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If it ain't broke...

Washington voters have buyers' remorse about their liquor initiative

They're back! Oregon grocers are making a second try at ending Oregon's system of liquor distribution. They want to add liquor as a profit center in their grocery stores.

Washington voters already did that, in 2011 when they bought what was known as the Costco Initiative. The result has been twofold. Washingtonians pay higher prices and there is less variety in the Costco inventory and other grocery outlets than there was in state stores.

That variety matters especially in Oregon, where we have a robust and nascent artisanal, craft liquor industry. These new distillers are in far-flung, disparate locations such as Stein Distillery in Joseph, North Coast Distilling in Astoria and Cascade Alchemy in Bend.

The craft distillers value their access to the vast distribution network of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission. The

OLCC makes their myriad new products available to all of their stores.

If you ask a Washingtonian how they like liquor sales after the Costco Initiative, you are likely to hear buyer's remorse. The Costco Initiative boosted prices and shrank the spectrum of what is available to consumers.

Oregon's system is not broke. Of course, that is not what this latest initiative is about. It is about moving a valuable profit center out of state control into the hands of grocery chains.

Two years ago, the Oregon grocers' liquor initiative failed to qualify for the ballot. We hope that happens again. It is a solution for a problem that does not exist.

Salmon, temps on a collision course

NOAA and Oregon sign an overdue agreement

You don't have to be an expert on Northwest salmon to know they have been on a collision course with rising temperatures. There have been news items in recent years — including this summer — about returning salmon sweltering and dying in the Klamath Basin and the Willamette River.

It stands to reason that adult fish returning from years in cold ocean waters will struggle when the water — and hence their own body temperature — is drastically higher than what they are used to. Like most organisms, salmon are adaptable to a point and there is much variation between different species and runs. But every creature has its limits, and the 21st century's climate has started testing the outer boundaries of adaptability for many Columbia Basin salmon.

There was news last Tuesday of an agreement by NOAA Fisheries to work with Oregon officials over the next three years to begin dealing with rising water temperatures by locating, protecting and restoring cold-water habitat in the Columbia and Willamette.

This is overdue.

As early as 2001, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued a major report about the impacts of rising water temps on salmon and other fish species. (www.tinyurl.com/FishTempStudy) It found a

complex situation, but came to an overall conclusion that many species are harmed by higher temps.

For example, "salmonid stocks that make long-distance migrations to inland spawning grounds during the summer and fall may be more vulnerable to increased water temperatures and loss of cold-water refuges."

What constitutes cold water differs from species to species, but species of vital interest in the Columbia River require colder water than they often now encounter. For instance, fall/summer Chinook prefer a spawning temperature of 41 to 56 degrees; spring Chinook 40 to 64; coho and steelhead 50 to 55; sockeye 36 to 46.

In its latest work, NOAA Fisheries identifies 68 degrees as the level at which some major species become weak and diseased or died. They may have trouble spawning or thriving well before that point.

It is vital to find and protect places along the salmon migration route where they can be refreshed by colder water. This will likely impact some accustomed fishing places and will further complicate fishing seasons. The Columbia's treaty tribes certainly must share in this effort.

Salmon and the fishermen who rely on them need careful nurturing as this warm century progresses.

A proposed design of a Clatsop-Nehalem interpretive center shows the elements planned for the former Cannon Beach Elementary School property. Ecola Creek is to the north, and Beaver Street is to the south.

A stroll through history brings appreciation for the landscape

I've been wandering lately into the history of Cannon Beach.

And what I've learned is how much our landscape has shaped our history.

My dip into the local past began several months ago when Rainmar Bartl, retired city planner for Cannon Beach, told me that he and several friends were working on getting Peter Lindsey's book, *Comin' in Over the Rock*, published with new stories and photos.

When the time came to publicize a Tuesday, Nov. 10, fundraiser (7 p.m. at the community hall) to collect donations for the book's "reboot," Bartl asked me to write the story (see the Nov. 5 Coast Weekend or the Nov. 6 Cannon Beach Gazette).

