

# 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*

## Get set as new law on marijuana kicks in

### Liquor commission publicizes rules, works on commercial sales issues

The 2014 vote to legalize recreational marijuana use in Oregon divided residents, but state authorities are working in a proactive manner to hone the details of how the new law will work.

With issues occurring elsewhere where recreational marijuana has been made legal, the commendable strategy of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission is to try to answer questions — and head off potential problems — before the law and accompanying rules takes effect July 1.

For those of you intending to smoke pot, be aware of several key components of the law:

- It will be legal for Oregon residents aged 21 and older to grow up to four plants per household on their property. Adults may possess up to 8 ounces of usable marijuana in the home and carry up to 1 ounce when out. The limit of four plants is regardless of the number of occupants in the home. It does not mean, for example, that four adults in a residence can grow 16 plants.
- Smoking marijuana in public remains illegal. The OLCC has worked hard to define “public.”
- Minors cannot possess or use marijuana, even where they live.
- Driving while impaired remains a criminal offense.

Measure 91 did not make any changes to employment law. As a result, your employer could discipline or fire you for testing positive at your place of work. And because marijuana remains in your system for days or a week after smoking, be aware that a pot-filled weekend or vacation could still land you in trouble with your boss.

Also, Measure 91 was specifically written to have no impact

#### MORE ONLINE

- For more details and a list of FAQ, go to [www.whatsleg-aloregon.com](http://www.whatsleg-aloregon.com)
- Email [marijuana@oregon.gov](mailto:marijuana@oregon.gov) or call 800-452-6522 with questions.
- For information about medical marijuana, go to [www.mmj.oregon.gov](http://www.mmj.oregon.gov)

on existing medical marijuana regulations, which came into effect after that was legalized by a ballot measure in 1998.

In conjunction with a public awareness campaign about personal possession and use, the OLCC is drawing up regulations to tax and license marijuana sold commercially. Tax revenue — estimated at \$18 million over a two-year period — would be allocated to schools, local governments, police and drug services.

The OLCC will begin accepting applications from growers, wholesalers and processors on Jan. 4, 2016, with residents able to buy their drug from a retail outlet once rules are in place in fall 2016. Public input is still being sought on these rules and now is the time to comment.

The way the new law was written, the ability of local governments to regulate or restrict the potential influx of commercial vendors is minimal. Law enforcement agencies and local leaders would do well to accept the inevitability that Oregon’s social landscape is about to make a significant change and act accordingly.

## History is our high card

### Restoration a long slog, but makes Astoria a better place

Historic preservation has become Astoria’s hallmark. Clatsop Community College even has a program that teaches the basic skills of this craft. But conserving Astoria’s building and housing stock was not always the town’s goal.

The significance of Edward Harvey — whose name is given to the city’s award Monday night — was a prod to preserving and designating the town’s historic homes, before that became a national ambition.

Most preservationists peg their movement’s national kick-start to the high-profile drive to save Grand Central Station in 1975. That roughly coincided with the decade of Dr. Harvey’s activity in Astoria.

Some 20 years later, the Liberty Theater would have its restoration, and a number of others would follow, including the Hotel Elliott,

the Guy Boyington Building and the Commodore Hotel.

Honored by the Astoria City Council Monday, Justin Power’s restoration of the Thompson house in Uppertown is a double victory. Power has accomplished something of note. And prior to his intervention, the home was a city code enforcement problem.

Doing a restoration such as the Thompson house is a long slog. Such projects demand deep knowledge, dedication of financial resources and patience.

This year has also hatched what will become the ultimate restoration. That would be Greg Newenhof’s purchase of the Flavel home at 15th Street and Franklin Avenue.

Bravo to Monday’s honoree. And bravo to all who take on these epic projects. Their completion makes Astoria a better place.

# Democrats being Democrats

By PAUL KRUGMAN  
*New York Times News Service*

On Friday, House Democrats shocked almost everyone by rejecting key provisions needed to complete the Trans-Pacific Partnership, an agreement the White House wants but much of the party doesn’t. On Saturday Hillary Clinton formally began her campaign for president, and surprised most observers with an unapologetically liberal and populist speech.

