

Visit the garden

Hello fellow Astorians: In case you missed my garden tour last Sunday, July 12, you will have another chance this Sunday, July 19, at 656 11th St. I was so disappointed in the turnout, I called "Home and Garden" to see if they would cover it. Maybe.

It is really a unique garden — kind of like an English garden. So this Sunday, bring your smiles and cameras for another chance. Beverages and snacks will be provided. See you there.

BOB BOHNKE
Astoria

A wonderful play

Aside from the breathtaking natural beauty of this special place, there is an abundance of local talent expressed through art, music and literature. The Peninsula Association of Performing Artists (PAPA) is a small community theater troupe putting on professional caliber, family-friendly musicals every summer. We attended opening night of their new production of Rogers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" recently.

The former ordnance depot at Fort Columbia, Wash., is transformed into a magical place where, indeed, a pumpkin can become a golden carriage. A flick of the fairy godmother's wand (and a little help from a clever costumer) turns a plain dress into a ball gown and Cinderella into a princess. The "wicked" stepmother and sisters are delightfully goofy, even as they're bossing around our poor heroine.

My favorite line is spoken by the prince when he hits the town incognito, and accidentally bumps into Cinderella: "Everyone deserves to be treated with kindness and respect." So true.

Come and lift your spirits with this classic tale, where love makes the impossible possible. If you have any little girls in your life — bring them along. They may even get their own invitation to the prince's ball.

Don't let the clock strike midnight without catching this charming production, playing Friday and Saturday nights at 7 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m., through Aug. 10. Information and tickets are at www.papatheater.com

MARK SCARBOROUGH
Long Beach, Wash.

Straw is a hazard

It's amazing that a transplant from Southern California would not realize what a hazard nine tons of straw sitting unguarded on a slope is ("Woman, city still at odds over straw," The Daily Astorian, July 7).

Jean Reitman is undoubtedly a nice person, but obviously utterly ignorant where fire is concerned. Doesn't she read the papers or watch the news? Isn't she aware of the Eugene Civic Stadium that went up in flames recently, caused by four young boys with time on their hands and a lighter in them?

Or that this was a very dry winter? And this is only early July. August, September, and no doubt October, are waiting to add their conflagrations.

Of course, she probably hasn't heard what happened to Bandon — which was practically obliterated in 1936 because of beautiful golden gorse brought to this country for landscaping purposes by Lord Bennett from Ireland.

Or that my own father's ranch brush fire almost got the town of Myrtle Point the same year Bandon burned. If it hadn't been for every able-bodied man turning out to fight that fire, Myrtle Point would have been toast.

Dad was mortified to think he might have been the cause of burning down the town. I well remember the heavy smoke in the halls of the elementary school, and every other building, as well.

Actually, Astoria's Fire Chief Ted Ames' offer to keep her straw bales safe and return them in reasonable numbers sounds like a very kind and caring sort of attitude, and Reitman's comment that removing her property "doesn't make sense" — under the circumstances — makes no

Larger jail needed for 'criminal addicts'

To the people of Clatsop County: We were appalled to witness the number of people repeatedly released early from the county jail due to overcrowding. We feel justified to speak to this issue first-hand, as our names were drawn randomly and we were instructed that it was our turn to do our civic duty for two months and serve on the Clatsop County Grand Jury.

Most of us were strangers, but a few of us were acquainted through our various levels of community involvement, where we lived, or by name. The grand jury convenes in secret, meets biweekly and hears evidence provided by the prosecutors from the district attorney's office about people who have been arrested for theft, burglary, sex abuse, assault, and drug crimes (to name a few).

We were instructed that it was our charge to determine, as required by the law in the state of Oregon, if there was enough substantial evidence presented against an alleged defendant(s) to warrant a felony charge.

Each session we heard in-person testimony from police officers from around the county, and we also heard testimony from witnesses and victims of the alleged crimes. The district attorney's prosecuting team did a remarkable job educating us on the various definitions and degrees of charges.

