

Public pout

Gearhart is very fortunate to have a mayor and a council who will defend the laws of the community as they have been put in place by generations of caring citizens.

Now one man and his clique are mounting an extended and expensive campaign to override some of these laws and allow them to do what no other citizens would be allowed to do (“Jesse asks Gearhart mayor to bow out,” *The Daily Astorian*, Jan. 8). This effort can only be recognized and treated as an extended public “pout.”

Dianne Widdop, his target, is a public treasure — she’s honest, fair, open-minded and kind, as anyone who knows her is happy to verify. Count your blessings that she is defending Gearhart.

SALLY MANNEX
Gearhart

Polluters should pay

Climate change hurts coastal Oregon, and we are already seeing the impacts, from warming oceans to sea level rise to increasing ocean acidification. The warming ocean is detrimental to many Northwest fish species, particularly anadromous fish, such as salmon and steelhead, and increases the likelihood of algal blooms and shellfish poisoning.

Sea level rise generates conditions that promote far greater ocean storm damage and flooding, increasing erosion and compromising coastal tidal flats, estuaries and marshes. Ocean acidification harms carbon-based shelled marine organisms, such as clams and oysters.

These hardships are tiny compared to the challenges our children and grandchildren face if we fail to act on climate change. Every reputable authority — from the Pentagon to the United Nations — warns that our current trajectory will result will lead to unprecedented social, economic and military crises. If we cannot secure a transition from fossil fuels before the end of the decade, it will not be possible for future generations to adapt.

Fortunately, the solution is in sight. Oregon has the rare opportunity to lead our country and the world with the policy economists and climatologists say we need. We can hold out-of-state polluters accountable for climate change with a price on carbon, either by charging them a fee or by requiring them to buy permits before they burn fossil fuels.

Last month, the Northwest Economic Research Center at Portland State University presented to the legislature their long-awaited study on the impacts of a carbon pollution fee in Oregon. It showed a significant reduction in carbon pollution and a negligible effect on the coastal economy.

Our problem is not a shortage of solar panels or ethanol or hybrid cars, nor is it an abundance of gas and oil pipelines. Our problem is underpriced fossil fuels. We do not pay their hidden costs when we fill our tanks — that comes later, in the form of emergency drought relief, hurricane cleanup and forest fires. If polluters were accountable for these costs, a price signal would reverberate throughout our

Ready, set, head for the finish line

Well, fellow anti-LNG-ers, here we are in 2015. It has been a long, hard pull since this all started in 2004. Whether you are like me, or not, I’ll guess most of our lives would have been, well, different, these last 11 years without this issue in our beautiful, historic lower Columbia River area.

You didn’t really want to spend your time playing golf, or relaxing on a beach in Hawaii, did you? Letter writing, making phone calls till our eyes blurred trying to see the keypad, meeting after meeting after meeting, and rallies, have been much more fun — right?

In any interesting competition, there

are positions that competitors strive to attain. In auto racing, its called the “pole” position. In horse racing, it’s “on the rail — by a nose.” So many of us have worked so hard, for so long, to help our cause reach these positions, and now it’s 2015 “crunch time.” In track, it is called “come off the curve and head for home.” Great runners or football running backs can smell the finish line or end zone. No race is finished until the line is crossed.

So please watch for the upcoming Warrenton City Council meetings, attend them, and have your say regarding the liquefied natural gas issues.

Oh, and by the way, don’t forget

(come on, you know the drill) to call the governor (503-378-4582) and ask him to use the Coastal Zone Management Act and the Clean Water and Air acts to stop the proposed Oregon LNG terminal.

You can learn information for your comments by attending the upcoming Jan. 22 liquefied natural gas meeting and the Jan. 27 Department of Environmental Quality information. Both meetings start at 6 p.m., and will be held at the Warrenton Community Center, 170 S.W. Third St. in Warrenton.

Go Big Red!

CARL DOMINEY
Astoria

of the Christmas holiday, and at New Year’s. He has since returned and is gone again. We don’t mind sharing, but would like to know where to contact him for messages. If you are involved in Jake’s welfare, please give us a call at 503-325-8850.

