

## Thanks to Charlie

Charlie Wilder died last week. A lot of people loved him and they will miss him for a variety of reasons. Here are mine.

Once upon a time in our county there was no Clatsop Community Action Inc. A tri-county agency called Community Action Team (CAT) administered the Head Start and energy assistance programs here, but CAT'S base, and primary focus, was in St. Helens. Fortunately for us, CAT's director thought we should have our own 'cap' agency, and hired Charlie Wilder to get one going.

He was a classic community organizer. He believed the value of an organization rests on the participation of the community it serves. So, he gathered a council of individuals ranging from service providers to the low-income people they served, and for a year guided them towards the goal of determining what needs were specific to our county.

The council held community-wide meetings that gave us the chance to voice those needs, suggest solutions and join them in the process of meeting them. By the end of that year, Clatsop Community Action was established, a 501-C3 agency with a board of directors and two half-time employees. Charlie Wilder was one. I was the other.

He also believed that a problem was best solved from the bottom up, not from the top down. I remember watching him help the residents of Blue Ridge organize themselves as a tenants' association. Blue Ridge was a poor neighborhood of run-down rental housing on the east side of town. The first problem the tenants decided to tackle was the lack of traffic signs in their neighborhood and the effects this had on their safety.

With the confidence of numbers and with Charlie Wilder at their backs, the tenants went to the City Council, described the problem and demanded that the city provide their neighborhood this basic service. Within a month, Blue Ridge was festooned with stop signs, slow signs and even a speed bump. Two of the residents later became CCA board members and agency volunteers.

From this, and so much more, Charlie Wilder taught me that problems are best solved when everyone is invited to sit at the table. Thank you, my friend.

JULIE SNYDER  
Astoria

## Good landlords

We are homeowners in Gearhart and rent our 100-plus-year-old homes on a short-term basis, as did the owners before us, for at least the last 50 years. We live in and manage the homes ourselves.

We would not have purchased and made substantial improvements to these old homes without the ability to rent them on a short-term basis. We use local contractors and maintenance providers. In the case of our homes, the homes would not even be standing today without our significant improvements.

We work diligently, year-round, to maintain and improve our homes. We pay local property taxes and utilities, and are completely committed to keeping the ambiance of our neighborhood. Stuart Sinclair,

# A salute to Camp Rilea, ODOT

Twenty-six years ago, the good people of Camp Rilea agreed to host the inaugural Three Course Challenge. That first year seven schools came and went with barely a notice.

Over the next two and a half decades, the staff at Camp Rilea maintained their support while accommodating the training for various military detachments, law enforcement units, suffered through the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001, and withstood the traffic snarls that would make rush hour in Los Angeles seem like a drive in the park.

Under the current leadership of Jim Miller the amazing staff in Billeting, Range Control, and Maintenance have embraced this event with a fervor that has allowed over 35,000 young women and

men to have an athletic and social experience that is unique.

Through it all they have kept their patience with me, as I forgot one aspect of proper protocol after another. Their mission is to serve, and this they do to the nines. We at Seaside High School are eternally grateful for the staff at Camp Rilea whose dedication to the Three Course Challenge have made it a yearly success. With tremendous respect and admiration we say thank you.

In addition, a very loud shout out goes to Felix Martinez and his crew for their amazing performance in getting 800-plus vehicles into Camp Rilea last Saturday for the Three Course Challenge Cross Country Meet. The crew accomplished this feat in the span of no more than two hours.

School buses, team vans, and spectators coming from north and south were quickly and safely ushered off busy U.S. Highway 101 onto the base. Without their professional assistance it would be next to impossible to host this meet, which has become a traditional event for 2,500 high school runners, their coaches and parents.

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) personnel have removed what could be a huge barrier to this event. Thank you Felix Martinez, your crew, and Kevin Werst of the Astoria ODOT office.

NEIL BRANSON  
Director, Three Course  
Challenge Meet  
Seaside

company with New York ties.

And talking about "our children" — since when are they "their" children? Who knows better what beauty we currently have than someone who lives and works in Oregon?

And isn't it interesting that they are only putting their full page ads in the Warrenton paper, because *The Daily Astorian* lets everyone air their opinion against LNG? Last I heard, that is what papers do, let everyone air their opinions.

