

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Founded in 1873



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Water under the bridge



Compiled by Bob Duke

From the pages of Astoria's daily newspapers

10 years ago this week — 2005

Mitch Mitchum, who was fired from his job as Astoria Public Works director Aug. 15, has the right to appeal, the Astoria City Council decided Wednesday afternoon at a special meeting.

The investigation that led to Mitchum's dismissal by City Manager Dan Bartlett turned up flaws in the city's personnel policies. After council member Blair Henningsgaard cast his "yes" vote, he said he expects staff to "clean up those policies," adding that he voted yes because he considers this a "special instance," and "not because city policy or the city charter gives a right to appeal."

There probably haven't been many screenings of "The Goonies" where the sight of John Warren Field draws a cheer from the audience.

Then again, there probably haven't been many audiences watching the flick while camped out on folding chairs and blankets in the middle of that very same football field.

The Rolling Roadshow came to town Thursday as part of its tour of the West, showing movies on an inflatable 50-foot screen in locations where they were filmed. About 350 people came to see "The Goonies" in Astoria, the eighth stop in the tour.

The effects of Hurricane Katrina could trickle up to the Columbia River, as shipping officials find alternate routes for cargo that previously traversed the devastated lower Mississippi River.

"As much damage as has been done there, it's likely there will be some cargo diverted to the Columbia River," said Columbia River Bar Pilot Capt. Robert Johnson, adding that how much comes this way depends on the extent of the damage and the time it takes to rebuild.

50 years ago — 1965

Any plans state, county and local police have for the prevention of another outbreak of violence by youths at Seaside over the Labor Day weekend are being kept quiet this week.

For the last three Labor Day weekends, Seaside has been the scene of youth disturbances resulting in thousands of dollars property damage and scores of arrests.

A cool reception has greeted any inquiry into this year's plans for prevention of rioting in the coastal resort town.

Officials of Bumble Bee Seafoods reported Thursday the backlog of boats waiting to unload catches of albacore tuna "has been eliminated."

More than 100 tons of tuna was taken by Bumble Bee Wednesday and an official said the backlog of boats should be completely eliminated by Thursday night.

The big show wound up Sunday under a beaming sun and gentle breeze the prevailed throughout the day.

John Tarabochia, Astoria gillnetter, captured the unlimited speed championship of the river in Sunday's feature event at the east end mooring basin.

A crowd of more than 1,000 watched as Tarabochia sped at more than 30 miles an hour twice around the mile long course in the Columbia River to capture a year's possession of a new trophy offered by The Daily Astorian.

75 years ago — 1940

Clatsop County beaches were hosts to the largest week-end crowd of the year Sunday. Hundreds of people slept in cars in Seaside Sunday night. All hotels in Clatsop County were full. A few persons obtained lodgings in hospitals.

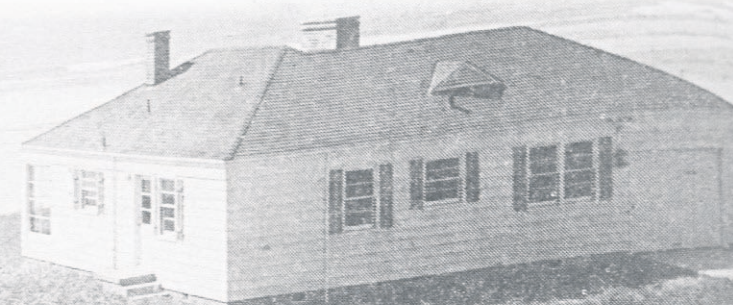
LONDON — German air squadrons attacking powerfully in the London area engaged in one of the fiercest battles of the war today with British defense air planes standing off what experts described as the opening phase of a life-or-death conflict between the royal air force and the German Luftwaffe.

Teaching in Astoria schools must positively emphasize the American form of government and the necessity of preserving the American way of life, City Superintendent A.C. Hampton told a mass meeting of teachers Saturday morning, gathered to make preparations for Monday's school opening.

