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New citizens remind us that it is valuable

*'This is your place now.
This is your history.'*

When you hear the words “naturalization ceremony,” you picture a clinical, windowless setting in a federal office building. That’s why it was inspired to move a ceremony for new citizens of Oregon and southwest Washington to Fort Clatsop at the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park.

U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici had this idea after officiating at a ceremony some months ago in a Portland federal building. The congresswoman suggested Fort Clatsop.

The National Park Service is custodian of many sites that have special meaning in the history of this nation. As Superintendent Scott Tucker noted, Fort Clatsop’s existence was essential to our region’s becoming part of America.

It is often said that immigrants who attain U.S. citizenship value it more than many of us who were born into citizenship. They have to work for it.

Seeing a group of new Americans, who came from a broad array of other places ranging from the Ukraine to Mexico, reminds us that gaining U.S. citizenship is widely regarded as a prize. During an election season in which

some presidential candidates will devalue immigrants and others will tell us how bad we have it, seeing a group of new citizens is a reminder that in the world today, America is seen as a very attractive place, a golden opportunity.

Since 2006, the National Park Service and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security have had an agreement to move these ceremonies into national parks. “National parks preserve significant natural resources and cultural heritage sites and are places where one can learn about and reflect on the American identity and the responsibilities of citizenship,” says Jon Jarvis, director of the National Park Service.

Reflecting on Thursday’s ceremony at Fort Clatsop, Tucker described the meaning of the place and the ceremony. “This is your place now. This is your history.”

Hot water ripples through shellfish industry

Crucial that regulators — and growers — get it right

Side effects continue rippling through the coastal economy from this year’s warm ocean temperatures, with the potential that Willapa oyster growers will be on the receiving end of even more regulations. Already, based on an existing desire to enhance shellfish safety, growers must ice their product much quicker than in the past.

As reported in last Friday’s edition of *Coast River Business Journal*, the Port of Peninsula in Nahcotta this summer began supplying large quantities of ice to growers who have to comply with a rule that sharply cuts the length of time they have before harvested oysters are brought down to a safe 50 degrees.

Bacteria can grow in oysters that aren’t kept sufficiently cool, just as is true for other perishable foods such as chicken and dairy products. In shellfish, this can lead to acute gastrointestinal distress, a phenomenon Mark Twain famously encountered in Nevada in 1866, leading him to unleash a diatribe about “scoofy” oysters that effectively killed the Mexican oyster industry. In modern times, U.S. oyster growers take great pains to sell only the safest products, since doing otherwise can result in customer dissatisfaction, Department of Health scrutiny and a torrent of bad publicity.

In effect since May 1, Washington state’s new shellfish-cooling rule impacts about 150 of the state’s 349 license holders. Notwithstanding a recent controversy about how to control mud shrimp, Willapa Bay famously produces consistently healthy oysters and clams, and thus is in the lowest-risk category for temperature-safety compliance. This premium reputation results in

valuable export sales to places like Hong Kong.

Even so, ensuring the rules are followed will make aquaculture operations more challenging on Willapa, a water body 260 square miles in size — the second largest on the West Coast after San Francisco Bay.

Rule implementation and follow-up will be complicated this year due to the “Blob” — a pool of warm water in the Pacific just offshore — plus an El Nino temperature pattern in the equatorial Pacific that scientists suspect may become the strongest in recorded history. This enormous patch of sun-heated water, concentrated by cyclical wind and current conditions, could be a juggernaut that throws conditions out of natural balance through the ocean, and perhaps worldwide. It is, in other words, not an ideal year in which to have state regulators carefully weighing future steps on how to safely manage shellfish temperatures.

Yet another complication is the bloom of a type of marine organism that sometimes produces domoic acid, a substance distinct from the *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* bacteria that causes scoofy oysters. Domoic acid poisoning can resemble sickness caused by vibrio, meaning it will be more difficult to identify the cause of shellfish-related complaints, if any arise later this year.

A 2013 study estimated more than \$90 million in economic benefits from shellfish farming in Pacific County, money that sustains other businesses throughout the Columbia-Pacific region. It is crucial that regulators get it right when it comes to shellfish safety and that growers continue to find effective ways to adapt to a changing ocean and climate.

I covered Donald Trump and lived to tell about it

CANNON SHOTS

By
R.J.
MARX



Digest founder Dewitt Wallace.

Reluctantly, Trump gave up dreams of the helicopters and the golf course, too, and why shouldn’t he — he was building an international golf empire, highlighted by the Trump National Golf Club in New York’s nearby Briarcliff, with new courses in Scotland, Palm Beach, Los Angeles and the United Arab Emirates.

What followed was a decades-long fight to build luxury homes on the Seven Springs property, one that, as a newspaperman man, allowed us to gleefully cover his every utterance. Homes — now that made more sense, especially with the crying need for affordable housing in the area. Each McMansion would be 12,000 to 16,000-square-foot, perfect for the aspiring billionaire. The environment figured not at all in Trump’s plans: at a city

meeting he told board members: “If you want squirrels, move to Vermont.” (Read: Oregon, the West Coast equivalent of that green, anarchic state tucked into northern New England and represented by Socialist Bernie Sanders.)

There was one awkward moment as a reporter during a Seven Springs property site walk conducted by the local wetlands commission. I decided to tag along, figuring it was a public meeting and what better opportunity to gawk. Trump wasn’t there, but his war cabinet was, and they were disconcerted to see a reporter with (gasp) notepad and camera. Perhaps they were frightened we would report on the sharp-shinned hawks or red-bellied woodpeckers nest-

ing in the woods. Freedom of the press being what it was, I was told to take a hike. Off the property.

