High School community and that she did.”

Stutesman battled cancer for a decade, Hamer said.

“She immediately knew she wanted to give the bulk of her estate to the kids at Seaside. She was a very frugal woman who played the stock market, she was very business savvy, so she was able to put together a nice little nest egg.

“We put a big emphasis on kids that



Along with teaching business and other classes, Carol Stutesman, top right, led the 1988 Gulls volleyball team to a state 2A championship.

are college-bound a lot,” Hamer added. “She felt there was a gap as far as kids that just wanted to do a vocational program, whether it be auto mechanics, beautician

or whatever they had a passion for. It was a selfless deed and all that she worked for in her life. She wanted to give it back to the kids.”

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Will our republic survive Donald Trump?

I am in mourning. I mourn the passing of American exceptionalism. I was taught at an early age to embrace the concept of our special form of government based on the rule of law. I believed that we lived in a very special land. A country where no one was above the law or not subject to it.

It is a bitter pill, indeed, to realize that Donald Trump is most likely beyond the reach of ever being convicted of anything in any American court of law. A jury can be hung by only one juror. One person who puts their love of Trump before their duty to be an impartial adjudicator. One person who absolutely refuses to believe anything negative about him even in the face of overwhelming evidence.

Trump once boasted “I could stand in the middle of Fifth Avenue and shoot somebody, and I wouldn’t lose any voters.” If they’d vote for him on a ballot,

they’d be inclined to vote for him on a jury.

I once pridefully pointed to a well over 200-year-old tradition of peacefully transferring the reins of governmental power as even more proof positive of how very exceptional is the United States of America. Once again, Donald Trump has proven me wrong. Mitch McConnell described the storming of our national capitol building on the 6th of January unequivocally: “There’s no question, none, that President Trump is practically and morally responsible for provoking the events of the day.” Yet Donald Trump suffered no tangible consequences for his behavior.

Watching Trump’s mob trash the people’s house and beat police officers left me shaken and fearful for the future of our beloved country.

When the constitutional convention wrapped up its work in 1787, Benjamin Franklin was asked what kind of government was proposed, he answered, “A republic, if you can keep it.” American

exceptionalism hasn’t survived Donald Trump will our republic?

**Lou Solitske
Seaside**

Fund Alzheimer’s research

The coronavirus pandemic has underscored the importance of medical research. As Congress addresses the needs of our nation’s most vulnerable, they’re also working to address another disease affecting millions of Americans — Alzheimer’s.

My family has been impacted by Alzheimer’s. My mom suffered for over ten years. I watched my dad struggle to meet the demands of caretaking, while also navigating the emotional, physical, and financial stress Alzheimer’s puts on families. Sadly, in June of 2020, we lost my mom to this disease.

Today, over 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer’s, a number expected to triple by 2050. In Oregon, 69,000 people are suffering from Alzheimer’s and that

is projected to rise to 84,000 by 2025. Without medical breakthroughs, this number will continue to rise.

Representative Bonamici can play an important role in addressing this issue. By increasing funding for Alzheimer’s and dementia research at the National Institutes of Health by \$289 million, Representative Bonamici could provide millions of Americans a sense of hope.

With these increases, scientists can work quicker to advance basic disease knowledge, explore ways to reduce risk, uncover new biomarkers for early diagnosis and drug targeting, and make discoveries that can lead to a treatment or cure. We can’t afford not to fund research.

As our nation continues its collective focus in 2021 on keeping people safe and healthy, it is time to honor the requests of scientists for additional funding so they can bring hope to millions of Americans affected by Alzheimer’s.

**Kelly Kalkofen
Beaverton**

County optimistic about vaccine rollout against virus

By **NICOLE BALES**
The Astorian

Clatsop County’s vaccine task force, which has fallen behind because of an inadequate supply of vaccines, expects to begin vaccinating seniors 70 years and older against the coronavirus.

The task force is moving down the priority list after most teachers and seniors 80 and older have been vaccinated. About 1,400 people are expected to receive first doses at upcoming vaccination events, including a large event on Thursday that planned to administer 1,000 doses.

People 65 and older are eligible for the vaccine in Oregon, but the county will move to that age group as supplies allow.

Chris Laman, the director of pharmacy and cancer center services at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria, who is leading the vaccine task force, said the roughly 1,100 people who were rescheduled over the past couple of weeks due to weather-related disruptions in vaccine delivery have been vaccinated.

Laman said the disruptions and rescheduling created a lot of confusion and frustration during an already difficult process.

“We’re trying to make it as simple as possible with online registration,” he said. “But in the age group that we’re in, with those 80 and older folks, it’s challenging to get through the online registration process. And so to get rescheduled, not just once, but multiple times through this electronic communication, was incredibly frustrating for that group and rightfully so. I was frustrated as the leader of it that we



Vials of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in December.

Johnson & Johnson

were having to do this.”

Going forward, he said, “we have a plan for vaccine supplies so that we’re not going to be promising doses to people before we have them at the county health department. So we should not have to reschedule doses for not getting shipments or deliveries.

“But I think at each week, new sort of things develop and come up that the task force has to work through.”

Laman said the task force, which includes the county, Columbia Memorial, Providence Seaside Hospital and Coastal Family Health Center, meets daily to talk through and identify challenges and

potential weaknesses in the system.

The task force is in communication with pharmacies at Safeway in Astoria and Seaside and Costco and Walmart in Warrenton, which are also administering vaccines.

In preparation for more vaccines, the task force is starting to plan with hospitals for when they will receive vaccines for their own vaccination events.

“There’s point people at each of those entities now who are responsible for planning for how that’s going to work in each of their systems,” Laman said. “So it’s a really strong collaboration that’s going on in the county right now.”

Margo Lalich, the county’s interim public health director, said people may be scheduling appointments for a vaccine at a pharmacy and a county vaccination event and going to whichever one they get into first. However, she said it is important to let the other entity know they will not make their appointment so that a dose is not prepared.

Lalich said the task force is also developing a strategy to reach out to people who can’t get to vaccination events, whether because they are homebound or from hard-to-reach populations.

The Sunset Empire Transportation District is providing free transportation for people who have vaccination appointments in the county. People must schedule with the transit district at least 24 hours in advance.

The task force is continuing to invite priority groups to vaccination events. People receiving second doses, teachers and seniors 70 and older were invited to the vaccination events scheduled in the coming week.

Unlike many other states, Gov. Kate Brown placed teachers high on the priority list. The governor announced Friday that she would issue an executive order to return students to classrooms statewide. The target for kindergarten-through-fifth grade is the week of March 29, while sixth-through-12th grade is April 19.

As of last Friday, 8,967 doses have been administered in the county, including 5,788 first doses and 3,179 second doses. The county’s goal to reach herd immunity against the virus is vaccinating 27,533 people.

Lalich said the county’s vaccination events are heavily dependent on volunteers, as it takes anywhere from 30 to 70 people to run an event.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Contact local agencies for latest meeting information and attendance guidelines.

TUESDAY, MARCH 16

Seaside Planning Commission, work session, 6 p.m., cityofseaside.com.

Gearhart Small Business Committee, 6 p.m.,

cityofgearhart.com.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

Seaside Tourism Advisory Committee, 3 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Seaside Tree Board, 4 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Gearhart Parks Master Plan Citizens Advisory Committee, 5:30 p.m., work session, cityofgearhart.com.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18

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

MONDAY, MARCH 22

Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., cityofseaside.us.

TUESDAY, MARCH 23

Seaside Airport Committee, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway, Seaside.



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