

## Start a business

Oregon House Speaker Tina Kotek is no exception to the general rule that those most eager to raise the minimum wage are those least likely to be paying it ("Minimum wage bill misses our diversity," *The Daily Astorian*, June 25).

If Rep. Kotek feels so keenly the justice of raising wages, she should, as one of the more colorful Americans has it, put her money where her mouth is, start a business, and pay her employees whatever her liberal values prompt.

LOUIS SARGENT  
Gearhart

## Amazing

I watched and listened closely to the television coverage of President Obama's eulogy of the slain Christians in Charleston, S.C. Of particular amazement was the president's use of the classic Christian song "Amazing Grace," upon which the president built the entirety of his eulogy.

Amazingly, while the president lamented (rightfully) the ills of slavery and institutionalized segregation codified in the Jim Crow laws, it is noteworthy he ignored the inspiration of the very song upon which he hung his racially oriented and racially divisive eulogy.

Namely, "Amazing Grace" was penned by one John Newton (1725 - 1807) who, having been pressed into British naval service was, following that, involved in the slave trade on the high seas. Newton, having experienced a tempest at sea, cried out to God for mercy, and had the eyes of his understanding opened to the wickedness of his endeavors in the slave trade. As a result, Newton experienced a spiritual conversation — he was, in the Christian vernacular, saved — and repented of his ways.

Amazingly, President Obama glanced over that piece of relevant inspiration, opting for a clearly racial presentation, lightly camouflaged and clearly designed to promote racial division. Consider the president's juxtaposition of Johnny (the white) against Jamal (the black) in the context of return calls for job interviews ("Why does Johnny get the call, and Jamal doesn't?").

If there was no intent to inflame the racial divide, why not include Jung (the Asian) and Jindal (the East Indian)? And by the way, where's the reference to Jenny? That rhetorical question to uncover intentional design, remarks intended to promote racial division, and illustrate the foolishness of political correctness.

Why would the president make such a racially oriented and racially divisive juxtaposition, all in the backdrop, supposedly, of promoting Christian grace? Why? I'll show you why: "For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple." Romans 16:18.

Now isn't that amazing?  
GARY M. MAURO  
Chinook, Wash.

## Support the Regatta

We have the honor of serving as the co-presidents of the 2015 Astoria Regatta Festival, and follow in the footsteps of those who held this position since the founding of the festival in 1894. The Astoria Regatta Festival was designated an Oregon Heritage Tradition by the Oregon Heritage Commission in 2013, acknowledging the importance of this event to our region, and the state of Oregon.

It is amazing to us the commitment of the many volunteers, committee heads and board members who have volunteered tirelessly over the years to ensure the continuity and health of this festival, and we thank each and every one of them.

For this year, our theme

# A tragedy for hero, victim

We are the surviving family of Alvin Wiese, who drowned Sept. 3, 1957, at Long Beach, Wash., with Washington State Patrol Officer Gene Bolstad, who attempted to save him.

In addition to Ann and George Jacobsen, Alvin's teenage cousins from Vancouver, Wash., Bob Leppaluoto, a neighbor and Ann's boyfriend, were also with him on the day he drowned.

The event was a tragedy for Alvin's family in Cottage Grove and Officer Bolstad's wife in Long Beach. The relationship between families when the hero and the victim die is never easy. Alvin's family tried to contact the Bolstad family, but understandably had no response. Last year, one of Alvin's brothers was able to speak with a Bolstad family member con-

tacted through WSP Fallen Officers.

Howard Jacobsen, Alvin's uncle in Portland-Vancouver, on behalf of Alvin's family, was an active supporter of and donor to the lifesaving equipment fund to ensure its realization.

Alvin's death deeply affected our family in 1957, and for many years thereafter. Today's story still brings tears to his family.

They collectively have memories of his life including his Cottage Grove High School graduation in June 1957, a newspaper route, and golf, at which he excelled and hoped to play on the University of Oregon



Alvin Wiese

team that fall.

We appreciate *The Daily Astorian's* publication of the Bolstad story after 60 years ("Local hero, nice young officer lost his life on Long Beach," June 22). The story brought more details, as well as some closure on our side to the event.