While local boards and commissions kept whittling down the plan, and lawsuits from the Nature Conservancy and nearby homeowners slowed the process, Trump ultimately won approvals for Seven Springs in 2013, closing the loop on a 16-year process.

The most amusing recent encounter with “The Donald” came in 2009, when the Libyan dictator was still alive and committing atrocities. Moammar Gadhafi was at the United Nations to address the General Assembly and needed a place in New York to maintain his entourage, including his many wives and children.

Step up: Donald Trump.

Trump offered the use of Seven Springs estate on a short-term basis for Gadhafi’s tent city. The Libyan contingent even went as far to set up on the property with lawn chairs and Bedouin-style tents. Only the resourceful thinking of a local town supervisor — the equivalent of a local city manager — could bring the dictator to his knees. It is widely believed that Supervisor Lee Roberts’ adroit intervention in the affair prevented a possible international incident, as she shrewdly invoked a local code forbidding temporary outdoor structures and sent the caravan packing.

There was no comment from Trump.

While Trump often used underlings to do his dirty work, “The Donald” would occasionally be surprisingly accessible, especially when things were going his way.

There was always a frisson of excitement when our office manager put her hand over the mouthpiece and whispered: “Donald Trump’s on the phone for you!”

And when he spoke it was as if you were the only person in the world. “R.J.!” he exclaimed. “Just wanted to make sure you heard the news!”

That is the mark of a career politician: you can disagree with almost everything he says and does, and still be charmed as heck by the sound of his voice on the phone.

R.J. Marx is *The Daily Astorian’s* South County reporter and editor of the *Seaside Signal* and *Cannon Beach Gazette*.

Just who is helping Iran’s hard-liners?

By CHARLES
KRAUTHAMMER

Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON — The latest Quinnipiac poll shows that the American public rejects the president’s Iran deal by more than 2-to-1. This is astonishing. The public generally gives the president deference on major treaties. Just a few weeks ago, a majority supported the deal.

What happened? People learned what’s in it.

And don’t be fooled by polls that present, as fact, the administration’s position in the very question. The Washington Post/ABC poll assures the respondent that, for example, “international inspectors would monitor Iran’s facilities, and if Iran is caught breaking the agreement economic sanctions would be imposed again. Do you support or oppose this agreement?”

Well, if you put it that way, sure. But it is precisely because these claims are so tendentious and misleading that public — and congressional — opinion is turning.

Inspections? Everyone now knows that “anytime, anywhere” — indispensable for a clandestine program in a country twice the size of Texas with a long history of hiding and cheating — has been changed to “You’ve got 24 days and then we’re coming in for a surprise visit.” New York restaurants, observed Jackie Mason, get more intrusive inspections than the Iranian nuclear program.

Snapback sanctions? Everyone knows that once the international sanctions are lifted, they are never coming back. Moreover, consider the illogic of President Obama’s argument. The theme of his American University speech Wednesday was that the only alternative to what he brought back from Vienna is war because sanctions — even the more severe sanctions that Congress has been demanding — will never deter the Iranians. But if sanctions don’t work, how can you argue that the

Iranians will now be deterred from cheating by the threat of ... sanctions? Snapback sanctions, mind you, that will inevitably be weaker and more loophole-ridden than the existing ones.

And then came news of the secret side agreements between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency. These concern past nuclear activity and inspections of the Parchin military facility where Iran is suspected of having tested nuclear detonation devices.

We don’t know what’s in these side deals. And we will never know, says the administration. It’s “standard practice,” you see, for such IAEA agreements to remain secret.

Congress doesn’t know what’s in these side agreements, but Iran does.

Well, this treaty is not standard practice. It’s the most important treaty of our time. Yet, Congress is asked to ratify this “historic diplomatic breakthrough” (Obama) while being denied access to the heart of the inspection regime.

Congress doesn’t know what’s in these side agreements, but Iran does. And just this past Monday, Ali Akbar Velayati, a top adviser to the supreme leader, declared that “entry into our military sites is absolutely forbidden.”

One secret side deal could even allow Iran to provide its own soil samples (!) from Parchin. And now satellite imagery shows Iran bulldozing and sanitizing Parchin as we speak. The verification regime has turned comic.

This tragicomedy is now in the



Charles
Krauthammer

hands of Congress or, more accurately, of congressional Democrats. It is only because so many Democrats are defecting that Obama gave the AU speech in the first place. And why he tried so mightily to turn the argument into a partisan issue — those warmongering Republicans attacking a president offering peace in our time. Obama stooped low, accusing the Republican caucus of making “common cause” with the Iranian “hard-liners” who shout “Death to America.”

Forget the gutter ad hominem. This is delusional. Does Obama really believe the Death-to-America hard-liners are some kind of KKK fringe? They are the government, for God’s sake — the entire state apparatus of the Islamic Republic from the Revolutionary Guards to the supreme leader Ayatollah Khamenei who for decades have propagated, encouraged and applauded those very same “Death to America” chants.

Common cause with the Iranian hard-liners? Who more than Obama? For years, they conduct a rogue nuclear weapons program in defiance of multiple Security Council declarations of its illegality backed by sanctions and embargoes. Obama rewards them with a treaty that legitimates their entire nuclear program, lifts the embargo on conventional weapons and ballistic missiles, and revives an economy — described by Iran’s president as headed back to “the Stone Age” under sanctions — with an injection of up to \$150 billion in unfrozen assets, permission for the unlimited selling of oil, and full access to the international financial system.

With this agreement, this repressive, intolerant, aggressive, supremely anti-American regime — the chief exporter of terror in the world — is stronger and more entrenched than it has ever been.

Common cause, indeed.

Where to write

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