Hampton struck a firm keynote of Americanism and patriotism for the coming school year in his opening remarks as teachers made plans for Monday's opening, to be featured by distribution of books lists, assignments to rooms and other matters of like nature. Classes begin Tuesday morning.

"This is not just another year confronting us," Hampton told the 73 teachers who will mold the destinies of some 1,600-odd young Astorians through the coming year.

"We certainly have ample opportunity as teachers to draw comparisons as to what has happened to those countries that took their freedom for granted."



From the pages of The Daily Astorian, 75 years ago this week

"This beautiful home is one of several recently built in the lovely GEARHART PALISADES residential district. It is constructed on a 60x195-foot ocean front lot 30 feet above the highest tides. ONLY \$3,450 - Monthly payments of less than \$25 including taxes and insurance."

A new wind blows in Clatskanie

THERE IS SOMETHING special about going to a summer place at the very end of summer. There is a mixture of nostalgia for the season on its way out and the hint of autumn that's in the air.

A semblance of tropical warmth nestled on the Columbia River Slough last Friday evening as a friend took us downriver in his motorboat. We passed houseboat settlements that one only sees from the water.

Our destination was Mark's on the Channel, a Scappoose restaurant that one may reach by car or boat. While we enjoyed Mark's dinner, kayaks and paddleboards drifted soundlessly past and great flights of birds filled the sky.



Driving down Highway 30 that night, lights on Hood to Coast runners were an intermittent sight. Every few miles there was a collection point where fresh runners awaited their turn.



THE CLATSKANIE CULTURAL Center is the newest restoration in our region. Like Astoria's Liberty Theater and the Chinook School, Clatskanie's restored gem will become a center for all manner of community events: plays, film festivals, weddings, memorial services, small conventions.

When my wife and I dropped by the Clatskanie Center's open house Sunday afternoon, Deborah and Phil Hazen told us about the building's journey from shambles to the finished product.

"People thought we were nuts," said Deborah, "when we told them our plans."

An Astoria man had owned the building. A hoarder, he used the building to store a mountain of stuff. A slide show illustrated the removal of that detritus as well as the dirt floor of what's now a beautiful theater space.

Upstairs is a ballroom of generous proportions with a catering kitchen. Also upstairs are city offices. On the

"The time has come," the Walrus said,
"To talk of many things;
Of shoes — and ships — and sealing wax —
Of cabbages — and kings —"

Through the Looking-glass



of Cabbages and Kings



Submitted Photo

The Clatskanie Cultural Center was renovated through community efforts and donations.

street level is retail space occupied by The Quilted Dandelion, an estimable fabric store.

As with all restorations, there are many special touches. The floor of the ballroom is original. All the wood was pulled up, reinstalled and refinished. The theater's seats came out of Portland's Bagdad Theater. That is a wonderful coincidence, since the Bagdad and Astoria's Liberty are cousins, designed by the same architects.

A gift from Keith Birkenfeld ignited the fundraising for this project. An extensive list of foundations and individuals filled the project's restoration budget. There was also an impressive volume of in-kind donations.



SEEING AN OLD BUILDING brought back to life is thrilling, for more than one reason. It tells us that a community cares about itself. It

Seeing an old building brought back to life is thrilling

reminds us of how solidly things were built decades ago. And it shouts of fresh opportunity.



MAGGIE'S ON the Prom is one of my favorite restaurants. The setting is special — you see the beach and ocean — but the food keeps

you alert. It is clear that Maggie's chef is constantly on the hunt for new ideas. He's an innovator. On Monday, my wife and I and friends enjoyed a cucumber melon gazpacho on Maggie's lunch menu. The sweetness of the melon contrasted with a smooth vegetable base. That combination was enhanced by crème fraiche.



GUEST COLUMN

Surveys show Oregonians are still concerned with economy

By ADAM DAVIS
DHM Research

Did the Oregon Legislature meet this year? Many Oregonians would say, "I think so, but I'm not sure."