MARY LOU MCADOO  
(SISTER)

Portland

EARLINE DICKERSON  
(SISTER)

DAVID WARD (BROTHER)  
KENNETH WARD (BROTHER)

Cottage Grove

ANN JACOBSEN (COUSIN)  
Honolulu

is "Rockin' on the River." Things are going very well, but we are reaching out to the community to assist us in fundraising for this heritage event, and also looking for more able bodies, aka, volunteers to jump in and help us out with the festival this year.

On the fundraising side, we did not have a financial sponsor for the annual Regatta Fireworks which is held the Saturday evening of the Regatta Festival, and sent out a call to action to financially support this. The response was overwhelming from Astoria Downtown Historic District Association member businesses and generous other businesses and individuals, but we still have a ways to go. If you would like to contribute to the fireworks fund, simply go to our website at [www.astoriaregatta.com](http://www.astoriaregatta.com) and you will see on the home page how to make a PayPal donation to this.

For contributions to the general fund, or the court scholarship fund, checks can be made out to "Astoria Regatta Association," and mailed to: Astoria Regatta Association, P.O. Box 24, Astoria, OR 97103. To target a contribution, please list where you want your check targeted, and it will be deposited into that account.

And most important, if you can give of your time and talents to help with the festival this year as a volunteer, simply send an email to [astoriaregattaassociation@gmail.com](mailto:astoriaregattaassociation@gmail.com) and we will connect with you. If you can give a few hours, that is great. We are not looking to overwhelm anyone, but get more involvement in the activities, which are a lot of fun.

We are very open to ideas and suggestions that get more involvement in the festival, and are looking to have more of our younger citizens get involved this year, and for the future. If you have any questions or concerns, send an email to our email address above, and Kathy or I will respond to you directly.

With your help and support, we are looking forward to a great Astoria Regatta Festival.

KEVIN LEAHY  
KATHY KOPPEN  
DEAN  
Astoria

## Recognized as equal

My family is thrilled to see the Constitutional guarantee of equal protection upheld by a majority of Supreme Court justices. Like so many, we work hard, volunteer, raise our children, and feel welcome as valued members of the community. But starting this June, we are finally recognized as legally equal human beings, as well — in all 50 states.

However, we remain aware that local tax-exempt organizations, including St. Mary, Star of the Sea, engaged — and continue to engage — in vigorous political efforts to deny real families access to basic

Constitutional rights and responsibilities, because of (to quote a certain Catholic jurist) their unfounded religious "jiggery-pokery" (literally along the lines of "my invisible, supernatural, three-part deity dislikes lesbians").

We clearly remember how the Catholic archdiocese, for example, raised money and campaigned to successfully pass the odious and discriminatory Measure 36, which selectively limited civil rights, legally undermined families, and forcibly diminished the humanity of many Astoria neighbors, colleagues, relatives and friends for an entire decade.

Religious organizations are certainly welcome to evidence-free prejudice (it's pretty much the business model), but happily they can no longer use that prejudice as a legal basis for erasing any American's civil rights.

BILL GRIESAR  
Astoria

## Trade pact a bad idea

*The Daily Astorian* believes America should approve the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade bill, promising it will allow America to "set the trade rules for 38 percent of the world's economy" and make the U.S. "more competitive" ("Trade Bill divides Democratic Party," June 29).

Although appealing, this is just an echo of the arguments which ensnared the U.S. in the World Trade Organization. Here is a cautionary tale from current events to hopefully shine some light on the reality of a world controlled by business, not human, interests.

The House of Representatives on June 10 passed HR 2393, the Country of Origin Labeling Amendments Act of 2015. This act, which now goes to the Senate and is expected to pass, repeals current laws regarding country of origin labeling requirements — commonly called COOL — for beef, pork, and chicken. In Oregon, only U.S. Reps. Greg Walden (R) and Kurt Schrader (D) voted for it (<http://1.usa.gov/1GXvpbx>).

The Country of Origin Labeling Act exists because the American consumer wants to know two basic things about their food: What's in it? Where did it come from?

Unfortunately, our friends in Canada feel that labels showing country of origin gives an unfair advantage to domestic U.S. meat producers over Canadian producers. They recognize that Americans will opt for local whenever given a choice, and they want to take that choice away. So they went to the WTO and complained (<http://bit.ly/1LB72DP>).

