

Angels in heaven

They say our children are the future, I look at them as God’s angels. Children are the bright spot in the world, but recently two of those bright spots went out (Isabella Smith in Cannon Beach and Evangelina Wing in Seaside).

Two little angels were taken away in an unspeakable manner, and will never have all the chances and happiness they deserve. Children look to parents to keep them safe, guide them and most of all love them always. Children should always be made to feel they are the most important gift and never feel pain, neglect or be afraid. Kids shouldn’t have to be put through any type of abuse — after all, they are just kids.

God took two little angels home and will be their protector when they were too young to protect themselves.

Give your little angels all the love and protect them from all the bad. Please don’t let another angel be taken away.

JENNY MCCOLLISTER
Seaside

Build a subway

Read about possible river development east to Second Street. I don’t know what the problem is, as it should be easy to just replace the trolley with a subway. That way the view will stay the same — dark, as in planning. Maybe we could power the underground train with liquefied natural gas (LNG)?

DICK DARBY
Astoria

High horses

What’s going on with our county commissioners? Dirk Rohne is doing an excellent job representing the people of his district, just as he was elected to do. This man’s integrity, dedication and commitment to our community cannot be denied.

I have known Commissioner Rohne since he was an infant. Agree with him or not, you know where he stands, and that he puts others first. His unselfish service for us an only be commended.

If the rest of the county commissioners would step down from their high horses and confer with Commissioner Rohne, I am sure he will work hard for the good of all Clatsop County residents, including their leaders.

Don’t throw stones, they may be returned. I’ll stand by Dirk Rohne — he has no agenda but service.

DON BARTLETT
Knappa

Help for homeless

The good citizens of Astoria have been focusing a lot of attention lately on the need to help people who are living 24 hours a day outside; somewhere in nooks and crannies and secret crawl spaces on the ground, hopefully, where they can be out of the pounding rain and wind.

The Warming Center at 1111 Exchange St. is now open when temperatures are expected to drop below 35 degrees. Since Dec. 1, the center has been available five nights out of 37, and the biggest challenge for the center is that each 12 hours of operation from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. requires nine volunteers.

The Daily Astorian editorial “America in 2015: Warming the homeless” (Jan. 5) ended with the statement “We would much prefer a headline that read, ‘Warming Center closes because it isn’t needed anymore.’” The fact is, until global warming changes our beautiful and forested Northwest into an arid desert, there will probably remain a need for a warming shelter. Therefore, at this time, we need to address some of the actual realities that exist in Astoria for people who have no permanent shelter.

1. Being homeless boils down to being a crime because you are not allowed to hole up during the night in a public crawl space.
2. During the day it is difficult to remain invisible if you have all your worldly possessions in a shopping cart.
3. If you get caught in a rain-storm without some rain gear, you get to spend the night in wet clothes and shoes.
4. Each day presents the same challenges: “Where will I find food and a place to sleep tonight?”

We can donate stuff and volunteer our time until the cows come home, but until we find solutions to some of these

An animal chorus is singing

I was most pleased by the positive and large (two pages) spread *The Daily Astorian* devoted Dec. 31 to animals that have been adopted from the Clatsop County Animal Shelter. The generosity of the supporters paying for the article, the

effort of the person who put the article together, and the kindness of the volunteers and paid staff who cared for these animals is overwhelming. And then there are the folks who adopted all these pets.

Looking at the sea of

photos and thinking about happiness of these animals that have found a home makes me proud of our community; I suspect there is an animal chorus singing joy.

CHARLES STUART
Chinook, Wash.

pressing issues, we are putting a Band-Aid on a gaping wound.

LARRY ALLEN
Astoria

Use common sense

Many readers remember the map on *The Daily Astorian*’s front page showing how Columbia River traffic would be severely disrupted by a liquefied natural gas (LNG) tanker. Like many others, I laughed at the proposals to build LNG import terminals on the Columbia. The plans defied common sense.

It’s 10 years later, and the proposal to build an LNG export terminal in Warrenton is just as reckless. This is why each of us must speak up when the state of Oregon and the Warrenton City Commissioners hold public meetings and hearings in the next couple of months. Those officials can approve or deny permits for a massive LNG terminal where the Skipanon and Columbia rivers meet.

Even fossil fuel industry experts say this site defies common sense. It is basically a sand spit, on top of fill, on top of bedrock beyond 350 feet deep, taking up most of the Skipanon Peninsula. It is in a subduction earthquake and tsunami zone. Yet this is where the company, Oregon LNG, wants two 17-story gas storage tanks, each about a city block in diameter. Thousands of people live, work and attend school within the terminal’s 3-mile diameter gas vapor hazard zone.