The number of cases presented to us each day was from three to eight and we received, from many individual police officers, an in-depth education on different drugs, associated paraphernalia and how drugs are ingested. We learned that heroin and meth are now the two most commonly used drugs being used together by addicts in Clatsop County; get high (meth) and then come down (heroin).

During our service, we like most grand juries, were taken on a tour of the jail to familiarize us in case testimony came up concerning a case before us. We all agreed that Clatsop County is fortunate to have jail staff who appeared to care about people, and seemed to work hard to treat everyone fairly.

In addition, it quickly became appar-

sense whatever. Let's hope she comes to her senses soon.

PAT GUERIN
Astoria

Review is pointless

In the July 9 edition of The Daily Astorian, Sen. Ron Wyden said that Peter Hansen, the Oregon LNG spokesperson, had overstepped reality when he said that local land use reviews of LNG were meaningless ("Where does Sen. Wyden stand on Oregon LNG?").

Wyden stated that in Oregon, LNG reviews should be conducted to achieve projects that can meet both local and national needs. In reality, as has been pointed out by numerous experts, the proposed Warrenton site is not environmentally suitable for an LNG facility because it is deeply embedded in the tsunami inundation zone and will simply be destroyed by an event that undoubtedly will occur.

Oregon has no natural gas and 95 percent of its modern (non-coal) electrical generation facilities require natural gas. In the next 40 to 50 years, with better technology, electrical generation may not require natural gas, but for the next few decades Oregon will need to import increasing amounts of natural gas.

Oregon's natural gas utilities are using customer dollars to develop fracked natural gas in the Rockies, which must be shipped by new pipelines, since existing pipelines are at capacity. Clatsop Oregonians hate pipelines, and most hate fracked gas, so they elect representatives who will take any steps necessary to reject these types of projects. Clatsop representatives have no interest in developing informed opinions or improving projects; they must kill projects or they will be tarred and feathered by Clatsop voters.

While politicians like Wyden can strive for a rational approach, anyone who is half awake in Clatsop County could assure him that land use reviews of energy projects in Clatsop County will continue to be totally devoid of a rational approach by informed local decision makers.

Hansen is clearly off base in his statement, because local land use reviews do matter to state and federal decision makers. It is also true that Clatsop County LNG land use review has been made dys-

functional. While local review may not be legally "meaningless," the process being used makes the result "meaningless."

JOHN DUNZER
Seaside

Keep Seaside clean

I will start this letter to let people know I love my small town of Seaside. We moved here from the valley two years ago, and we do not regret the decision.

What is bothering me is the litter that happens in this town. Cigarette butts everywhere — dog doo on sidewalks, and garbage on the beach.

I am not going to blame the tourists for all of it. This happens in the winter months, too. I will see my neighbors throw their cigarette butts down and their dogs poop in front of my house.

I don't know what to do to help this situation but I hope that some people will read this and do their part to help keep this wonderful town clean.

Thank you for reading this. Let's all strive to keep Seaside clean.

LISA LAWSON
Seaside

Enchanting show

The Peninsula Association of Performing Artists (PAPA) has done it again. My wife and I had the distinct pleasure of attending a Sunday Matinee of "Cinderella" at Fort Columbia Theater in Washington.

This group of local actors and actresses brought this enchanted tale to life — the entire cast, everyone from the fairy godmother (Jane Schussman) to the two step-sisters (Grace Scarborough and Zoey Powers — what a hoot) to Cinderella herself (Hope Bellingher), did an outstanding job.

Shows like this are not easy to pull off, and the leadership, cast and crew from PAPA did so with style. We are so fortunate to have such a professional group on the Peninsula to bring us such well presented theater.

Cindy Flood and the whole PAPA organization deserve kudos for a job well done. As always, Barbara Poulshock is a Peninsula treasure, and she confirms it once again — I know what a



Daily Astorian File

Corrections officers Daniel Thompson and Cory Ortega monitor the cameras throughout the Clatsop County Jail.

ent that most theft/burglary charges are linked to drug addiction, whereby stolen goods are used to buy/trade/barter for much needed drugs. All seven of us were shocked at the rate of crime/drug abuse problem in Clatsop County.

