

# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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## Water under the bridge

Compiled by Bob Duke

From the pages of Astoria's daily newspapers



Daily Astorian/File Photo

## 10 years ago this week — 2005

Fort Clatsop, one of Clatsop County's most cherished landmarks and the focal point of the upcoming Lewis and Clark 200th anniversary, was destroyed by fire late Monday night.

Fire investigators converged at the park this morning to examine the remains of the replica log structure for clues to the start of the fire, which was first reported at 10:30 p.m.

But even as the ruins still smoldered, an exhausted and at times tearful Chip Jenkins, superintendent of the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, said a new Fort Clatsop would rise from the ashes to replace the building erected by volunteers 50 years ago.

"Yes, we will rebuild," he said. "Just like the absolutely fabulous people in the community who built the replica."

"We're hearing an outpouring of support from the community," Jenkins said, adding that Interior Secretary Gale Norton has directed the National Park Service to make all necessary resources available to the park.

The fire completely destroyed the side of the fort containing the enlisted men's quarters, and gutted the other side with the captain's quarters. Jenkins said it appears none of the 50-year-old structure is salvageable.

## The Lewis and Clark Explorer Train makes its final trek today.

After three years of service between Portland and Astoria, the passenger excursion line, which took sight-seers on a leisurely ride along the Columbia River four days a week, is coming to an end.

The Oregon Department of Transportation committed to operating the train for three years but not beyond, and with no other operator stepping forward to take over, the agency is set to end the service and sell the train cars.

## 50 years ago — 1965

High winds have halted steel erection on the Astoria bridge since Monday, Oregon Highway Departments engineers reported Wednesday.

Some riveting has been done during lulls in the gale, but conditions have been too risky to permit construction work to continue.

The wind interrupted steady progress in erection of the steel truss both northward and southward from Pier 169. American Bridge Division of US Steel Corporation, the contractor, is eager to have the span across the main ship channel tied together before winter weather sets in.

Preliminary engineering report on the planned Columbia River waterfront park at the foot of 17th Street was heard by the board of directors of the Columbia River maritime museum Thursday.

Joseph Dyer said cost of building the contemplated park, which would include moorage facilities for the old Columbia River lightship No. 88 and the Coast Guard cutter Yocona, would be \$65,000 to \$125,000.

The large fluctuation between the minimum and maximum cost of the building was to insure all facilities needed would be included in the proposed park.

US Steel Corporation iron workers earned overtime pay through the weekend as erection of steel for the main channel crossing of the Astoria bridge continued both Saturday and Sunday.

Oregon Highway Department engineers said US Steel is anxious to get the two ends of the channel crossing tied together by early December and wanted to take advantage of last weekend's fine weather.

## 75 years ago — 1940

Surface and aircraft of the coast guard this afternoon reported no sign of the 38-foot sailing yacht Leilani which asked to be towed into the Columbia River Monday when she sighted the freighter Nebraskan 65 miles south of the Columbia River.

An amphibian plane from the Port Angeles Coast Guard base joined in the growing search for the pleasure boat which appeared to have a disabled auxiliary engine.

Clatsop County has about 500 good, residential building lots within seven additions inside Astoria's corporate limits, all on passable streets and with available utilities, Charles Dodge, county land agent said today.

Dodge's information arose in answer both to inquiry of the federal government on availability of residential construction property for defense home construction and also as part of the Chamber of Commerce's housing committee campaign to stimulate home building.

Dodge estimated that 160 of the lots were to be found in McClure's addition, where the average price of the lots will be about \$400 in public sale at auction. There are about 90 good lots in nearby Shiveley's addition, with the selling price estimated to be about the same.

Out of fresh water and drifting for the rocky shore 45 miles south of the Columbia River, the 38-foot Seattle auxiliary schooner Leilani was taken in tow by the Coast Guard motor lifeboat Triumph Tuesday afternoon after it had been spotted by a Coast Guard amphibian plane. At 4 o'clock this morning the Triumph berthed the pleasure craft in the mooring basin.

## GUEST COLUMN

# Oregonians tilt left on climate, wages



Adam Davis

By ADAM DAVIS  
For EO Media Group

For the last two months, Oregon voters have watched a parade of personalities march across the national stage.

