

Arm teachers

The shooting in Roseburg was at a campus that was “gun free.” Churches, the theater, the fourth school campus just now; even the Marine Recruitment Center were all considered or designated as “gun free.”

Israel learned through the murderous carnage they suffered during the late 1960s that just announcing an area was “gun free” was not going to work. Instead, their teachers and every security guard carries an automatic assault rifle.

It’s strange to see Israeli children on field trips to places like Masada accompanied by teachers with automatic weapons slung over their shoulders, but the kids are safe. There are no “soft targets” left, labeled or otherwise. Massacres like Roseburg have ceased.

WAYNE MAYO
Scappoose

Data needed

This letter addresses the two-part article (“Water ratings could indicate infrastructure problems,” *The Daily Astorian*, Sept. 29 and “It is in the water,” *The Daily Astorian*, Sept. 30) by Dani Palmer.

We are all concerned about ensuring the best water quality possible in our streams and on our beaches. The Surfrider spot testing for pollution in our streams and beaches may be misleading. The city of Cannon Beach was incorporated in 1957 to build a sanitary sewerage system to replace existing septic tanks and drain fields in use. Fortunately, there were no combined sewers that conveyed both storm water and wastewater in the city that sometimes led to continued stream pollution in cities like Astoria and Portland.

The original 1958 system and additions in the north end of Cannon Beach and Tolovana Park were planned, constructed and inspected in accordance with Department of Environmental Quality standards. The city was one of the first to use rubber gasket couplers throughout their system. Sewer lines were inspected during construction and tested to insure proper construction. All sewers were also water tested for exfiltration by filling the pipes to a point above the groundwater table and measuring any loss in water. All sewers constructed passed these tests.

The city regularly inspects, maintains and improves our sewer system. This is done by cleaning, visual inspection, TV cameras, infiltration detection, dye testing, etc. Having served on the Public Works Committee, I know that the city continues to look for better detection methods and maintains long-term records.

Over the past 50 years, stream contamination has remained a problem. On numerous occasions the city conducted special studies. The problem always seems to be low stream flow, warmer weather and increased sand buildup that blocks and changes stream patterns. In every case, birds and animals were thought to be part of the problem.

A long-term data collection and study is needed. This is not just a Cannon Beach problem, but occurs throughout the Oregon coast. The city of Cannon Beach and all of us should work with Surfrider to have the Department of Environmental Services recognize the statewide coastal problem and how best to identify the real culprits. Dan Grassick, our Public Works director, has used some state-of-the-art and innovative technology to investigate stream flows for human contamination and would be an asset for future studies.

LES WIERSON
Cannon Beach

Start planning

Caught unprepared? The question relates to disaster unpreparedness. Why is this the situation here along the Oregon Coast, particularly in Clatsop County?

We have the Cascadia Sub-

It’s time to de-escalate violence around us

Living in Hammond, I have become accustomed to the sound of gunfire. I have learned to distinguish between the training exercises at Camp Rilea, cannon fire or war re-enactments at the Military Museum, and recently, the disturbing sounds of what must be the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers shooting cormorants. The frequent sound of gunshots in the night make me shudder. I wonder about the dozens of spent shotgun shells I find daily on the river beaches where I walk my dog.

As I heard today of the 45th school shooting of the year, I think of the connection between our culture’s acceptance of violence, in particular gun violence, and the escalating violence in our society. We routinely use violence to solve our issues, whether fighting wars, killing animals we perceive to interfere

with our lives, or ever increasingly, to express our frustration and anger. We play war in our off times, and glorify it in our celebrations and memorials.

The shopworn adage “guns don’t kill people, people kill people” is fraught with false logic. While people who use guns to kill people usually have either temporary or long term emotional issues, the crimes they commit could not happen, at least not as easily or frequently, without guns. The discharging of a gun is instant and irrevocable. Even those who plan their rampages would have a hard time carrying them out without a gun as their choice of weapon.

I do not believe our founders meant for us to use their thoughtfully and carefully worded Second Amendment to defend the widespread manufac-

ture and use of guns to perpetuate the overwhelming violence that exists in our country today. Ironically, the word “gun” is not even present in the amendment. Indeed, the Supreme Court has ruled that the scope of an individual’s right to bear arms is not unlimited, and thus open to regulation.

No one wishes to prevent anyone from having the means to protect themselves in dangerous situations, but it is time to de-escalate the violence around us, and help prevent future tragedies such as the one at Umpqua Community College. We must re-evaluate words written long ago, in a very different time, and understand that if we do not, we will become the tyrants our forefathers meant to protect us from.

RITA SMITH
Hammond

duction Zone, threatening a massive earthquake, followed by a major tsunami event, the potentially explosive liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipping terminal that is eventually going to be built in an unstable area no matter how much we protest, and major traffic through all our cities, which will have no escape route when any of these disasters strikes.