They've been taking place, those meetings conducted by political party operatives and big donors to assess how things went in Salem this year and to decide what to do to get more Democrats or Republicans elected in Oregon.

Maybe the rooms aren't as smoke-filled as they once were, but make no mistake about it, the meetings are taking place, the checks are being written, the candidate recruitment is underway, the voter data bases are being massaged and the candidate talking points are being developed and refined.

Come the day after Labor Day, all hell breaks loose for 2016. It's show business, the kind of show business Lou Rawls sang about. "Oh you have a hard way to go; you got a lot of dues to pay baby."

Let's pull up a chair and join one of these meetings. What does recent opinion research by DHM Research tell us about Oregon voters that may be of interest to campaign strategists and donors preparing for show business?

Looking back first, our research reveals that a striking number of voters are oblivious to the fact that there even was a 2015 legislative session.

While a majority of Oregon voters are sure there was a session, 42 percent are not so sure or don't know. Young voters are the most likely to believe there was not a session. And how do Oregon voters feel about the session, even if they don't know there was one?

Less than a third (28 percent) feel that the legislature was able to come together to accomplish a great deal. A

plurality (39 percent) say the Legislature was bogged down by partisan differences and did not accomplish very much. And another third (32 percent) aren't sure. Republicans are two times more likely than Democrats to feel that the Legislature did not accomplish much, 54 percent to 27 percent. Non-affiliated/Others split the difference at 40 percent.

Additionally, many Oregon voters feel the Legislature did not address the most important issue they wanted it to do something about.

Overall, not a glowing review.

"2015, that's old news; the train has left the station. What can you tell us to help with 2016?" asks the campaign strategist at the table.

Not so fast on 2015. What about the most important issues that Oregon voters feel the Legislature did not do something about? Wouldn't that be valuable to know going into 2016? We'd hope so.

For Oregon voters, at the top of the list is the economy (code for secure, family wage jobs) followed closely by education and reducing government spending.

There is no one issue that a majority of Oregon voters say is most important. Rather it is these three, and if you combine tax reform and reducing government spending into a public finance category, you'd have a statistical dead heat: public finance (26 percent), jobs and the economy (24 percent), and education (23 percent).

It isn't news that the Republicans are more likely to say reducing government spending and Democrats are more likely to say education, but what may be helpful to know is which issues are in second and third places for the two political parties and how Nonaffiliated/ Others, who will be determinative in the elections next year, feel about these



Adam Davis

important issues.

For Republicans, it really comes down to just two issues: reducing government spending at 41 percent and the economy at 27 percent. Education comes in at a distant 10 percent, just ahead of the environment and transportation. It's also a two-issue show for Democrats with education at 32 percent and the economy at 24 percent. In third place is the environment at 12 percent.

The Nonaffiliated/Others are more divided with education at 27 percent, followed the economy at 21 percent, and government spending at 18 percent.

In addition to knowing the most important issues, a candidate would also be wise to know is what voters value about living in their communities. Consistently since 1992 when DHM Research conducted the first Oregon Values and Beliefs Study, we've heard five things: natural beauty, outdoor recreation opportunities, environmental quality, sense of community and the climate. But, what do they value the most?

For Republicans it is the sense of community at 43 percent way ahead of natural beauty at 27 percent. Democrats are split between the same two qualities with both natural beauty and sense of community at 29 percent. Nonaffiliated/Others feel natural beauty is most important at 34 percent followed by sense of community at 27 percent.

And finally we'd tell them, you need to do focus groups to learn why people feel a particular issue is most important and how they feel about different public policy options related to that issue. The same suggestion goes for what they value about living in their community.

It's all part of getting ready for show business.

Adam Davis, who has been conducting opinion research in Oregon for more than 35 years, is a founding principal in DHM Research, an independent, nonpartisan firm. Visit www.dhmresearch.com