Wouldn't it be better to have something else on that land, other than an LNG terminal? If it can be rezoned for an LNG terminal, it can be rezoned for something that would benefit the community more.

Do you realize that there isn't a restaurant with a river view after you leave Astoria, until you reach Seaside? How about a nice paved Riverwalk, to replace the existing trail, with a fishing pier and local shops — where current and new local businesses can start up local restaurants, where existing restaurants could expand, and new ones open? Where pleasure boats and charter boat customers and tourists would enjoy coming to spend their money.

Some place where people would say "Oh, lets go there," versus "Oh, my God, what were they thinking?" It would be nice to be known as something besides "the big box town."

If you thought the traffic was a mess this last summer, wait until 150 large vehicles start moving from Tongue Point to Warrenton every day for four to five years. There is a word for what a mess that will be, and it starts with "cluster."

The mayor and commissioners were elected to do as the citizens of Warrenton advise them to do. When they were elected, they needed to put aside their personal feelings and do what the majority of their constituents wanted. The majority do not want an LNG terminal in their midst.

If LNG cared so much about us, then they would show it and leave us alone.

DIANA TALARSKY  
Warrenton

an exceptional local contractor, worked on many of the Northwest Oregon coastal homes, and told one of the writers of this letter, that many, if not all, of the original homes in Gearhart were meant to be summer-only homes.

Indeed, the long-departed train from Portland carrying short-term vacationers is well documented in the city's history and photos. A father of American cuisine, Oregon's own James Beard, even discusses it in his memoir, "Delights and Prejudices."

However, the opinion of R.J. Marx published Sept. 8, opposing short-term rentals — or at least significant regulation of them in Gearhart — seems to rely almost entirely on statements made by four people, including one who is a Spokane, Wash., resident, a part-time Gearhart resident, and one who admittedly bought his vacation home knowing Gearhart's short-term rental history beforehand ("Short-term rentals drive some nuts," *The Daily Astorian*, Sept. 8).

The resident accuses vacationers of creating a "circus" and acting wildly. Contrary to this one part-time resident's view, the vast majority of vacationers' public comments on the listing site, VRBO, and management site, Vacasa, make note of Gearhart's qualities of charm, quiet and quaintness. They come as families, in many cases for decades, to spend time together. Not one comment ascribes to looking for a wild, party-like time.

We do not know any homeowners who manage their vacation homes as puppy-mill-like endeavors, wanting to maximize revenue by increasing the number of guests, at the expense of minimizing respect for their homes and neighbors.

City councilors, do your due diligence and search the facts carefully, without relying on inflammatory and hyperbolic comments of a few part-time residents.

KATHY SCHROEDER  
CHRISTINE ROTH  
Portland

## Shut it down

If Gov. Brown is looking for more funding for key programs, such as K-14 schools, roads and transportation, and affordable housing, then I have a plan. She can deny state permits for Oregon LNG. State agencies are proceeding with permitting, even though Gov. Brown has

the authority, evidence, and responsibility to shut down Oregon LNG today. It is a waste of state funds and staff to continue to process Oregon LNG's permits and applications. Here's why:

Oregon LNG has demonstrably failed to meet the standards of the state's review under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA): Clatsop County commissioners unanimously denied a required permit for the pipeline; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has valid property right on the terminal site; and the company has failed to obtain any other significant state permits.

In sum, the company can't build a pipeline here, and it has no legal access to its proposed terminal site. State agencies are considering permits for a project that can't be built here.

More reasons Gov. Brown should stop the process are:

- Siting this terminal and pipeline in the Cascadia subduction earthquake and tsunami zone violates industry and scientific guidelines.

- The company is on record saying it will bypass state and county laws to get federal approval.

- State agencies continue to grant the company repeated extensions, despite inaccurate and incomplete applications.

- Gov. Brown needs to uphold Clatsop County's 5-0 decision denying the Land Use Compatibility Statement (LUCS) that is required by the CZMA for the pipeline.

- The recent Warrenton and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) hearings provided ample evidence that the Oregon LNG proposal does not comply with state and county land use laws and rules. Gov. Brown needs to uphold those regulations.