When asked about a bypass highway around Seaside, Warrenton and Astoria, we find that there is no plan, even “on the shelf” for such an highway.

I do not know how long it took to plan and build U.S. Highway 101, but I’ve been told that was completed in less than 10 years. I have also been told, that with currently required environmental impact statements, it would take at least 10 years just to get approval for such a highway, followed by several years for actual construction.

What are our elected officials waiting for? If it will, indeed, take that long, we ought to be getting the ball rolling now. We need everyone in city, county, state and federal offices to be working on this. Can’t we get the people who built the original U.S. Highway 101, (I presume the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), to build a bypass with several feeders to provide access and exits for our coastal cities?

CLEVE ROLFE
Seaside

Not impressed

Let’s see if I have this right — Hood to Coast organizers Dan Floyd and Bob Foote expect Seaside and its business community to jump through their million dollar for-profit hoops, or they will take their ball and go home? Well, from their mouths to God’s ear. Pacific City kicked them out; we can, too.

SANDY REA
Seaside

Impeach Hanlin

My thoughts and prayers are truly with the survivors and families of the tragedy in Roseburg. I agree with the president that thoughts and prayers are not enough. Douglas County Sheriff John Hanlin should be impeached for failing to protect the people of Douglas County, and pledging to refuse to obey any firearms laws he disagrees with.

Impeach him now.

R.D. SMITH
Gearhart

LNG vista

A bunch of us recently by Baked Alaska watched the mother humpback whale and her baby rise out of the river with silver herring flying everywhere. The thought that a future backdrop to this wonderful scene could be two big liquefied natural gas tanks made me sick.

REBA OWEN
Warrenton

Race to Astoria

If Seaside businesses don’t want Hood to Coast in their town, may I suggest changing the destination town to Astoria? The old train depot location (the Barbey Maritime Center) near the Columbia River Maritime Museum plays host to the annual Pacific Northwest Brew Cup, and

it’s an enjoyable experience all around.

I think the site would also serve Hood to Coast well. There’s plenty of parking, space for vendors and live music. And it’s sufficiently removed from the downtown core to not affect businesses here in any negative way.

I hope organizer Bob Foote moves his foot race here. We could use another boost to the economy in Astoria.

JEFFREY NELSON
Astoria

Protect children

I do not live in the 3-mile blast zone of the proposed Oregon LNG terminal, nor do I live close to any railroad or pipeline that would feed this terminal.

But, however, my grandchildren live and go to school in the blast zone. I am voicing my fear for the safety of my grandchildren, and all the many children in Hammond, Warrenton and Astoria, who have no voice.

This terminal would endanger their health and their lives — their future. I cringe when I hear or read Oregon LNG advocates gloss over issues with comments such as “these are acceptable risks”

and “issues can be mitigated.”

My grandchildren are not acceptable risks. My grandchildren’s lives cannot be mitigated.

It is our job as adults and as a community to make sure our children’s home, school and community are safe. Oregon LNG is not a parent endangering their child, Oregon LNG is not a meth lab endangering children or a community, it is a 17-story storage tank of volatile liquefied natural gas with a 3-mile blast zone.

I implore any adult or politician who has the power to say no to Oregon LNG to protect my grandchildren.

There are several standards for safety set by the Society of International Gas Tanker and Terminal Operators in “Site Selection and Design for LNG Ports and Jetties” (<http://bit.ly/1P7RFUY>), including that LNG ports must be located where vapors released by accident can’t affect civilians, and where they don’t conflict with other water uses, including commercial fishing.

Read these standards from the LNG industry, and ask yourself: Does this proposed site satisfy these standards? Is this site a fit? Does it protect civilians? Are children playing in the shadow of this

proposed terminal in harm’s way?

CAROLYN CRAWFORD
Naselle, Washington

Protect forage fish

At first glance, it may seem a bit odd that a small business owner in Yachats making chocolates, caramels, biscotti and fudge would also be concerned about tiny fish in the ocean. But if one lives in a small coastal town long enough, these connections become less and less strange.

Every year, thousands of people descend upon the Oregon Coast. Many come here as whale watchers, birders, paddlers and others seeking access to the natural wonders of our ocean. I like to think of my business as providing sweet fuel for these travelers, while also fueling our local economy.

Forage fish, in turn, are the fuel that powers the whales, seabirds, sharks, salmon, tuna and other species that make our coast so special for locals and tourists alike. These tiny fish — from the more famous species like sardine and anchovy, to lesser known critters such as Pacific saury, silversides and sand lance — also provide a prey base that

sustains commercial fisheries for larger species along the West Coast.

