

## Time to act

On Friday, Jan. 29, *The Daily Astorian* published a guest column by Oregon Climate's Camila Thorndike and Dan Golden ("It's time Oregon put a price on carbon"). Oregon Climate is hoping that the state of Oregon will take the lead for the world to stop climate change by passing legislation — the low carbon fuel tax — through the Oregon Legislature that will tax oil producers for their inability to provide an acceptable blend of ethanol and gasoline. Oregonians can't afford this.

This tax or penalty will greatly affect the poor, the middle class and the folks living on a fixed income. The economic impact is unknown, as the Oregon Legislature has yet to determine the cost impact on Oregonians. Since the legislative session is six months long, our elected officials should take their time and understand the full economic impact to Oregonians.

The legislators also need to understand the potential damage to all internal combustion engines that can't burn higher concentrations of ethanol. The potential for damage is great, as only some newer vehicles can burn the 15 percent blend of fuel also known as E85.

As Oregonians, we need to let our elected legislators know our thoughts on the legislation. If you want to pay more for your gasoline, and damage the engine in your car, boat or other engines, let your elected officials know.

Conversely, if you don't want to damage your car's engine as well as pay more for your gasoline (thereby keeping more money in your pocket), let your elected officials know.

The time to act is now before the Legislature rushes the legislative process, and passes something we will regret.

ALEX RAINEY  
Astoria

## Cast a vision

As a local, Seaside homeowner I have seen and witnessed a lot, and around town the initial knee-jerk reaction was to oppose the expansion of the Seaside Civic & Convention Center. We should reinvest not only in the downtown core, but utilize existing spaces.

The facility is ready, maybe even due for an expansion, but people should stop and rethink its marketing and sales strategy to the community and public at large. Websites matter, and our local sites reek of fragmentation and cumbersome event calendars.

A sales tax is likely beyond just a poor idea, and frankly un-Oregonian. Local small businesses already struggle enough — especially in rainy season — just to find staff, let alone adding another barrier to a sale. Tax increment financing is a possibility, but realistically lodging and parking fees are more practical. We also need to raise prices for the patrons who use our services most.

The corporation of Worldmark should pay way more in taxes. Every timeshare bought and sold in our town should be taxed. The conventions and events themselves need to pay more. We need to raise of the cover charge the city of Seaside charges to finish here. Hood To Coast needs to settle and pay up its huge bar tab. Hood To Coast is a self-contained party at the beach and literally uses, abuses and pukes upon our community.

Yes, it fills up the hotels but does so at what cost? It fills the town with an unsupportive and intoxicated guests who have violated minimum stays and occupancy requirements. Their party supports its corporate sponsors, not the local community. It leaves a whole town with a hangover, leaving a bad taste in everyone's mouth. Tax the events and tourists more, and not the local community. A countywide lodging tax increase makes the most financial sense.

The convention center cannot stand on its own, nor should the local small businesses. The playbook as a community is not straightforward, it's side to side. We need to galvanize Clatsop County, utilizing our small local spaces.

Our community goal should be to foster better smaller mi-

## View of the Astoria Bridge is 'priceless'

I agree with the owner of The Ship Inn that the view of the river, boiler and bridge from her restaurant is "priceless" ("A blast from our past," *The Daily Astorian*, Feb. 6), and I appreciate the editorial supporting a historical designation for that small section of the river ("Saving iconic views, one boiler at a time," *The Daily Astorian*, Feb. 9).

However, the city is not proposing to protect the views of the bridge as the article and photos would lead one to believe. The photo from inside the restaurant and the final photo in the Feb. 6 article show the boiler. But imagine adding a 35-foot building just beyond the old pier. You would see the

building but very little of the bridge. That is what the city Planning Commission has before them in the Bridge Vista Plan, and they need to hear from concerned residents.

Everyone who enjoys the view from The Ship Inn and Stephanie's Cabin and that section of the Riverwalk, which currently includes the bridge as well as distance views of the river, needs to let all Planning Commissioners and each councilor and the mayor (see [www.astoria.org.us](http://www.astoria.org.us)) know that it is not acceptable to allow buildings over the river that block views from the Riverwalk — even if a few of those buildings allow us to leave the River-

walk to walk around their edge to peek at the bridge, or even if the city builds a pier to walk out and see the bridge.

It would destroy the expansive view that residents and tourists currently enjoy. Structures higher than the Riverwalk need to be limited to the south side of the trolley track, which will also protect the view from the trolley. Astoria's historic waterfront and the Columbia River and bridge form a central part of the city's magic. The river and bridge views need to be preserved to the greatest degree possible consistent with intelligent development.

MARY LANGLEY  
Astoria

cro-conventions that make use of our already existing localized spaces. Lease out underutilized spaces as mini-convention space downtown, and literally spread out the community reach dollars and cents.

As citizens of the Seaside community, we should plan for a better town and be willing to be flexible to fund the growing future. So expansion of the convention center, maybe. But only time will tell. Continue to cast the vision Seaside, we are the stakeholders.

SEAN WILLIAM  
MCKENDRY  
Seaside

## Restore trust

Democracy is an ongoing responsibility. Whether you are voting in a general election, or being asked to sign a recall petition, it is a voter's democratic responsibility to gather and evaluate as much information as possible, and take action according to your values and morals.

We believe, based on observation and experiencing retaliation first hand, that this recall of Gearhart Mayor Diane Widdop is necessary so our local government will, in fact, represent the collective standards and values of Gearhart residents. On the west and east sides of the highway reside residents who believe Gearhart government should be transparent, fair, compassionate, honest and supportive of economic development and racial diversity.

We deeply appreciate that communities to the north and south of Gearhart are privileged to have intelligent and professional representation, who serve their voting populace with humility and honesty. We can have the same if we ask for it, and settle for nothing less than excellence in the governance of our community.

