

Recalling friends

I was remembering my days playing music in Clatsop County, and thinking of how many of the musicians are not with us anymore.

The first band I sat in with was Al Palmer and Western Rangers at the club in Warrenton in 1958. Besides Al, Jim Barnett, Del Thompson and Jake Massey have left us. I remember having Joe Amato on drums (nicest man I ever met).

The list goes on — Jack Swint, JC Hall, Ken Nelson, Bill Dee, Greg Sage, Frank Hopp and Joe Blackburn.

My favorite club owner to play for was John Van Horn of the Sunset Empire Room.

I'm glad to have known and work with these guys. Rest in peace.

GEORGE M. CRUZ
Portland

Capital example

Pope eats with the homeless. How simple, how beautiful. If only every member of Congress would have a meal with the homeless, just one day a month ... and to sleep "rough," or sleep in a shelter, just once.

DON B. HENNIG
Gales Creek

Surprised

When the lovely humpback whales came into the river, I was surprised that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers did not shoot them.

MARY TANGUAY
WEBB
Astoria

Move Hood to Coast

Randy Frank is right on with his efforts to move the date of the Hood to Coast event ("Hood to Coast may be toast in Seaside," *The Daily Astorian*, Sept. 25). Why the Chamber of Commerce wants to turn Seaside into a parking lot in late August defies understanding. Although the event would see reduced revenue and free labor, late September makes much more sense for the affected communities, both Seaside and Cannon Beach.

And while we're at it, moving the Cannon Beach Sandcastle Contest to May or early June would serve the original purpose of helping businesses during the "shoulder season," and eliminate the gridlock in late June.

MIKE MORGAN
Cannon Beach

Compassion for birds

Shamelle Fee is my hero. She and the Wildlife Center of the North Coast supported and cared for "the least of these," the lost, the injured, they dying.

She came to pick up critters at all hours: a seagull, a marbled murre. She worked too hard, but she really cared.

She was incensed that cormorants were being murdered for just being themselves. Think of it: The latest round of deaths was 200 adults shot, 500 nests (times how many eggs per nest?) painted to death, at night, in sleep.

I pray you have as much compassion as Shamelle Fee, who died recently at age 68. She was a strong advocate for injured animals and a ferocious protector of the environment. Can you say the same, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and hired murderers of cormorants? Do you always do what you are told, however wrong?

KATHLEEN ANDERSON
Warrenton

Block LNG

What a week. Pope Francis calls for action to save the environment. China announces a cap-and-trade policy to limit carbon emissions. The UN adopts global goals for sustainable development. Major corporations including Nike, Starbucks, Walmart and Goldman Sachs commit to 100 percent renewable energy. Locally, Portland and Multnomah County commit to fossil fuel divestment.

Meanwhile, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission comes to Oregon for sham hearings as it moves

North Coast community, collaboration, and compassion

In the late morning and early afternoon of Saturday, Sept. 19, our North Coast community became aware of the tragic loss of Jade Morgan and the automobile accident that took her life. After receiving the thoughtful communication from the Sheriff's Department and the office of the medical examiner, the Response Team of Astoria High School began the daunting task of supporting our staff and students who love Jade. It quickly became apparent that this was not a task we were going to have to do alone.

By Sunday evening, the administration of Seaside High School had arranged for school counseling ser-



Lynn Jackson

vices to be available as well as three additional teachers to fill vacancies of Astoria High School staff facilitating the Student Support Room and to work with staff and students in need of additional assistance.

Students arriving at AHS on Monday morning also had at their disposal counselors through Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare and Hospice. Furthermore, TRIO coordinators through Clatsop Community College adjusted their schedules to be on campus. These additional supports helped students and members of Jade's family process their grief. AHS staff and students effectively responded to our mutual and individual needs, while staff

throughout the school district offered their professional support.

Examples of care and student outreach from other districts began to come in, as well. Emails and flowers arrived from neighboring schools expressing compassion and support for the family and friends of Jade.

On Tuesday, Scappoose High School, who suffered a similar loss last spring, sent flowers, and their volleyball team wore purple ribbons in their hair as a symbol of solidarity. The Seaside volleyball team arrived at AHS on Thursday and hung a banner in the gym saying goodbye to "a beautiful soul" and wore pink ribbons.

Additionally, in a matter of 36 hours, the local community met the Go Fund Me goal of \$10,000 to offset the costs of Jade's memorial service while

local businesses provided donations throughout the course of the week for her family.

AHS and the North Coast Community certainly experienced the pain of losing a daughter, friend, and fellow student. However, the overwhelming love, compassion, and thoughtfulness displayed by our own community members and partners, as well as by other communities and school districts, provides clear evidence of the goodness of our area, and our willingness to help take care of each other. I feel fortunate to live and work in such a place.

Thank you to all, both recognized and anonymous, who came together to help us work through such a challenging event.

LYNN JACKSON
Principal, Astoria High School

toward approving construction of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal at the mouth of the Columbia River. The terminal, proposed by Leucadia, a New York City holding company, would take tar-sands gas from Canada and the mid-West, liquefy it, then ship it to Asia in massive tankers. It would be one of Oregon's largest emitters of carbon dioxide and methane, thus canceling Oregon's progress toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The city councils of both Astoria and Vernonia recently passed resolutions in opposition to the LNG terminal and its associated pipelines, and the risks they pose to the environment and public safety. Together with many hundreds of Oregonians, we call upon Gov. Kate Brown to block this climate-destroying proposal.

MARTHA AND ALLEN
NEURINGER
Glenwood

Save a life

Recently the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners proclaimed September to be Suicide Prevention Month in the county, and invited all citizens to join in this observation. The North Coast Prevention Works Coalition wishes to share a few thoughts about the part each of us can play in preventing such a tragic loss of life.