These are, of course, related events. The Democratic Party is becoming more assertive about its traditional values, a point driven home by Clinton’s decision to speak on Roosevelt Island. You could say that Democrats are moving left. But the story is more complicated and interesting than this simple statement can convey.

You see, ever since Ronald Reagan’s election in 1980, Democrats have been on the ideological defensive. Even when they won elections they seemed afraid to endorse clearly progressive positions, eager to demonstrate their centrism by supporting policies like cuts to Social Security that their base hated. But that era appears to be over. Why?

Part of the answer is that Democrats, despite defeats in midterm elections, believe — rightly or wrongly — that the political wind is at their backs. Growing ethnic diversity is producing what should be a more favorable electorate; growing tolerance is turning social issues, once a source of Republican strength, into a Democratic advantage instead. Reagan was elected by a nation in which half the public still disapproved of interracial marriage; Clinton is running to lead a nation in which 60 percent support same-sex marriage.

At the same time, Democrats seem finally to have taken on board something political scientists have been telling us for years: adopting “centrist” positions in an attempt to

attract swing voters is a mug’s game, because such voters don’t exist. Most supposed independents are in fact strongly aligned with one party or the other, and the handful who aren’t are mainly just confused. So you might as well take a stand for what you believe in.

But the party’s change isn’t just about politics, it’s also about policy.

On one side, the success of Obamacare and related policies — millions covered for substantially less than expected, surprisingly effective cost control for Medicare — have helped to inoculate the party against blanket assertions that government programs never work. And on the other side, the Davos Democrats who used to be a powerful force arguing against progressive policies have lost much of their credibility.

**You could say that Democrats are moving left. But the story is more complicated and interesting than this simple statement can convey.**

I’m referring to the kind of people — many, though not all, from Wall Street — who go to lots of international meetings where they assure each other that prosperity is all about competing in the global economy, and that this means supporting trade agreements and cutting social spending. Such people have influence in part because of their cam-



Paul Krugman

aign contributions, but also because of the belief that they really know how the world works.

As it turns out, however, they don’t. In the 1990s the purported wise men blithely assured us that we had nothing to fear from financial deregulation; we did. After crisis struck, thanks in large part to that very deregulation, they warned us that we should be very afraid of bond investors, who would punish America for its budget deficits; they didn’t. So why believe them when they insist that we must approve an unpopular trade deal?

And this loss of credibility means that if Clinton makes it to the White House she’ll govern very differently from the way her husband did in the 1990s.

As I said, you can describe all of this as a move to the left, but there’s more to it than that — and it’s not at all symmetric to the Republican move right. Democrats are adopting ideas that work and rejecting ideas that don’t, whereas Republicans are doing the opposite.

And no, I’m not being unfair. Obamacare, which was once a conservative idea, is working better than even supporters expected; so Democrats are committed to defending its achievements, while Republicans are more fanatical than ever in their efforts to destroy it. Modestly higher taxes on the wealthy haven’t hurt the economy, while promises that tax cuts will have magical effects have proved disastrously wrong; so Democrats have become more comfortable with a modest tax-and-spend agenda, while Republicans are more firmly in the grip of tax-cutting cranks than ever. And so on down the line.

Of course, changes in ideology matter only to the extent that they can influence policy. And while the electoral odds probably favor Clinton, and Democrats could retake the Senate, they have very little chance of retaking the House. So changes in the Democratic Party may take a while to change America as a whole. But something important is happening, and in the long run it will matter a great deal.

## Baseball and black history

By FRANK BRUNI  
*New York Times News Service*

Last summer, a 13-year-old named Mo’ne Davis landed on the cover of *Sports Illustrated*, a national sensation after she pitched a shutout in the Little League World Series, where almost all of the other players are boys. She’s believed to be the only black girl ever to participate in the competition.

This summer, she plans to do something else surprising: visit the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., where four black girls were killed in a 1963 bombing. Three of them were 14. Mo’ne will turn that age on the day she shows up at the landmark.

For Mo’ne, who grew up in a poor neighborhood in Philadelphia, life since her *Sports Illustrated* coronation has been electric: a meeting with the Obamas at the White House, a quickie memoir, an appearance in a Chevrolet commercial directed by Spike Lee, even a line of sneakers named for her.

