

# Letter to the editor

4-21-05

## Water slide is on the way!

Editor, *The Herald*:

After reading Brad Carey's April 14 diatribe to the editor stating that Bob Gilbert and Cindy Olsen conspired to promote an \$8-million program for the Port of Tahuya and claims that he will incur \$100,000 in expenses, I gasped! Citing \$8 million that way is the same as adding up all the prices on a restaurant menu and saying a meal costs \$480!

Let us get some facts straight:

1. The current port owns a 50-foot-wide lot with a gazebo, three picnic tables with benches, a rental Sani-Can and a file cabinet.

2. The previous port board, as I understand it, wanted to provide something more meaningful to the local residents, i.e. a place to launch and tie up their boats, boat trailer parking and storage, plus a small office with basic supplies, etc.

3. Summertide, a boating facili-

ty just west of the town of Tahuya came up for sale during the previous board's tenure. They believed that this would be an ideal purchase, if it could be funded. However, the facility was sold to others.

4. The previous board decided that sources for grant money should be explored in order to have funding for any future acquisitions. The search found that government grant money was available if the proposal included a public access plan. Such a plan must spell out the reasons for the request, possible options, costs and other alternative possibilities in the port area.

5. The previous board, after advertising for a consultant, selected a Seattle landscape, planning and urban design firm that had prepared many successful plans for similar government entities.

6. Development of the comprehensive plan, during 2002, includ-

ed many well-advertised meetings between the consultants, Tahuya residents, etc. There was no hidden agenda or preconceived final plan. In November 2002, the draft of the Port of Tahuya Public Access Plan was presented in an open meeting. It was carefully explained that the plan was only a policy framework to guide the port commission as required. In other words, it was a "menu" that could be used as the board and the public desired.

7. Next, a group of individuals, apparently led by Brad Carey, used careful editing, misrepresentation, and in some cases, outright lies, to turn the plan into a proposal that would change the peaceful Tahuya area into a multi-million-dollar Disneyland Northwest, with hordes of Seattle visitors!

What has transpired since then is well documented by the continuous letters to the editor of this

paper and multiple suits and harassment of the port commissioners. None of the \$8 million was committed or spent.

At present, Brad Carey's associates control two of the three Port of Tahuya Board seats. The public access plan has been canceled and the harassment of Cindy Olsen continues. Why? All of this mess over a port with very limited assets. This reminds me of the long-running television show, "Seinfeld" which was admitted to be a story about nothing.

In closing, I understand a rumor that the Disney Corporation is planning a steep water ride from the top of the hill in Tahuya that will go down through Brad Carey's waterfront land into Hood Canal.

Let's all lighten up and get back to normal, friendly Tahuya!

Bob Cleveland  
Tahuya

# Obituaries