The plan for a pipeline is a dangerous joke. They want 41 miles of a 3-foot diameter high-pressure natural gas pipeline on and under our notoriously unstable, slide-prone mountains, forests and other land. Does this proposal make sense to you?

What does make sense is saying no to LNG and yes to protecting private property from eminent domain, minimizing the danger to first-responders and area residents in an LNG emergency, and preserving our quality of life.

Ask decision-makers to use their common sense for the public good. Ask them to deny permits for LNG in Warrenton. For more information, attend the Columbia Riverkeeper community information meeting at

8 p.m. Jan. 22 at the Warrenton Community Center, 170 S.W. Third St. (www.columbiariverkeeper.org).

LAURIE CAPLAN
Astoria

Ignoring ENCORE?

The Daily Astorian does a commendable job in featuring the volunteerism that distinguishes the communities of our area. Specifically, I’m referring to the article about the good people who keep the trolley running (“All aboard!” Dec. 5).

In addition to the individuals presented in this article, there are numerous others who give generously of their time year after year. Prominent among people who work especially hard for our area are two Chinook, Wash., residents, Rollie and Reta Lindstrom.

He tutors English as a Second Language, plays in four different music groups and is in charge of all social activities for Exploring New Concepts of Retirement Education (ENCORE). She has perhaps the most demanding job. As chairwoman of the 10-member ENCORE curriculum committee, she is responsible for finding instructors with ideas of what courses to offer every term, prepare the course schedule and secure venues for the courses.

Most people around here don’t know that ENCORE stands for adult education, and that we operate under the auspices of Clatsop Community College. For some reason, however, *The Daily Astorian* publishes next to nothing about our organization or its members.

Is it because our volunteerism doesn’t have the high visibility enjoyed by the trolley folks? *The Daily Astorian* has never been against education and yet, they hardly ever print our articles. Is it because we don’t know how to write? We certainly have invited them to send someone to write about us. We might not even get a response when we want to buy our way into that paper.

ENCORE has existed since 2001. We have an organization of over 130 members. Among them are many former educators and other professionals. We

don’t advocate immorality or sedition. What brings us together is a pronounced interest in continuing education. How do we deserve to be ignored by our local newspaper?

ERHARD GROSS
Astoria

Racial profiling

So, it seems that during the past year the city of Ocala, Fla., passed a “saggy pants” ordinance. The American Civil Liberties Union immediately labeled this ordinance as “racially bias against young African-Americans,” saying that they were being targeted by the city council.

As I read the ordinance, it says nothing about male or female, black or white, young or old or even gay or straight, so how this targets the black youth community of Ocala, specifically, I fail to understand. The only explanation that I can come up

with for the ACLU’s opinion on this ordinance is that the ACLU believes that African-American youth are the only segment of the population who walk around with saggy pants.

Perhaps the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) should step in here and remind the ACLU for racial profiling. I do not think that the part of the population that is not the ACLU believes that only black male youth walk around with their pants below their butt cheeks. If you go downtown, here in little old Astoria, you see much of the younger crowd “jailing” as they say, with their trousers pulled down low, and I don’t believe that 5 percent of them are black. It seems that only the ACLU would even consider labeling this phenomenon an African-American thing.

But, I guess, to stay in the news you have to say something, no matter how ludicrous it sounds.

That is just my opinion; I could be wrong.

DAVID GRAVES
Astoria

Protect kids

Recent heinous violations of children’s human rights, and even the taking of their lives, have altered my view of the proper boundaries of interest and attention to children at large. As adults, we need to do better.

We need to keep a keen eye on all children we come into contact with in the street, at the grocery store, in the doctor’s office and yes, in our families. If we see something “not right” or questionable, we need to report to the nearest authority.

Adults must be fearless in reporting possible abuse and not afraid of making a mistake. If we are wrong, then we are wrong, but we must err in the favor of children who cannot protect themselves. We, as adults, have a moral responsibility to do so.

Taking into consideration the gamut of parenting, good and bad and all the differences in parents, culturally, economically and in every other way humans can differ, there is still a universal and gut feeling when child abuse is present. Most of us can sense when something is “not right,” that a child is in harm’s way, and adults should act on what they see and feel.

These heinous crimes have occurred here in Clatsop County, not in some Third World country or urban slum. It has happened where we live, in our communities and our neighborhoods. Monsters do live among us.

I certainly support folks’ privacy and their civil rights, but let’s put children’s civil rights — to live without fear, to be fed and kept safe and to even have a life — first.

MARY TANGUAY WEBB
Astoria

ENCORE

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colpachealth.org