For some of us, it may be hard to imagine the pain that leads someone to consider suicide, but we can certainly imagine what we might do to help. Reaching out to show concern to someone who is vulnerable to suicide can make a difference. Letting someone know that you care can provide hope and save a life.

Isolation increases the risk of suicide. Conversely, having strong social and emotional connections significantly lowers that risk. If each of us can be more aware of, reach out and provide some support to those who are struggling and feeling more isolated, we will be doing a great service.

Take the time to check in with someone you are concerned about, listen closely to what they have to say, show them kindness and support. You may make a lasting difference.

ROBERT MCCLELLAND
Chairman, North Coast
Prevention Works
Astoria

Unfit for office

Regarding Ben Carson's Muslim comment: It's hard to know what I found more disturbing — presidential candidate Ben Carson's comment that no Muslim should ever serve as president of the U.S., or the deafening silence that followed his comment.

I was horrified by the ignorance and bigotry of his statement. Not so long ago, we questioned whether a Catholic or Mormon or woman or African American should serve as president. Those were also questions based on ignorance and discrimination.

I wonder how Dr. Carson feels about Buddhists or Hindus or atheists?

One would expect more intelligence from someone seeking high office, and what Dr. Carson has clearly demonstrated by his comment about Muslims is that he is unfit for elective office of any kind.

One would also expect that

an enlightened citizenry and its fourth estate would rain down criticism on Dr. Carson's unconscionable statement. I'm waiting.

TERESA DELORENZO
Knappa

Appeasement 2.0

Most people understand that Neville Chamberlain's 1938 appeasement to Nazi Germany helped fuel World War II, which killed over 50 million people. The Iran Agreement is in the same category, as it does nothing to preserve security or freedom of the U.S. or Israel. This agreement gives Iran the following benefits:

- \$150 billion dollars to sponsor terrorism throughout the Middle East, Western Europe and U.S.

- It maintains Iran's nuclear enrichment programs, which keeps 6,000 operational centers (5,000 centrifuges and another 1,000 for advance research).

- It lacks verifiable inspection and a verification system. Having Iran inspectors is like giving bank robber Willy Sutton approval to guard the bank vault. Giving Iran a 23-day advance notice of inspection, rather than instant inspection, is unacceptable; Iran can hide and move everything in 23 days.

- It is a temporary agreement, 10 years at most, and

some provisions are only for 8.4 years.

- Iran can upgrade weapons systems to target Israel and the U.S.

- Iran is in current violation of more than 20 international agreements, giving weapons to the terrorist group, Hezbollah, and the Syrian president, Bashar al-Assad.

- There are unknown side agreements that are probably in Iran's favor.

At this crucial time, we need statesmen, not political Obama puppets like Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, who support this agreement. Just ask Democratic Senators Chuck Summer, Ben Cardin and Bob Menendez, who are against this agreement.

Ron Wyden must not be reelected in November 2016.

As Benjamin Franklin stated, "Those who would give up essential liberty, to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety."

LARRY SPARKS
Cannon Beach

No vigilante justice

I write because I was disturbed by the tone in "Guest Column: Children have right to protection" (*The Daily Astorian*, Sept. 21). While I have no argument that children are, and should be, a special class

of society requiring protection by law against harm by others, especially adults, I feel that the writer veered into the weeds when she began expressing her own bias.

Congratulating an accused man's former employer for "taking immediate action" without waiting "for a legal resolution" seems foolhardy at best, witch-hunting at worst. Should the accused have been found innocent, it is very likely that his former employer could have been found guilty for slander or libel.

If that is bravery, then it is dubious. What obstacle to their customer's safety, exactly, was removed in this situation? Did the accused assault a customer in the shop? A private business runs its affairs as it likes, it can remove an employee for any number of reasons other than criminal status.

Especially disturbing was the accusation: Defense attorneys' actions are a ploy to "capitalize on our confusion, our denial and our fatigue," and further, "it is their job to chisel away at a community's resolve to safeguard children." This stilled me to the core.

It appears that the writer sees no need for defense attorneys. That guilt should be assumed upon being charged is an everyday Russian occurrence. I don't want to see

that here, regardless of which crime a man is charged. Until that man is found guilty, he is innocent in the eyes of the law. Sadly there are those in society who cannot wait for justice and must begin enforcing their point of view, regardless.

When vigilantes take matters into their own hands they deny justice. Vigilante action against the accused makes him a victim of injustice, and if his defense is publicly or institutionally ridiculed, then the victory for the assaulted child is tarnished. This sort of extra-legal over-reach has been accepted for too long, and appears to be the last resort of zero-sum-quo hard-liners.

Who does it serve? Not the tarnished justice received by the minor, nor the community (of which both the minor and accused are members), and certainly not justice.

Justice is easily expanded, but contraction is messy. There can be justice for both parties only when impediments are removed. When justice is denied, there are long-term ramifications that extend beyond popular pettiness or opinion. I sincerely feel for the writer's concerns, but she sabotaged her own argument with unnecessary prejudice.

TIM HILTON
Springfield



WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE TWO HOMES?

HINT: IT HAS TO DO WITH SAVING ENERGY AND MONEY.

Though two homes may look alike, energy efficiency upgrades can make a big difference in terms of maximizing comfort while reducing energy use and cost.

Energy Trust of Oregon can help you find a trade ally contractor and provide cash incentives that help offset the cost of qualifying energy improvements. With upgrades to your insulation, water heater, appliances and lighting you could save up to 15 percent on your home energy costs while not having to scale back on comfort. And a house that costs less to operate is worth more.

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