From Chinese President Hu Jintao to Pope Francis to presidential candidates Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump, they're all talking about issues that are important to Oregonians, including: consumerism, income inequality and climate change.

These three issues are deeply interconnected and, after a close look at the opinion research, tell us something about politics in Oregon.

So, listen up candidates for local and state office.

Unfortunately for Republicans, the numbers don't look good, and considering another set of numbers — party registration numbers — Republican candidates for public office in Oregon might want to reconsider their positions on some things, if they ever want to do more than win a party primary. As of August, it was Democrats, 818,399; nonaffiliated/others, 704,974; and Republicans, 643,928.

DHM Research has been studying Oregonians' values and beliefs for decades and one of the questions we continue to ask relates to perceptions of consumerism.

In our most recent Oregon Values and Beliefs study, a majority of Oregonians (57 percent) agreed with the statement our country would be better off if we all consume less, while about a third (34 percent) agreed that we need to buy things to support a strong economy. Sixty-two percent of Democrats and 57 percent of nonaffiliated/others felt we'd be better off consuming less, compared to 49 percent of Republicans.

At least a plurality of almost every demographic group — including Oregonians who identified themselves as politically conservative on economic issues — agreed that we do not need to buy things to support a strong economy and we would be better off consuming less. The only exception is Eastern Oregon where opinion was split: 46 percent buy things, 44 percent consume less.

For some Oregonians, talking about the income gap, or saying that

there needs to be some redistribution of wealth, amounts to nothing less than heresy. Enter the Marxists according to their detractors: the Pope and Bernie Sanders.

Sure, there are some Oregon voters who disagree with the statement our society would be better off if the distribution of wealth is more equal. The problem for Oregon Republicans is that they're just about the only ones.

While 66 percent of Republicans disagree with the statement, only 12 percent of Democrats and 29 percent of non-affiliated/others feel similarly. Or looking at it the other way, 83 percent of Democrats and 64 percent of nonaffiliated/others believe that our society needs to redistribute wealth in some way or another.

Are you wondering why the wealthy and big businesses in Oregon are concerned about some taxation proposals labor has been considering for 2016? It's because they're seeing numbers like these in their polling.

And there are other numbers they may be seeing as well, such as 68 percent of Oregonians (88 percent Democrats, 65 percent non-affiliated/others, 38 percent Republicans) in agreement about needing to dramatically reduce the inequalities between the rich and the poor, whites and people of color, and men and women.

This is a theme that Pope Francis has hit hard on since ascending to the papacy. It resonates with Oregonians. So does his message related to climate change.

Employing a wide range of formats and wording, we regularly ask questions measuring Oregonians' attitudes about climate change. What we have seen over the years is that Oregonians are concerned about climate change, feel that we need to do something about it, and are willing to change their behavior.

Seventy-three percent of Oregonians agree with the statement climate change requires us to change our way of life such as driving less or living more simply. A majority of both parties agree. Yes, you read that correctly, 54 percent of Oregon Republicans agree that climate change require lifestyle changes. Meanwhile, Democrats and nonaffiliated/others are in even stronger agreement, 86 percent and 74 percent, respectively.

But what about economic development? What's more important over the next 10 years, economic growth or addressing climate change? A different question, different numbers, but more indication of the importance Oregonians assign to doing something about climate change.

Forty percent of Oregonians feel it would be undesirable if over the next 10 years economic growth is more important than addressing climate change, 17 percent are neutral, and 37 percent feel that economic growth is more important, including a whopping 66 percent of Republicans, 20 percent of Democrats and 35 percent of non-affiliated/others.

On all three issues — consumerism, income inequality, and climate change — there is a significant party divide in Oregon. However, there is one thing that Pope Francis has repeatedly encouraged us to do that we are in agreement about: the need to put aside our differences, come together, and address the issues affecting the well-being of humanity.

A majority of Oregon Democrats, Republicans, and nonaffiliated/others feel it would be desirable if over the next 10 years

Oregonians from diverse backgrounds find common ground and work together to make progress addressing the critical issues we face as a state.

Good news, right? We're finally in agreement about something important.

The bad news is that less than half of us, regardless of our party registration, feel that it is likely that Oregonians will come together over the next 10 years and effect positive change. In other words, we really want to find common ground and work together, but we're very skeptical about the probability it will happen in Oregon over the next 10 years.