Lindsey, who is known as "Professor" Lindsey because he used to teach English at Clatsop Community College, is one of just a handful of Cannon Beach residents remaining who remember the village of the 1950s, when it really was just a little village of 200 people or fewer.

But as a boy whose family summered there in the 1940s and moved there permanently in 1954, Lindsey knew practically everyone who lived in or regularly visited town. He knew all the stories — either those he experienced firsthand or those that were told to him.

In 2004, he wrote down those stories and put them into a book. He got the title from a quote by former gas station owner George Malstead, aka "Happy Tooth."

"She's comin' in over the rock today!" Malstead told the boys, including Lindsey, in 1957, as wind-swept rain dashed against Haystack Rock and beat on windows throughout town.

Lindsey's stories recount the days when there were several gas stations — now reduced to one — and when youngsters roamed freely without a lot of supervision, although, undoubtedly the small village did, collectively, raise its children.

In those days, cars drove regularly on the beach, and local tow-truck drivers competed to extract them from clutching sand during high tide. "Characters" numbered in the dozens, including several "pops" — men with genial dispositions, long-standing relationships in the community, patience with youngsters and idiosyncratic skills or trades; men and women nicknamed "Preach," "Beargrease" and "Dog Lady; artists who immigrated to Cannon Beach in the 1960s and '70s; dory boat operators who took off in 12-foot-long boats near Haystack Rock; and assorted loggers, tall-tale tellers and rascals.

The "rascals" who moved to Cannon Beach were drawn by the landscape," Lindsey contends.

"When this country was young, the spaces were vast," he writes. "The northern Oregon coast had scant popu-

EO Media Group/File Photo
Wearing a headlamp to help him read in the dimness, Peter Lindsey, a Cannon Beach resident, recites his own work and others' work during the Beachnik Cafe last year. He was the first of many readers that evening.

IMPRESSIONS

BY
NANCY
MC CARTHY



In those days, 'Characters' numbered in the dozens.

lation and limitless nature. Large spaces require powerful spirit and character."

A place of history

In another encounter with Cannon Beach's history, I visited recently with Diane Collier and Dick Basch, chairwoman and vice-chairman, respectively, of the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes. We met, appropriately, at NeCus' Park, the site of a village where Clatsop and Nehalem tribes lived along the banks of what is now Ecola Creek. Eventually, the tribes hope to create a cultural center at NeCus'.

Basch and Collier told me how excited they were that U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, D-Ore., had introduced House Resolution 3736 that would, if Congress approves it, give federal recognition to the Clatsop-Nehalem tribes and the opportunity for funding to improve members' health and education.

The tribes lost federal recognition in 1954 (coincidentally the same year that Peter Lindsey's family moved to Cannon Beach) when Congress passed the Western Oregon Indian Termination

Act. At that time, more than 100 tribes throughout the United States lost federal recognition.

During our conversation, Collier talked about her great aunt who was born in NeCus' village. Basch reminisced about Joe Scovell, who was the tribe's hereditary chief until his death in 2014. They described Hobsonville, a community on Tillamook Bay just south of Garibaldi, which became home to some Nehalem, Clatsop and Tillamook tribal members but which also was the target of horrific local Ku Klux Klan raids.

As we sat at the picnic table in NeCus' (once the playground of the former Cannon Beach Elementary School) and discussed the area's earliest history, I could almost visualize the longhouses on either side of the creek where generations of Collier's and Basch's relatives once lived, fished and hunted. I recalled a photo I once saw of Basch as a youngster, dressed in native garb, participating in the 1955 sesquicentennial celebration of Lewis and Clark's arrival on this very site.

While they talked nostalgically about the past, however, Collier and Basch dared to dream that the federal government would, at last, honor the tribe's history, a history that reaches back in this area several centuries and also includes inhabitants embodying the powerful spirit and character that Lindsey writes about.

Federal recognition, Basch said, would allow the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes to move forward. It would give the tribes' 182 members, spread throughout the region, a reason to come home to the North Coast.

"It means it would allow us to carry on our culture," he added, "to carry on to the future."

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