I'm not even considering the cost to the state of responding to the fires, explosions, and other destruction at the terminal and along the pipeline after an earthquake and tsunami. Or the cost of rebuilding U.S. Highways 30/101 after the 1,300 heavy truck and vehicle trips per day the company plans between Tongue Point and Warrenton, and beyond, during 3-5 years of construction.

Gov. Brown, save yourself a lot of aggravation, save the good will of your constituents, save your budget priorities. We're counting on you to say no to Oregon LNG.

LAURIE CAPLAN  
Astoria

## Illogical logic

I am writing because of my concerns about the planned removal of many ancient trees from Fort Stevens military cemetery in Clatsop County ("Save spruce trees," *The Daily Astorian*, Sept. 11).

Both of my parents are buried there: my father in 1987, and my mother earlier this year. The burial site at the base of a beautiful ancient tree was chosen originally because of my dad's love of trees.

My understanding is that perfectly healthy trees are slated for removal because they "might," in the future, fall over in a storm and cause damage to gravestones or nearby property. It is difficult for me to accept that this kind of "logic" would be used to remove trees hundreds of years old, which have already survived all manner of storms, and which greatly contribute to the peace and tranquility of the final resting place of so many veterans.

EILEEN HANKEL  
BURTON  
Ridgefield, Conn.

## Detail discrepancies

In a supplement in *The Daily Astorian* a couple of weeks ago honoring the Coast Guard, there was a glaring mistake on

page 16. The top right-hand picture claimed the 52-foot Invincible was towing the Mermiad when it sank and took five men to their graves.

Anyone who was there at the time knows the proper name for the 52-footer was the Triumph. No one I contacted could explain this discrepancy, but I can, as I was stationed here at the time.

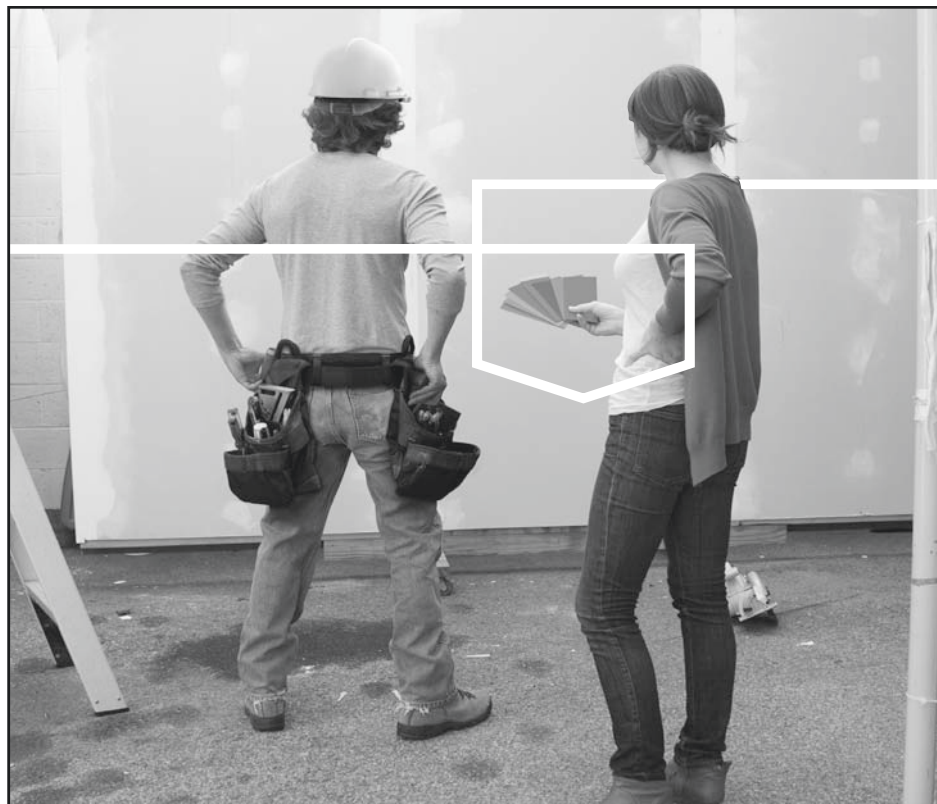
Also if anyone doesn't know it, the Coast Guard boat in the front window of the Columbia River Maritime Museum was one of the actual boats used in that 1961 rescue attempt. The skipper of that boat wrote a book called "They Had to Go Out."

