

# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Founded in 1873



STEPHEN A. FORRESTER, *Editor & Publisher*  
 LAURA SELLERS, *Managing Editor*  
 BETTY SMITH, *Advertising Manager*  
 CARL EARL, *Systems Manager*  
 JOHN D. BRUIJN, *Production Manager*  
 DEBRA BLOOM, *Business Manager*  
 HEATHER RAMSDELL, *Circulation Manager*

## Most popular program you've never heard of

*Land & Water Conservation Fund sustains Willapa refuge*

The Land and Water Conservation Fund may be the most popular federal program you've never heard of. Relying on no taxes, it takes some of the proceeds from offshore oil and gas leases and reinvests those funds in outdoor recreation and conservation throughout America.

It is national self-improvement using assets that belong to all of us — a sort of saving account in the form of better state and local parks, as well as enhancements in national parks, wilderness areas, forests and wildlife refuges. Started in 1964, it is key to the creation and maintenance of “thousands of local playgrounds, soccer fields and baseball diamonds,” according to the Trust for Public Land. It was the creation of Washington’s legendary Sen. Henry “Scoop” Jackson, at the request of President John Kennedy.

In a continuation of a tiresome pattern, last year Congress used only \$306 million for intended purposes, siphoning away the bulk of LWCF money. In all the years, \$17 billion from the LWCF has been frittered away. For the coming budget period, President Obama has asked that the entire \$900 million in current funds be used as federal law requires. This request is strongly supported by Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley.

The biggest project that may be funded in Oregon is the Pathways to the Pacific, which would receive \$14 million to stabilize fish runs and improve public access with acquisitions in the Oregon National Historic Trail, the John Day Wild and Scenic River, the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. In the lower Columbia region, this package includes the Willapa and Ridgefield national wildlife refuges.

In Oregon, “Without full funding, some critical projects in Oregon like protecting the east moraine of Willowa Lake, will never get completed and instead be lost to devel-

opment or other threats,” said Kelley Beamer, executive director of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts.

In Willapa, \$4.2 million would pay willing sellers for a 1,458-acre Willapa refuge expansion. According to the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Coalition: “Funds would acquire three properties next to the main unit. They would help protect and improve the overall health and function of the Willapa Bay watershed and the aquatic species within it. This acquisition would also create an opportunity to enhance and restore western red cedar forests to eventually re-establish late successional old-growth function. These areas are important to Federal and State endangered/threatened species and most migratory bird species using the Pacific Flyway. The federally-listed marbled murrelet recovery plan identifies Southwest Washington as a significant gap in suitable nesting habitat along the Pacific Northwest Coast. Increasing available habitat in this area is critical to expanding the geographic distribution of the murrelet within its threatened range.”

In our area, U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici is fully supportive of the LWCF. U.S. Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler, R-Wash. 3rd Dist., has in the recent past voted to eliminate the LWCF, even though fellow Washington Republican Dave Reichert supports it.

This program clearly deserves continuing enthusiastic support by Congress. Generations of bipartisan support for this smart investment of national funds in local communities deserves to be honored and sustained.

## Hanford has been ‘an unlimited spigot’

If a massive amount of money is available for spending, at a minimum there will be waste, perhaps fraud and maybe theft. The larger the amount of money, the bigger the magnet. We’ve seen that in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. The same thing happens in the private sector. And it seems to be happening domestically at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

The Richland-based journalist Anna King told an Astoria audience last Thursday that 14,000 Department of Energy employees are working on Hanford’s cleanup. And work is stalled, perhaps hopelessly, at the multistory vitrification plant.

Also last week, Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden decried the lack of progress in the Hanford cleanup. “Obama has no plan,” said Wyden. “It has been an unlimited spigot. It is astounding the amount of money that’s been laid out.”

Hanford was an enormously important, but secret installation of World War II. Its B Reactor

made radioactive material that became the ingredient for the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, leading to Japan’s unconditional surrender.

When things are done in secret, there is little skepticism and no cross-examination. From the start, Hanford officials failed to recognize they were creating a mess that would haunt our region for eons.

Sen. Wyden raises the prospect that national willingness to clean up Hanford might wane. “I’m not sure the rest of the country will go along with this much longer,” he said.

Mismanagement is the polite word for what’s going on at Hanford. While Hanford is no longer off limits to the public, the vestige of secrecy lingers. Anna King described a situation that is long on massive reports and short on candor.

She is also correct that Hanford is “the legacy that we were handed.” We must contain the damage that is sitting there, perilously close to the Columbia River.

# Restoring faith in justice

By CHARLES M. BLOW  
*New York Times News Service*

Last week, Baltimore’s chief prosecutor, Marilyn J. Mosby, charged six officers in the death of Freddie Gray.

The charges included second-degree murder, manslaughter, assault, misconduct in office and false imprisonment.

(These were only charges. There will be a defense and a trial. The officers remain innocent until and unless proven guilty.)