We've got a ways to go. It is good to know the Pope is praying for us. We're going to need it. In the meantime candidates for public office in Oregon, be careful how you talk about consumerism, income inequality, and climate change.

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](http://www.dhmresearch.com)

# A new way to tackle gun deaths

By NICHOLAS KRISTOF  
New York Times News Service

We've mourned too often, seen too many schools and colleges devastated by shootings, watched too many students get an education in grief.

It's time for a new approach to gun violence.

We're angry, but we also need to be smart. And frankly, liberal efforts, such as the assault weapons ban, were poorly designed and saved few lives, while brazen talk about banning guns just sparked a backlash that empowered the National Rifle Association.

What we need is an evidence-based public health approach — the same model we use to reduce deaths from other potentially dangerous things around us, from swimming pools to cigarettes. We're not going to eliminate guns in America, so we need to figure out how to coexist with them.

First, we need to comprehend the scale of the problem: It's not just occasional mass shootings like the one at an Oregon college on Thursday, but a continuous deluge of gun deaths, an average of 92 every day in America. Since 1970, more Americans have died from guns than died in all U.S. wars going back to the American Revolution.

When I reported a similar figure in the past, gun lobbyists insisted that it couldn't possibly be true. But the numbers are unarguable: fewer than 1.4 million war deaths since 1775, more than half in the Civil War, versus about 1.45 million gun deaths since 1970 (including suicides, murders and accidents).

If that doesn't make you flinch, consider this: In America, more preschoolers are shot dead each year (82 in 2013) than police officers are in the line of duty (27 in 2013), according to figures from the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention and the FBI.

More than 60 percent of gun deaths are suicides, and most of the rest are homicides. Gun enthusiasts scoff at including suicides, saying that without guns people would kill themselves by other means. In many cases, though, that's not true.

In Great Britain, people used to kill themselves by putting their heads in the oven and asphyxiating themselves with coal gas. This accounted for almost half of British suicides in the late 1950s, but Britain then began switching from coal gas to natural gas, which is much less lethal. Sticking one's head in the oven was no longer a reliable way to kill oneself — and there was surprisingly little substitution of other methods. Suicide rates dropped, and they stayed at a lower level.

The British didn't ban ovens, but they made them safer. We need to do the same with guns.

When I tweeted about the need to address gun violence after the college shooting in the Roseburg a man named Bob pushed back. "Check out car accident deaths," he tweeted sarcastically. "Guess we should ban cars."

Actually, cars exemplify the public health approach we need to apply to guns. We don't ban cars, but we do require driver's licenses, seat belts, air bags, padded dashboards, safety glass and collapsible steering columns. And we've reduced the auto fatality rate by 95 percent.

One problem is that the gun lobby has largely blocked research on making guns safer. Between 1973 and 2012, the National Institutes of Health awarded 89 grants for the study of rabies and 212 for cholera — and only three for firearms injuries.

Daniel Webster, a public health



Nicholas Kristof

expert at Johns Hopkins University, notes that in 1999, the government listed the gun stores that had sold the most weapons later linked to crimes. The gun store at the top of the list was so embarrassed that it voluntarily took measures to reduce its use by criminals — and the rate at which new guns from the store were diverted to

crime dropped 77 percent.

But in 2003, Congress barred the government from publishing such information.

Why is Congress enabling pipelines of guns to criminals?

Public health experts cite many ways we could live more safely with guns, and many of them have broad popular support.

A poll this year found that majorities even of gun owners favor universal background checks; tighter regulation of gun dealers; safe storage requirements in homes; and a 10-year prohibition on possessing guns for anyone convicted of domestic violence, assault or similar offenses.

We should also be investing in "smart gun" technology, such as weapons that fire only with a PIN or fingerprint. We should adopt microstamping that allows a bullet casing to be traced back to a particular gun. We can require liability insurance for guns, as we do for cars.

It's not clear that these steps would have prevented the Oregon shooting. But Webster argues that smarter gun policies could reduce murder rates by up to 50 percent — and that's thousands of lives a year. Right now, the passivity of politicians is simply enabling shooters.

The gun lobby argues that the problem isn't firearms; it's crazy people. Yes, America's mental health system is a disgrace. But to me, it seems that we're all crazy if we as a country can't take modest steps to reduce the carnage that leaves America resembling a battlefield.