PAT AND DAVID MILLER
Astoria

Seaside parking

Regarding the Seaside Civic & Convention Center expansion: Years ago, this was in the works and being studied but at that time, it was to include expansion of the city parking lot also. Many different scenarios were mentioned, most being tossed aside, i.e., library, sports arena, etc.

The parking garage was something that was definitely wanted by the downtown merchants, as there is not enough parking downtown as it is. In answer to the problem, the lot was restriped to utilize all space as much as possible.

When Trendwest (World Mark) came to town and the parking lot there was sold, they, in turn, built a garage with the first two floors for public parking. This seemed like a good trade-off. Why does the city think it can take away 50 spaces in the public parking lot, block off two-way access, block off and take away immediate area businesses’ parking? Don’t they ever think about the downtown business economic effect?

Just because the convention center is enlarged, it does not help the regular tourist coming to town every year find a parking place. I’ve heard in summers past that tourists get so frustrated with parking that they just go on down the road to Cannon Beach, instead.

To sum up, if the convention center is enlarged, additional parking must be supplied, not taken away. That is just common sense. Don’t make it even harder for the tourist to get around town than it is already. Don’t make it harder for local businesses to make a living than it already is. We count on the tourist as well as convention center, but if one is favored with no thought of the other, then it is a “no win” situation.

Just because you build it does not mean they will come.

M. DIEBOLT
Seaside

economy. It would reward smart decisions and punish wasteful ones. Both proven and novel energy alternatives would attract new capital. Nothing but a price on carbon can spark the systemic transformation we need, and that’s because it targets the problem at its source.

The Oregon Legislature should hold polluters accountable for the damage they do to Coastal Oregon by making them pay to pollute. And 100 percent of the revenue should be distributed evenly among all Oregonians, because the natural beneficiaries are the victims of climate change — all of us.

CAMILA THORNDIKE
DAN GOLDEN
Medford

Editor’s note: Camila Thorndike is the executive director, and Dan Golden is the policy director, at Oregon Climate (www.oregonclimate.org).

Port election choice

Port election choice To become a commissioner of Clatsop County’s Port of Astoria, candidates are currently elected countywide by the voters. This is the same process by which we elect presidents, federal and state representatives, and our top county and city officials.

The problem with using this process to select port commissioners is that Clatsop County residents (the port’s owners), who pay taxes to support its operations, know very little about their commissioners or the Port’s business. Hardly any of Clatsop County’s 15,000 registered voters have ever attended a an Port of Astoria Commission meeting, or can name the commissioners who presumably represent their interests.

When I ran for port commissioner, one commissioner advised: “The way to get elected in Clatsop County is to put up the most signs.” He was running for re-election and explained, “the voters don’t know you, and will vote for a name they recognize.” That individual spent money and put up a lot of signs. He won by about 200 votes out of 3,500 votes cast. His opponent put up a few signs and lost.

I was unknown and a relative newcomer to Clatsop County, and I ran unopposed. I put up no signs and received 97 percent of the vote. The interesting thing is not my vote margin, but rather that only 92 voters knew someone to vote for that they thought was more qualified. Think about that. Out of 3,500 voters, only 92 people could think of anyone, rather than vote for some-

one they never heard of. Is that any way to select qualified port commissioners, people responsible for governing our port and overseeing the spending of our tax dollars? I believe we can find a better way.

A petition is being circulated to place an initiative on the ballot. It would have port commissioners appointed, and involve having our locally-elected officials interview applicants to determine who is qualified, or may have a conflict of interest or personal agenda. This is similar to how we select our planning commissioners.

JACK BLAND
Astoria

Working together

I couldn’t agree more with the Editor in his editorial concerning the homeless, and noting our lack of affordable housing (“America in 2015: Warming the homeless,” *The Daily Astorian*, Jan. 5).

In 2007, I attended a conference on housing solutions held at the Seaside Civic & Convention Center. The speakers’ message highlighted the essential cooperation of all levels of government, suppliers and builders to individually pitch in a little in order to reduce the total cost, and accomplish affordable housing in their communities.