During our two-month service, only one case that came before us was from people vacationing — the rest were local residents of Clatsop County. Eventually we came to the collective realization that these offenders are released from jail because of overcrowding, and go right back out to rob from innocent people/businesses so they can get drugs, return to jail to be released and rob again.

Our collective opinion was that "criminal addicts" have learned the incarceration system in this county and many use the jail as a place to get a meal, shower, and a bed to rest up, to go back out and violate innocent people over and over again. If a person is arrested for a crime and found to have drugs in their possession it takes about six months for the lab results to be returned so many of the cases presented to us had occurred six or more months prior.

However, in a two-month period, we saw the same names repeatedly, and a number of names came in front of us as many as four times for robbery/drug charges. As reported recently in *The Daily Astorian*, Clatsop County had 432

felony indictments in 2014, compared to 239 in Columbia County, and 198 in Tillamook County ("Clatsop County had 432 felony indictments," June 17).

The cost of detaining, processing, housing, and caring for these repeat offenders by law enforcement agencies, the jail, the district attorney's office, insurance companies and the feeling of safety for innocent victims must be enormous.

Our experience, of serving as grand jurors, has been extremely eye opening and we felt that it was important to raise community awareness about the severity of the problem in an effort to keep Clatsop County a safe place to live, work, and play. We believe there is a need for increased jail space here in our area.

No one asked for or prompted us to write this letter. We are a cross representation of the community, from many different life experiences and of varied ages. Please remember, as you read this letter that we cannot and will not talk about specific cases and that we heard reports about criminal activities in our community that would, we believe, shock you too.

Because we collectively agreed to felony charges on many, many addicted people, we asked the editor of the newspaper to forgo the need to print our names and/or date of service.

A PAST GRAND JURY

Fireworks are on!

The Astoria Regatta Festival Fireworks are on, thanks to the generosity of many businesses and individuals in the community. The \$5,000 needed was raised.

The Astoria Regatta Association would like to

thank everyone who contributed. Key contributors include Astoria Downtown Historic District Association member businesses Arc Arcade, Baked Alaska, Frite and Scoop, Old Town Framing, Purple Cow Toys, Vintage Hardware and Whole Brain Creative. Other key contributor businesses include City Lumber of Astoria, Kennell Electronics of Seaside, and Pier 39 of Astoria. Individuals to be thanked at this level include John and MJ Englund, Jim Carruthers and Mitch Mitchum, plus others who contributed.

The outpouring of support was inspiring, and our entire region can enjoy the Astoria Regatta Festival fireworks with family and friends on Saturday, Aug. 8, at dusk, from the East End Mooring Basin in Astoria.

The Astoria Regatta Festival will be held from Aug. 5-9, with the theme "Rockin' on the River." For more information, look for posters and information cards throughout Clatsop County chambers of commerce and businesses, go to the official Regatta website at www.astoriaregatta.com, or go to the Regatta Facebook page at "Astoria Regatta" for photos and updated information, and "like" the page.

Email any questions to astoriaregattaassociation@gmail.com

KEVIN LEAHY
Co-president, 2015
Astoria Regatta Festival
Astoria

Don't block river

Let me yell loud and clear: Have a city-wide vote on blocking any more of our river. Look what happened to Hawaii's beaches. A 40-foot-wide slot between buildings is poor. Keep this up, and goodbye to tourists' money and quality of life here.

Maybe our future view of the Columbia will be from the Astoria Column only.

DICK DARBY
Astoria

privilege it is to sing under her.

Run, don't walk to the nearest ticket outlet (Okie's Thriftway in Ocean Park, Wash., or www.papatheater.com) to get your tickets. I assure you, you will be enchanted beyond belief.

ROCKY KEEL
Long Beach, Wash.



COLUMBIA
MEMORIAL
HOSPITAL

Our people make
The Planetree Difference

Congratulations Spirit of Caring Award Winner Macaroni & Laura Lattig!

The Spirit of Caring Awards honor individuals who personalize, humanize and demystify the healthcare experience.

"Seeing Mac is always sure to put a smile on everyone's face... Mac and Laura are as sweet as they come."

— Award nomination for Macaroni Lattig

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