We believe that this recall has the potential to bring our community together, and to collectively agree that we need leaders who truly have a passion to serve all residents of Gearhart to the best of their ability, with honesty and kindness.

Many residents were afraid to sign the petition for fear of retaliation. Based on our own experience, that is a legitimate fear. However, there is power in numbers and our community government can be different, if we desire it. Democracy requires facts and courage. The freedoms established in the U.S. Constitution must be nurtured and preserved.

The goal of Oregon's newly appointed governor and the majority of Gearhart residents is the same: Restore trust.

BRIAN SIGLER  
JOY SIGLER  
Gearhart

## Coexist with wolves

In response to the article Idaho Board wants another \$400,000 to kill wolves ("Idaho wolf control board asks lawmakers to maintain budget," *The Daily Astorian*, Feb. 3): How much money will ever be enough to satisfy Idaho's thirst for the blood of wolves? As a person with a master's degree, it seems to me that the return on investment makes this a very poor way to spend the public's money. As a wolf advocate, I wonder who it is who really wants to spend this money — and why?

Many nonlethal methods of protecting herds have been proven to be effective — fladry and range riders, just to name two. And the Wood River Project, which has advocates and

ranchers working together, is highly spoken of by both sides.

It's time to stop the kill mentality and learn to coexist.

JANET HOBEN  
Burbank, Calif.

## Responsible actions

Michigan is going to drug test welfare recipients.

First, let me say that I am not opposed to this notion in any way; on the contrary, I support these proposals wholeheartedly.

I think, however, that it may ultimately be slightly more expensive for the state of Michigan, because now all those on welfare will be sober enough to remember to go pick up their welfare checks. You will not be able to fool them by telling them that they already picked it up, but that is the price that is paid for assuring that individuals in need truly realize that they are in need, and feel as depressed as possible about it; but I digress, that is not really what I want to talk about.

It seems to me that perhaps we are starting on the wrong end of importance scale with this legislation. Perhaps it should be a greater priority to drug test, let's say, doctors for instance, prior to them performing surgeries, or maybe Congressional representatives, before they vote on critical legislation.

I know that I would prefer that the individual that was rummaging around inside of my body was of clear and

sound mind and body. I would also prefer that those whom I elected to look out for my best interests were doing so in a deliberate and sober manner, and not through the haze of an altered state; but that's just me.

The Department of Transportation drug tests pilots, and railroad engineers and the like to assure that public transport is as safe as it can be. Perhaps we should ask: what about public servants, who also (by definition) serve the public, why are they not tested for sobriety?

Perhaps a public official or governing representative can be just as dangerous to the average citizen through his or her actions as can those that operate our public transportation, so should they not be subject to the same scrutiny?

I may be overly concerned about such things, but I would like the assurance that those representing me are doing so fully cognizant of their actions. It seems to me that our elected officials tend to forget just who they are representing a fair majority of the time when they are sober, so why add the additional burden of an altered state of consciousness to the equation?

Look, this is just a thought; perhaps it really doesn't matter at all.

DAVID GRAVES  
Astoria

## Dems elect despot

Letters to the editor that include statements like "where's Robin Hood, to steal

from the rich and give to the poor" — along with a lengthy essay on the progressive value of conserving a dilapidated, vacant building that has been empty since my childhood — merit mocking and ridicule to the highest degree, however that is not the spirit of this letter.

Thankfully, Clatsop County voters as a whole chose to tell Gov. Kitzhaber to take a walk this last election. However, the election showed that Clatsop County is still saturated with a populous of voters who look at disaster as success, and value the demonstrator of corruption and professional ineptness enough to grant re-election.

Progressive liberal Democrats showed they would rather sink the ship than admit one of their own is past his sell-by date. This selfish, conceited, elitist and dangerous way of thinking is rewarded with the latest revelations of the Kitzhaber and Hayes scandal, and Oregon's ranking of last in the nation's Department of Education listing, along with other monstrosities too numerous to list.

Take pride in your vote, Clatsop County Democrats, take pride that you helped maintain Oregon's standing as a monument of folly, corruption, ineptness and illicit activity. Take pride that you want no accountability for Cover Oregon, the Columbia river crossing and these latest revelations.

Take pride in the fact that Clatsop County voted no on Measure 88 along with the rest of the state, and your governor chose not to embrace our vote. He chose to have his attorney general join a suit to protect the president's amnesty. Take pride that despite measure 88's failure, your governor chooses not to protect Oregon roads from California's undocumented drivers.

There is more to be said of this governor and this political party, however with few words left in this forum, only one thing remains to be said: De Tocqueville once said, "Despotism corrupts those who submit to it more than he who imposes it." With your vote and support for this governor and the scandals that follow him, Clatsop County Democrats have shown they have been corrupted by the despot in the governor's office.

JASON KOST  
Astoria

## Nonlethal alternatives

Re: "Idaho wolf control board asks lawmakers to maintain budget" (*The Daily Astorian*, Feb. 3): Gov. Butch Otter spent \$143,000 to kill 31 predated wolves involved in 75 attacks on livestock, and is asking for more. This seems to be a huge drain on Idaho finances, with no real end in sight.

Perhaps it's time to spend some of that money on nonlethal deterrence. Last year the Wood River project (budget \$50,000) used nonlethal deterrence to protect 20,000 to 30,000 sheep from predators. Their predation rate was less than 1 percent.

Meanwhile, a Washington state researcher found that lethal wolf control actually encourages more predation the following year (<http://bit.ly/1E1CZSJ>).

The farmers and ranchers of Idaho deserve to have money spent in more productive ways. It's time to leave the 19th century and give nonlethal deterrence a chance.

CHRIS ALBERT  
Lebanon Junction



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