

Trash is not OK

Independence Day is a celebration of the U.S. declaring independence from Britain. Today it is commonly referred to as the Fourth of July, and many people are unaware as to what it is they are celebrating. Some people only know it as a day in which they are permitted to detonate hundreds of dollars' worth of fireworks.

Long Beach, Wash., is known for its spectacular fireworks show every Fourth of July. While it is a neat sight with the multitude of fireworks exploding in the air, attendees often leave a plethora of garbage behind. It is disappointing to witness first-hand the disrespect of public property, and continuing to see it year after year.

Does one not feel the least bit guilty when leaving bags of trash on the beach that are at risk of being picked up during high tide? Residents and visitors left several tons of garbage behind this year, as well as in years past. Perhaps the best option is to ban fireworks on the beach.

I am not in any way against fireworks or celebrating Independence Day. What I am against is thoughtless pollution. If the public dismisses banning fireworks on the beach, then an alternate could be to increase the presence of law enforcement, and to issue steep fines for littering.

JACOB JOHNSON
Ridgefield, Wash.

Focus on the calm

How many of us either have been, or will be, diagnosed with some form of cancer? The immediate reaction is probably panic, or "Why me?" But, as I pondered this, I ask myself, "Is there any positive way to address a situation like this?" Then a thought, almost a vision, popped into my head.

One time, years ago, my wife and I left the dock in Hammond on our boat to fish for salmon in the ocean. We were later than usual on an ebb tide, and the tide was running strong. As we approached the bar, there were very high seas of 8 to 10 feet, very tight to each other. It looked quite frightening.

But as I looked just beyond the bar, I could see many boats fishing in very calm and smooth water. It seems to me as we're faced with cancer or the other storms of life, we should keep our eyes not on the rough seas, but on the calm water that lies just beyond — perhaps a cure or a heavenly rest.

JIM BERNARD
Warrenton

Prostituting privacy

The editorial, "Goonies burden is unfairly shared" (*The Daily Astorian*, Aug. 20) prompts me to share some thoughts on what I euphemistically call the Summer of Prostitution of Privacy in my neighborhood.

I consider the selling of tours, the solicitation of donations, and the marketing of the so-called Goonie House as contrary to the residential zoning of our neighborhood. If these aforementioned activi-

Let's aim for a balanced approach

A few months ago, *The Daily Astorian* published an editorial that focused on the recent upsurge by local officials around the country to gain more control of federal lands from the government ("Public lands are a shared legacy," May 19).

There is, however, a similar effort underway in Oregon over the state forestland. The timber industry and the counties that have state forestland (including Clatsop County) want to significantly increase the amount of logging in order to increase revenue.

Under the new proposal, 70 percent of the land would essentially be managed as industrial timberland with intensive spraying. At the same time, the counties would like this plan to preserve conservation values on the remaining 30 percent, as compared to the 40 percent that now has some kind of conservation protection. Many stands, now designated to become older complex stands, would be cut down in the timber production area.

Recently, the chairman of the council that represents the state forest counties (including Clatsop County), testified at a Board of Forestry subcommittee meeting on the proposed alternate forest management plan. He stressed the need to step up harvesting of older trees or else this "will result in old-growth tree stands in the timber production areas" and the "increased likelihood of endangered and threatened species constraints." He reiterated

the county's view that the timber production areas "should provide as much volume as possible."

The changes being considered are very different from the Forest Management Plan (FMP) under which Oregon Department of Forestry has been operating since 2001. We have not heard a lot about our state forests the past 10 to 15 years because basically it was managed under a balanced management approach to meet revenue, environmental and social goals. Major modifications were made in the plan in 2009 to reduce older forests to 40 percent, and then in 2011 to reduce it to 30 percent. Now the counties argue for full-scale industrial tree farms on 70 percent of the forest.

There is no question the revenue flowing to Clatsop County from logging in the state forest has served an important function and should continue. The courts have made it clear that the counties have a protected interest based on the how the state acquired these lands in the first place.

In the 1930s and 1940s, many land owners just stopped paying their taxes and walked away from their cut-over or burned land. The counties then turned over the deeds to this land to the state, who agreed to restore, develop and manage them. In return, the Department of Forestry retains one-third of the timber revenue generated; the remainder goes to the counties and local taxing districts.

The county's interest, however, is not absolute. As stated in ORS 530.050, these forestlands were established for the "greatest permanent value to the people of Oregon." So the question that needs to be considered by the residents of this county is how many of the environmental and social/recreational values that we treasure are we willing to sacrifice to increase timber production and revenue?

This is an especially important question in Clatsop County since, contrary to the situation in all the other districts, there are no federal forestlands here. If the state forest does not provide needed conservation values above what is provided on commercial timberland, then it will simply not be available in this county.

Our county leaders have weighed in with the occasional letter on this topic, but they are largely silent. Clatsop County, as the leading timber-producer among the northwest districts, needs to raise its voice for a balanced, long-range plan that helps restore rare habitats, protects our salmon habitat and considers the effects of climate change. Spraying should be strictly limited and reduced on our State Forests.

If you agree, then let the governor, the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners and the Oregon Board of Forestry know this.

CAROLYN EADY
Astoria

ties are permitted, I would like to be informed.

Furthermore, I would like to know whether the nuisance code permits a public activity that goes on from 7 a.m. in the morning to well beyond 9:15 p.m. at night, with a constant stream of public participants, both human and canine, for weeks on end.

Next, I would like to know if I can sell my original edition of "The Making of the Goonies" on my front lawn, without a business license, in order that I can have a goodly amount of money to go on a vacation after being subject to the Summer of the Prostitution of Privacy.