Mosby said at a news conference Friday as she laid out the case and announced the charges: “To the people of Baltimore and the demonstrators across America: I heard your call for ‘No justice, no peace.’” She continued: “Last but certainly not least, to the youth of the city. I will seek justice on your behalf. This is a moment. This is your moment. Let’s ensure we have peaceful and productive rallies that will develop structural and systemic changes for generations to come. You’re at the forefront of this cause and as young people, our time is now.”

Mosby seemed to recognize in that moment that this case and others like it are now about more than individual deaths and individual incidents, but about restoration — or a formation — of faith for all of America’s citizens in the American justice system itself.

Faith in the system is the bedrock of the system. Without it, the system is drained of its inviolable authority. This is the danger America now faces.

After George Zimmerman shot Trayvon Martin through the chest and walked free. After there was no indictment of the officer who choked the life out of Eric Garner on video. After an

officer shot and killed John Crawford in an Ohio Wal-Mart as he walked around the store with an air rifle he’d picked up off the store’s own shelves, and another officer grilled his girlfriend until she cried, “accusing her of lying, threatening her with jail time and suggesting she could be on drugs,” according to CNN.

After the city of Cleveland claimed — then apologized for claiming — that Tamir Rice was responsible for his own death when officers shot him in the stomach — an injury he would later die from — in a park as he played with a toy gun.

According to *The Washington Post*: “In the court filing, which was a formal response from the city to a federal lawsuit by the Rice family, city attorneys declare that Tamir and his family ‘were directly and proximately caused by their own acts ...’ and added that Tamir caused his own death ‘by the failure ... to exercise due care to avoid injury.’”

And after Anthony Ray Hinton sat on Alabama’s death row for 30 years — “one of the longest-serving death row prisoners in Alabama history,” according to the Equal Justice Initiative, which won his release last month — for murders he didn’t commit. He was arrested and charged based on the assertion that a revolver taken from his mother’s home was used in two capital murders and

a third uncharged crime. Even after experts found in 2002 that the gun didn’t match the crime evidence, prosecutors refused to revisit the case.

It took more than a decade of additional litigation before a judge threw out the case. Prosecutors finally conceded that the crime bullets couldn’t be matched to the Hinton weapon.

“For all of us that say that we be-



Charles Blow

lieve in justice, this is the case to start showing, because I shouldn’t have (sat) on death row for 30 years, Hinton said. “All they had to do was test the gun.”

Last year Glenn Ford, Louisiana’s longest-serving death row prisoner, was also set free after nearly 30 years facing execution for a murder that he also did not commit. According to *The New York Daily News*: “A judge freed Ford from the Louisiana State Penitentiary a year ago when evidence, believed to have been suppressed during the trial, surfaced exonerating him from the all-white jury’s decision in the murder of a nearly blind Shreveport watchmaker, Isadore Rozeman.”

The lead prosecutor in the Ford case, A.M. Stroud III, apologized in a column published by *The Shreveport Times*, saying: “In 1984, I was 33 years old. I was arrogant, judgmental, narcissistic and very full of myself. I was not as interested in justice as I was in winning. To borrow a phrase from Al Pacino in the movie *And Justice for All*, ‘Winning became everything.’” He concluded: “How totally wrong was I.”

After last month, NPR reported that Mayor Rahm Emmanuel of Chicago was supporting a \$5.5 million reparations package for victims of a former police commander and his officers in that city. As MSNBC’s Trymaine Lee put it, they “for decades ran a torture ring that used electrical shock, burning and beatings on more than 100 black men.”

All of this and more eats away at public confidence in equal justice under the law and reaffirms people’s worst fears: that the eyes of justice aren’t blind but jaundiced.

As Langston Hughes once wrote: “That Justice is a blind goddess / Is a thing to which we black are wise: / Her bandage hides two festering sores / That once perhaps were eyes.”

**Faith in the system is the bedrock of the system.**

## Call it a stroke of fate

By MAUREEN DOWD  
*New York Times News Service*

EDGEWATER, Md. — The thing that’s easy to miss about Tara is how competitive she is.

In a big Irish family of gabby, argumentative people, my niece is a lovely, willowy brunette with an easy laugh and quiet manner.

Her parents had a love match on the tennis courts at Catholic University, when my brother Martin was coach of the men’s team and his future wife, Jone, was coach of the women’s team.

They are not the overindulging side of the family. Tara never smoked or did drugs, and two glasses of wine on a weekend is a bacchanal.

Tara constantly challenges herself. She played on her mom’s tennis team at Catholic, helping it earn a Division III national ranking, and, at 25, joined the California National Guard, winning the top women’s fitness award.

Tara had already done several triathlons, but approaching her 40th birthday two years ago, she began training two hours a day to compete in a Half Ironman, cheered on by her husband, Chris O’Kieffe, who runs a successful Kona Ice franchise in their Chesapeake Bay town. After 16 years teaching kids with disabilities, Tara — mother to a pretty 9-year-old, Kasey — now helps Chris

Last spring, she also decided to start playing tennis again. She was nervous that, because of her tennis family, her friends would have high expectations.