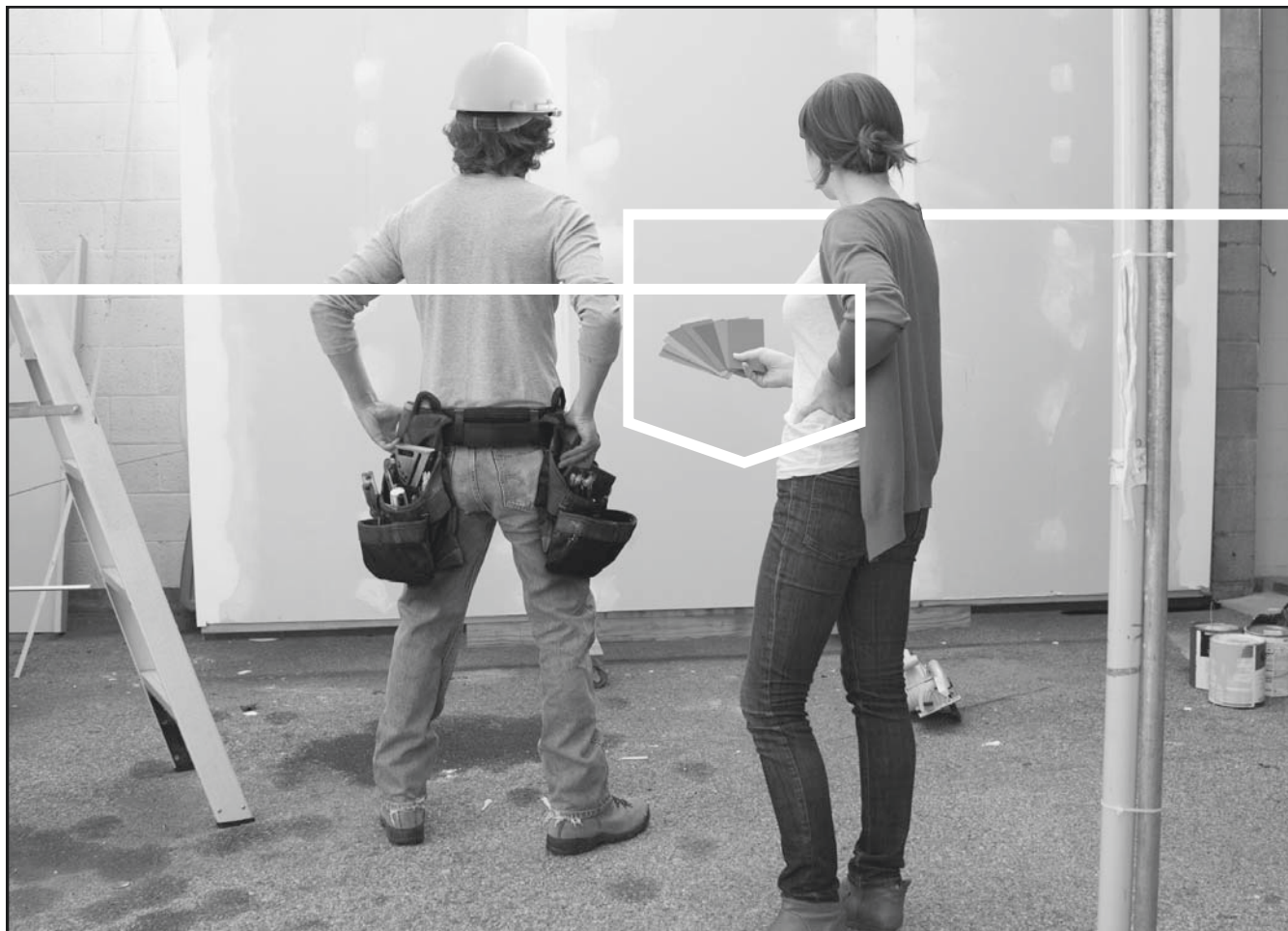
Just last month, the Pacific Fishery Management Council finalized a ground-breaking decision to adopt protections for seven groups of currently unmanaged forage fish species in federal waters off the U.S. West Coast, from three to 200 miles out. This action marks a much-needed shift from traditional, single-species management of ocean fishing to a more comprehensive approach, where decision-making is based on looking at the entire ecosystem.

These tiny fish aren’t currently targeted by fishermen in our region, so the council’s move is proactive and works to protect the prey base on which so much of our marine wildlife depends. Fishing for these species won’t be allowed unless it can be shown that such activity will not harm existing fisheries for larger fish, such as salmon, fishing communities, or the overall marine ecosystem. “Know before you go” is a smart approach in many aspects of life, including fisheries management.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife played a key role in helping to secure these federal forage protections, and the agency now appears poised to develop complementary measures in state waters from the coast to three miles out. ODFW should make this a key priority in the coming months.

By now, most everyone has heard about our unlikely visitors in the Columbia River — several humpback whales spotted miles upriver. Likely in search of anchovy, the wandering whales underscore the current uncertainty of ocean conditions, forage populations, and prey dynamics at play in the Pacific. I hope ODFW moves forward to protect forage fish in state waters, with an eye toward fueling the diversity of species we depend on along the Oregon coast. That sure would be sweet.

STARLA GADE
Yachats



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