Lastly, I would like to know how much of my tax money was spent by the Chamber of Commerce and the city to promote and carry out the activities in the Summer of Prostitution of Privacy in my neighborhood. If you would include data on the revenues realized by both the city and the chamber, then I could ascertain what was the financial gain, and who exactly profited from the Summer of Prostitution of Privacy.

JEAN DOMINEY
Astoria

Mental health outrage

Regarding the article "In Clatsop County, gaps in mental health safety net" (*The Daily Astorian*, Aug. 24): My professional life has been spent in the area of human social services, public and private. I am very aware of the significant and complex issues with institutionalization pre-1960s, as well as de-institutionalization from the 1960s to today. I understand the heavy burden and heartbreak lack of services and funding causes for individuals, families, neighbors, cities, counties and states.

Clatsop County, tragically,

is typical. I am writing this letter, however, because of my newest outrage resulting from reading the second to the last paragraph of the above article. It follows: "On Sunday afternoon, four days after he was picked up by the state trooper for having a mental breakdown on Highway 26, the man was given a courtesy ride to the Astoria Transit Center. Police bought him a bus ticket to Portland."

The untreated (the lack of services was clearly described in previous paragraphs), ill person was placed, apparently alone, on a public bus for a 2-hour, 100-mile ride to Portland. What does this "solution" say for the welfare of the man, the bus driver and passengers, as well as other motorists on the road at that time?

I thought public safety was the primary concern of sworn officers in our cities and counties. What would be the city's liability if an "accident" had occurred? Granted, a courtesy drive to Portland by an officer would be costly, but consider the possible alternatives.

MELISSA
CADWALLADER
Cannon Beach

Plea proves nothing

This letter is written in response to a claim in the recent guest column by Joshua Marquis and Dawn Buzzard, "Plea negotiation serves a greater good" (*The Daily Astorian*, Aug. 17) that the case in which the state prosecuted my client, Michel Mitchell, "no longer involves 'allegations' but proven and admitted facts."

My client was facing decades in prison on 30 charges of sexual abuse in the first degree, two charges of tampering with a witness, and one

charge of bribing a witness. He entered an Alford-type guilty plea to one charge each of attempted sexual abuse in the first degree, tampering with a witness, and bribing a witness, and was placed on probation. He always has maintained his innocence, continued to proclaim his innocence as part of the plea, and never has admitted committing any of the foregoing crimes.

In 1996, the Oregon Court of Appeals cited a 1985 case in which the Washington Court of Appeals concluded that an Alford-type guilty plea does not establish underlying facts for purposes of a subsequent civil suit because a "criminal defendant must contend with powerful, coercive forces when presented with a choice of either (a) certain, prolonged

incarceration if he exercises his right to proceed to trial and is found guilty of the crimes charged ... or (b) a strong probability of [probation] if he pleads guilty to a reduced charge." In my client's case, there was a certainty rather than a strong probability, of probation.

In 2004, in a case involving "an Alford plea" to two counts of alleged sexual assault, the Washington Supreme Court agreed with the 1985 Washington Court of Appeals case, concluding that "a defendant who pleads guilty pursuant to an Alford plea has not had a full and fair opportunity to litigate the issues in the criminal action."

Similarly, in 2014, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit concluded that "an

Alford plea is insufficient evidence to prove commission of a state crime for purposes of a federal supervised release violation."

The state did not prove anything, and my client did not admit anything.

JAY FRANK
Eugene

Birth control hurts

The article "Lunch for free" (*The Daily Astorian*, Aug. 14) reports 340 students at Astor and Lewis and Clark elementary schools as homeless, runaways, migrants or foster students. That means the feds foot the bill for breakfast and lunch at those schools without the hassle of parental paperwork, at least for the next four years.

The problem of family disintegration will not be fixed in four years. The insidious and unacknowledged root of the problem is contraception — legalized for married couples by the Supreme Court in 1965, and for unmarried people in 1972. In 1973, the same court legalized the killing of "contraceptive failures." And the divorce rate shot up to the current 50 percent. Drugs cover the pain. Children wind up as homeless, runaways or in foster homes. Migrants are a separate issue. Most of us have ancestors who were migrants at some time in the past 300 years.

Contraception continues to erode the marriage bond by perverting one of its two natural ends, which are unity and procreation. So when are we going to put two and two together and defund Planned Parenthood? They provide contraception to young girls without notifying parents. And they are one of the largest abortion providers in the country.

Incidentally, the media defense that they are not really selling baby parts because the undercover tapes were edited (and therefore misleading) is false. The unedited tapes were released at the same time as the summaries. Anyone with a couple of hours to spare can access them.

JEAN HERMAN
Astoria

From dirt to delicious: Farms, produce, markets



Teresa Retzlaff
September 15

Teresa Retzlaff is proprietor of 46 North Farm. She is also coordinator of the North Coast Food Web.

Chris Holen will draw the ingredients for this program's dinner from farms in our region.

TO ATTEND:

For Members:
Dinner & Lecture: \$25 ea.
Lecture only: no charge

For Non-Members:
Dinner & Lecture: \$35 ea.
Lecture only: \$15 ea.

Appetizers will be available at 6 p.m.

Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

The speaker will begin after the dinner service is complete and non-dinner members and guests of the audience take their seats.

Forum to be held at the CMH Community Center at 2021 Exchange St., Astoria.

LIMITED SEATING
RESERVE YOUR SPACE TODAY!



CITY OF ASTORIA SERVICE FAIR

Thursday, September 10, 2015
4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

at the
Columbia River Maritime Museum's Barbey Center,
20th and Marine Drive

- Meet City officials, employees, and volunteers
- Find out what's happening in City departments through displays and demonstrations
- See big construction equipment, police cars, and fire trucks up close
- Enjoy free hot dogs!!

ColumbiaForum

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