But over three weeks in late June and early July, she and 13 other kids on her team — the rest of them boys, most of them black, all roughly her age — have a schedule of exhibition games across the country that mixes exhilarating notes with somber ones.

They’re not just hitting the road. They’re taking it south, into history: the church in Birmingham, the bridge in Selma. They’ll play ball, then visit Little Rock Central High School, a battleground in the fight to integrate schools. They’ll swing for the fences, then bow their heads at the house in Jackson, Miss., where Medgar Evers lived.

In a country still lurching toward racial harmony and looking to give underprivileged kids more grounding, grit and hope, it’s a compelling itinerary. And at a time when corruption and criminal behavior have cast a pall over soccer, football, boxing and more, it’s a feel-good reminder of the positive impact athletics can have on young people — on the way in which sports, too, can be a bridge.

Mo’ne told me that she relished the trip as a tribute to trailblazers who “put their lives out there and got beaten so that we could have the freedom we have.”

But she’s also braced for sadness, particularly in that church, with the

ghosts of those girls.

“I do feel really bad, because they could have changed the world,” she said. “And for them to lose their lives at such a young age? You never know what they could have done.”

You never know what they could have done. That’s true not just of children who don’t get to grow up. It applies to millions more — too many of them minorities — who are denied a real chance, maybe because there’s no one to guide them, maybe because no one ever spots and heralds their gifts.

Mo’ne was 7 years old when the team’s coach, Steve Bandura, happened to see her throwing a football. He convinced her mother, who was skeptical, that she had serious athletic talent, then mentored her, even helping to secure a scholarship for her at a private school.

She has performed well there and her goal is within reach: to go to the University of Connecticut and graduate into a career in the Women’s National Basketball Association. She’s as fierce on the court as she is on the mound.

**The kids aren’t encouraged to aim for higher education. They’re informed that they’re going to college, period.**

Bandura, 54, has intervened in a similar fashion for hundreds of other kids who were or are members of his team, the Anderson Monarchs. He started it two decades ago and runs it out of the Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation, which employs him.

The Monarchs play basketball, soccer and baseball, depending on the season, and the kids are together year-round. The team is named for Marian Anderson, who in 1955 became the first black singer to perform at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City, and for the Kansas City Monarchs, a standout in the Negro Leagues back



Frank Bruni

when professional baseball was segregated. Jackie Robinson was its star.

I first wrote about the team in August, and about Bandura, who ditched a better-paying career in sales and marketing to devote himself to a sports program aimed at instilling pride, purpose and discipline in disadvantaged kids.

He reasons that if they appreciate how the road was paved for them, they’ll be more likely to take full advantage of it. If they see what African-Americans endured and accomplished, they’ll understand their own strength and abilities. They’ll also understand their obligation, which isn’t just to benefit from progress but to perpetuate it, for the kids who come next.

Bandura is white and grew up in a Philadelphia neighborhood where he often recoiled at the racism he saw. His wife, Robin, a physical therapist, is black, and one of their two children, Scott, 13, plays on the Monarchs, which they have turned into an extended family.

The kids and their parents describe the team as a lifeline and a ladder.

The kids aren’t encouraged to aim for higher education. They’re informed that they’re going to college, period. This is hammered into them by the fence around their South Philly baseball diamond. It’s bedecked with banners signaling the alma maters of former Monarchs: Temple University, Penn State, the University of Pennsylvania.

The kids are also instructed that they’re ambassadors of the inner city and that in baseball, as in life, a certain conduct engenders respect. Bandura insists that their shirts always be tucked in. There’s no taunting of opponents, no roughhousing with one another when they’re supposed to be concentrating.

“You’ve got to see the world,” Mo’ne explained, adding that she and her teammates can’t do that if they’re looking down, into gadgets, and not up. “You have to see it with your own eyes.”

She’s getting a big, heady glimpse of it.

And we’ll know exactly what she could have done with her life, because she’s positioned to do it. She’s primed to fulfill that potential. She and her teammates have been given more than bats, cleats and the promise of an epic summer.

They’ve been given a sense of mission and a set of wings.