Those relatively small contributions by all involved made the projects successful.

We certainly need this to happen in our community to help our veterans, people with low income, mental health concerns, addictions or whatever issues have forced them to be homeless.

In attending the first training session for the Astoria Warming Center, now located in the Senior Center building, I was amazed — and so proud — to see over 70 people turning out to contribute in some way toward a solution.

I am hopeful that we can also address the problem of homelessness on a grander scale. I know we can — if we work together.

ARDI CHAPMAN
Astoria

War and work

Until recent times, for a large segment of our society, making a future in one of our factories or industries was a given. In the blue-collar world, making steel or building cars or airplanes held a future that was dependable, paid adequately and made it possible to visualize a better future for one’s children.

That vision started to erode under Ronald Reagan and has been under assault ever since. The industrialists and financiers found high profit and cheap labor irresistible, enter the Asian workforce. Made in America became an anachronism. Relentlessly and methodically factories closed, forcing the jobless to seek other employment or retraining. Labor unions, the working man’s only ally, were rendered powerless by the destruction of the industrial job market.

Low pay and part time were the only options left, making union dues an avoidable expense and union membership became a shadow of what it had been just a few years before, and labor’s power and influence fell proportionately.

Oddly concurrent with the erosion of work opportunities, there arose “the volunteer army.” During World War II and after, the military was manned by conscriptees, young men chosen to serve through the draft. From this nucleus the services would fill their manpower requirements. The draft also included the sons of the affluent. That inconvenience ended with the draft being replaced by the “all volunteer” military.

Young men desperate to make a start in a jobless or part-time economy found enlistment attractive, with a reworked GI Bill and improved pay and incentives.

The rich were no longer required to put their sons in harm’s

way. The fighting and the dying would be the sole province of the sons of the poor. The generals, who no longer had to mollify the influential fathers of draftee sons found the situation totally to their liking, and initiated the most prolonged period of invasion and aggression in our country’s history. We are still in that regrettable position and will not get out of it gracefully or at small cost.

Maybe it’s not so fanciful, that the real reason for the collapse of the industrial base and the corresponding need for bodies to carry out our poorly conceived and disastrous flirtation with empire are not somehow tragically conjoined. Just a few years ago, I would have scoffed at such a turn, but the Bush Years and the Grey Eminence of Dick Cheney have badly abuses my innocence.

JACK GUYOT
Astoria

Searching for Jake

We are the part-time innkeepers for Jake, a handsome orange-striped tiger cat with a rather shortened tail. We live at the west end of Harrison Avenue, and Jake (who sometimes answers to George) has been a part-time porch cat for several years, and finally worked up to inside mealtime/ petting status this past year. We’re very fond of him, but know some other family must harbor him, too.

He was gone during much

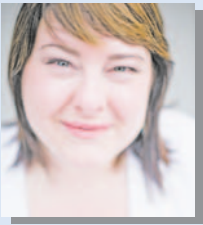
Conversation | Good food | Inspiration



Conserving the Natural Heritage of the Columbia River
Glenn Lamb
February 12



A mid-assessment from Oregon’s chief law enforcement officer
Ellen Rosenblum
March 3



Getting the inside story at Hanford
Anna King
April 30th

Join us for our

SPRING EVENINGS
ColumbiaForum

FOR RESERVATION OR TO JOIN COLUMBIA FORUM CONTACT:
Holly Larkins at 503.325.3211 ext. 227 or forum@dailyastorian.com

FREE! Fun for the whole family!
Community Health Fair

February 14, 9am-2pm
Clatsop County Fairgrounds
92937 Walluski Loop, Astoria, OR

Join the CMH/OHSU Cardiology Clinic on Valentine’s Day for a fun and informative, heart-friendly Community Health Fair.

- ♥ Get basic health screenings.
- ♥ Get advice from experts on heart health, medication interactions, orthopedic surgery and more.
- ♥ Learn about local health & fitness programs.
- ♥ Talk with local medical specialists.
- ♥ Test your strength and balance.
- ♥ Win prizes hourly! Fun for the whole family!!



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