That book, written by Gary Hudson, tells a very detailed story about that incident, and I was told it was out of print, but still could be found online. I have read the book, and it was well worth my time.

JIM VIRGILLO  
Astoria

## Zone for better

Don't you just love how Oregon LNG likes continuing to tell you about the scare stories the out-of-town lawyers and their supporters are using against the LNG terminal? At least Columbia Riverkeepers is an Oregon organization out of Hood River, not an investment



## If you call a contractor yourself, that still counts as DIY.

Look to a U.S. Bank Home Equity Line of Credit for your next major project. You'll be greeted with competitive rates, flexible payment options and people who genuinely care.

### HOME EQUITY LINE OF CREDIT

Introductory Rate for 5 months  
Rates as low as

**1.50%**  
APR\*

Rate available 9/12/15 - 11/20/15.  
Rates are subject to change.

Variable rate after  
Introductory period

**3.99%**  
APR\*

Actual rates may vary.  
Visit your local branch or usbank.com.

**usbank**

usbank.com/dreambig | 800.209.BANK (2265)

\*1.50% Introductory Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is available on Home Equity Lines of Credit with an 80% loan-to-value (LTV) or less. The Introductory Interest Rate will be fixed at 1.50% during the five-month Introductory Period. A higher introductory rate will apply for an LTV above 80%. Offer is available for new applications submitted from September 12, 2015–November 20, 2015. After the five-month introductory period: the APR is variable and is based upon an index plus a margin. The APR will vary with Prime Rate (the index) as published in the Wall Street Journal. As of September 11, 2015, the variable rate for Home Equity Lines of Credit ranged from 2.99% APR to 8.25% APR. Higher rates may apply due to an increase in the Prime Rate, for a credit limit below \$125,000, an LTV at or above 80%, a low credit score and/or not having a U.S. Bank personal Package Checking account. A U.S. Bank personal package checking account is required to receive the lowest rate, but is not required for loan approval. The rate will not vary above 18% APR or applicable state law, or below 1.50% APR. Choosing an interest-only repayment may cause your monthly payment to increase, possibly substantially, once your credit line transitions into the repayment period. Repayment options may vary based on credit qualifications. Interest only repayment may be unavailable. Loan approval is subject to credit approval and program guidelines. Not all loan programs are available in all states for all loan amounts. Interest rates and program terms are subject to change without notice. Property insurance is required. U.S. Bank and its representatives do not provide tax or legal advice. Your tax and financial situation is unique. You should consult your tax and/or legal advisor for advice and information concerning your particular situation.

Other restrictions may apply. Mortgage and Home Equity products offered by U.S. Bank National Association. Deposit products are offered through U.S. Bank National Association. Customer pays no closing costs, except escrow-related funding costs. An annual fee of up to \$90 may apply after the first year and is waived with a U.S. Bank personal Platinum Checking Package. See the Consumer Pricing Information brochure for terms and conditions that apply to U.S. Bank Package Checking accounts. Member FDIC ©2015 U.S. Bank. All rights reserved. 150859 9/15

# WANTED

## Classified/Inside Sales

The Daily Astorian is looking for an individual with excellent customer service skills, both in person and over the phone.

Someone who brings an upbeat and "go get 'em" attitude to the table, works well with a team as well as alone.

This position requires great computer skills, accurate spelling, the ability to receive incoming classified advertising calls as well as calling advertisers back for ad renewals.

Manage special monthly projects requiring cold calls. Must be persistent and be able to handle rejection with ease.

This is a full time position, working Monday through Friday. Evenings and weekends off, plus paid holidays!

## REWARDING CAREER

Competitive wage plus commissions.  
Benefits include paid time off (PTO), insurances and a 401(k)/Roth 401(k) retirement plan.

Send resume and letter of interest to  
EO Media Group, PO Box 2048, Salem, OR 97308-2048,  
by fax to 503-371-2935 or e-mail to:hr@emediagroup.com