Her shoulders tensed up through her entire first match, but she was elated when she won. By the time she drove home and got in the shower, however, she had a throbbing pain in the back of her head above her neck.

She took some Advil and got into bed. She looked at her phone, but the letters were moving. She tried to watch TV with Chris, but it was “like looking through a really thin layer of water, rippling and sparkling.”

She assumed that she was having her first migraine, a letdown after being so amped up.

The headache was still there in the morning, and the morning after that. Her husband teased her about being “a big baby” and held up his fingers to the right of her face to test her vision.

“I can’t see your hand at all,” she told him.

“We need to go to the emergency room,” Chris said.

She had some tests. “The doctor came in and said, ‘Well, it turns out you had a stroke,’” she recalled. “I don’t know if the

doctor’s words or Chris’s expression scared me more.”

The next months were the worst of her life. “I didn’t go through a day without crying,” she said. She was afraid to exercise or even turn her head.

“At some point,” she said, “I got really angry about, why the hell do I do everything right and then almost die? From playing tennis? The thought of not being able to do anything more than what I’d already done was so sad to me.”

Tara was part of a disturbing health trend, according to a *Washington Post* piece that ran a month after she had the stroke. After years of declining in the elderly, the paper reported, strokes are rising among younger adults.

Because they are accustomed to being healthy, younger stroke victims often deny or ignore the symptoms, leading them to miss treatment in the critical hours and days afterward. And, because they look young and healthy, doctors often don’t consider stroke as a cause.

Tara lost 30 percent of her peripheral vision. Doctors told her to cut back on physical activity.

“So I was going to walk gingerly and turn my head slowly and do what I needed to do to see Kasey grow up, and that was my battle,” she said. “I was living like I was made of glass.”

I urged her to get another opinion, and she booked an appointment with a national stroke expert, Dr. Louis Caplan, a Harvard professor of neurology who works at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

When I met Tara at the airport to fly up to Boston, I walked past her. In four months, she had lost 15 pounds, and her spark was gone.

At 78, Caplan is gruffly angelic, like a Frank Capra character. He showed Tara picture cards to test her memory and speech, checked her visual abilities and looked at her brain and vascular images. They had been misinterpreted by the Maryland doctors, who thought that Tara’s vertebral artery had closed when it had just narrowed, meaning it could open and heal.

Some younger people have strokes from recreational drugs. But others — even children and teenagers — have strokes after dissections, a tear in the wall of an artery that unleashes a clot.

“It can happen with a sudden everyday movement that stretches the artery,” said Caplan, who sees dissections on a regular basis. “The arteries are more elastic with younger people.”

He has treated a doctor who lurched when he thought his kid was falling



Maureen Dowd

from a tree, a basketball coach who was running up and down the court looking back and forth, and a pregnant woman who swerved her head to check traffic before crossing the street. Dissections can be caused by sneezing, coughing, vomiting, sex or even leaning back to get your hair washed at a salon. And sometimes the only symptom is a head-

ache or neck ache. Caplan is not sure if strokes are increasing among younger people or if doctors are just getting better at realizing “it’s not just old folks.”

He said stroke experts have had a hard time getting the message across to ER personnel that if a stroke is suspected, a vascular image must be taken as well as a brain image, because it shows up first in the vessels that supply and drain the brain.

“You have to be pushy,” he explained to me later. “There are a lot of organs ER people have to deal with quickly, but they get little neurology training. The brain is the Rolls-Royce of the system. Would you run your Rolls-Royce into the local gas station? If you have problems with the brain, ask for a neurologist. If you live in a big city, find an academic medical center that has a specialization in stroke.

“I’m afraid to go to the emergency room,” he added. “I think it’s dangerous.”

Caplan dryly admitted that it’s a contradiction: You have to worry about getting to the ER fast and then worry about the quality of treatment once you’re there.

He assured Tara that her stroke was not caused by nerves or a weakness in her arteries and said that there was only a 1 percent chance of recurrence for this kind of stroke after the first month. He told her he was going to play tennis and advised her to do the same.

“Unfortunately, doctors and patients put too many restrictions on themselves,” he said later. “They’re told, ‘Don’t lift your baby,’ ‘Don’t have intercourse.’ Because movement brought this on, they think they cannot have any movement. That overprotectiveness can be worse than the dissection itself.”

When Tara got home, she ran a mile and a half, crying all the way.

“It was like I realized I don’t have to throw me away and try to develop this new person,” she said.

On April 2, the first anniversary of her stroke, she ventured back onto the court for a cardio tennis class. She was terrified, and her friends were jittery, picking up balls for her.

“I was nervous for a few hours afterwards,” she said. “I would look in the mirror and smile and make sure I wasn’t drooling.”

As we drove in her neighborhood one recent afternoon, she marveled at how wonderful it was to see the spring. “I missed the last one,” she said.