In addition, Canada and Mexico have announced their intention to use WTO rules to put around \$3.6 billion in retaliatory tariffs in place to punish the U.S. for giving its citizens the ability to know the origin of their food.

In voting to repeal COOL, Rep. Kurt Schrader said, "COOL may have been well-intended, but we've lost four times at the WTO." So, Rep. Schrader, who sets American food policy? Congress or the WTO?

The TPP was negotiated in secret. What we do know indicates similar assaults against our national sovereignty are surely in the offing. I fully understand there are broader economic and political issues at work here. But Americans must ask: Is handing transnational corporations the ability to improve their profit margins by forcing the U.S. Congress to repeal or modify our country's food, safety, environmental and health regulations a good idea?

BILL GRAFFIUS  
Astoria

## A silent majority?

It's disturbing to me to see how casually the voice of the community is being taken by Mayor Arline LaMear and council members Zetty Nemlowill and Russ Warr.

For her part, the mayor imagines there is a silent majority who believe as she does, that the Bridge Vista plan is acceptable as currently written. In spite of a room full of citizens disagreeing with her during public comment, and the objections of council members Drew Herzig and Cindy Price, she called for a final vote on the matter.

Prior to that vote a proposal to take a step back to look at some options was presented by Price, the only council member to walk the section of river in question who took the time to create a map of three areas of concern. The mayor, Nemlowill and Warr all voted the proposal down.

Nemlowill said that since there had been ample public input on this matter in 2009, that there was no need for further public comment. The obvious problem with that thinking is that the will of the people can change. That's why we have elections every four years.

In addition, in 2009 the country was in the midst of a severe recession. Fear for the economic future of Astoria may have caused citizens to throw caution to the wind regarding building over the water along an area of the river enjoyed for its view by many. That fear has since dissipated. The demography of Astoria has also changed significantly since then; inconvenient facts for Nemlowill.

Earlier this spring Nemlowill also exhibited her willingness to ignore proper procedure on issues of development when she rightly recused herself from the vote on the enterprise zone, then the following week made a virtual public apology for the City Council vote at a Port of Astoria Commission meeting, ignoring her prior recusal.

I'm not idly picking on the seemingly well-meaning Nemlowill, but her enthusiasm for development seems to get in the way of her better judgment. We can expect the same enthusiasm for development from Councilor Warr, a current business owner, whose votes on the Bridge Vista plan have been in sync with hers and the mayor's.

Citizens will need to stay vigilant and exercise all options available if their voices continue to be ignored. It's possible the mayor is right. There may be a silent majority who want development over the water in the Bridge Vista zone. Funny thing is they don't show up

at council meetings or write support letters to the editor, and in my informal survey, not one person has said they like the idea.

ROGER DORBAND  
Astoria

## A unique beauty

I am not a resident of Astoria, but I am an artist who has been painting its scrappy and majestic vistas for over 25 years. Being set up to paint on site gives an artist a perhaps unique window into the lives of the people who make their homes there. Whenever I am out painting, the people of Astoria will stop and talk with me about the pride they take in the beauty of the river, and how that beauty is shared by all — even visitors like myself.

I am disturbed to learn of the proposed Bridge Vista plan for significant changes in the character of the city views and waterfront. I have painted along that Riverwalk for many, many hours, each time meeting new residents who will engage with a stranger to have a conversation about the shared beauty of a spot, and tell stories about it.

Many of these people are out walking along the river at the end of a working day. The beauty of such a place belongs to everyone — all the citizens, both rich and poor. Such views are the unquantifiable assets that make life worth living, attributes which strangers visiting such places sense immediately when they arrive, and make them feel they are in a special place.

Selling the waterfront for commercial development which would block or restrict access to these views seems tragically short-sighted to me. Whatever short term gains this project may yield for some, will not compare to the loss of quality of life of so many residents who love those views and visit them daily.

A "viewing corridor" is no substitute for those expansive soaring vistas so many Astorians (and daily visitors like myself) enjoy now as they have for generations. Taking away those views is in my opinion a terrible mistake. When a town loses its beauty for commercial ventures, the town loses tourism, and the people become dispirited and sullen. Life goes on, of course, but something intangible is lost.

Please do not trade a short-term profit for this gift of unique, scrappy beauty.

MARK ANDRES  
Portland

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