

Thanks for help

As we approach the holidays, South County Community Food Bank, a food pantry, wants to thank the many people who have supported our efforts during the last year.

We began the year in rented space as we waited for the completion of our new building. *The Daily Astorian* and *Seaside Signal* have provided coverage of the conversion of two classroom modular structures into a real building, and our eventual grand opening in October.

The biggest part of the story should be that most of the money to build and outfit the building came from local funds. Very little of the funding came from outside this area, and most of that came from companies that do business in Clatsop County.

As we look into the future, there is still need. The generosity of the South County community is remarkable. During this time of the year and into the new year, our pantry will be serving more than a thousand local people each month: underemployed locals waiting for spring, hungry children, homeless people and locals in unexpected difficulty.

The holidays are a difficult time. South County citizens and generous part-time residents have always supported us. We thank you for the past support and ask, once more, for your help this year. You can deliver donations of food or cash to our new building at 2041 N. Roosevelt Drive, Seaside, or mail contributions payable to South County Community Food Bank, P.O. Box 602, Seaside, OR 97138. We thank you in advance.

JAMES C. CASTERLINE
Past president, current board member, South County Community Food Bank
Gearhart

Veto LNG

Open letter to Gov. Kate Brown: I am writing you concerning the Warrenton liquefied natural gas (LNG) issue. As a local resident I would hate to see an LNG plant located here. Not only will it just not fit in and ruin the natural beauty of the area, I do not believe there will be any sufficient benefit to our community.

As someone with a background in heavy construction, I know that only a small portion of the jobs they are promising will go to local employees. While the basic ground clearing, etc., is within the local skills base, the more specialized jobs will come from out of area. The fact that employees have had to come from elsewhere just to fill jobs on the local bridge repair projects speaks to this very point.



The same is true for the jobs once the plant is in operation. No one here knows those skills. Janitorial yes, security guard yes. Major plant operations no. It sounds good on paper, but it doesn't pass the smell test.

The area they want to build on is a very marshy area that is now used as part of our scenic walking path area. It is a lovely piece of land, and giving it up for something that will only up the pollution level, drive tourists away and interfere with fishing areas seems a poor choice of use for that land.

Please use your veto power's and tell Oregon LNG "not in our backyard." If the Canadian company wishes to ship Canadian LNG, then they should do it through their own ports. We've already voted once and gave a resounding no to building a pipeline across our county, but they didn't listen. It's up to you to be our voice.

Please don't make my family move away from this beautiful place we decided to call home.

IRA LEE GOSSETT
Hammond

Democratic farce

Although the presidential election is about a year away, the political campaigns are in a full boil, at least on the Republican side. The Democratic "campaign" is obviously a done-deal.

It's entertaining to listen to Democrats ridiculing the long list of Republican hopefuls, however the Democrats had better check their own so-called candidates. That two-person "race," of course, is a farce. One of the contestants is an ancient, self-proclaimed socialist who crawled out of an attic apparently as a stalking horse for the presumptive Democrat nominee, none other than — once again — the Lyin' Queen (her husband was the Lyin' King), Hillary Clinton.

Yes, the same woman who has held some of the most responsible positions in government, and holds the distinction of being a dismal failure at every job she's ever held. Her only success has been the agility — she can lie very effectively — to avoid being incarcerated.

Some say she's managed to stay outside prison walls by directing an effective program of bribery, blackmailing and perfecting the art of prevarication, an art at which she's had a lifetime of practice. Of course, a criminally partisan Justice Department has helped.

I was disappointed that Vice President Joe (Foot-in-the-Mouth) Biden dropped out, because he would have provided a load of comic relief. I truly believe that the Democrats — those who are realistic — see this farce unfolding, and are getting seriously nervous. A warning to Democrats: Start pushing the panic button, if you haven't already done so.

E. ROBERT NASSIKAS
Astoria

Not exceptional

I hope I may briefly respond to the criticism of my "ramble" (though beach rambling was the subject) by Rex Amos of Cannon Beach ("Keep beach bill safe," *The Daily Astorian*, Oct. 30). I have no quarrel with the Oregon Beach Bill, which I do not for a moment doubt is a fine bill, but to the aura of exceptionalism with which writer Matt Love bathes it ad nauseum.

The relevance of my relating my years and miles of beach ramblings in a half-dozen different states was to merely point out that every other state I know of has beaches which are, to use Mr. Love's own phrase, "for the exclusive use of the public."

As for the states I mentioned, they have many hundreds of miles more public

beaches than has Oregon. That there may be disputes here and there about private versus public access does not diminish by one jot the miles of public beach which are actually available for public enjoyment.

Mr. Amos concludes with a whopper of a non sequitur — a quotation attributed to Abraham Lincoln, but dubiously, considering no original documentation has ever been found. The quotation concerned the priority to be given human rights over property rights.

It is pretty much agreed that the term "human rights" was not in widespread use until well into the 20th century, but even had President Lincoln used it, he would surely have meant the rights to life and liberty, which were denied the southern slaves, whom the plantation owners claimed were "private property."

To trivialize the plight of southern slaves by comparison with the right to walk on a beach cannot have been intentional, but merely a lack of judgment, and I will let it go at that.

LOUIS SARGENT
Gearhart

Kudos to artists

On Saturday night, Nov. 14, at the Barbey Maritime Center, we had the great pleasure of attending the Astoria Junior and Senior High Schools' fall art exhibit. Our thanks to AHS art teacher Mickey Cereghino for the tremendous job of organizing the extensive and highly attended exhibit.

Intrepid through the downpour, detoured from the Ducks game and Art Walk, the crowds turned out to support our student artists. It is indeed encouraging to see such fine work coming out of our schools, and so much community support for the arts.

Thank you student artists, and thank you, Mr. Cereghino,

no, for your tireless and inspiring teaching.

NOEL AND PAT THOMAS
Astoria

Thank the Lord

The American day of thanksgiving is even older than the nation itself. Various dates have been suggested for being the first, but credit is usually given to the feast of thanksgiving celebrated by the Mayflower Pilgrims and Wampanoag Indians in 1621 at the Plymouth colony in what is now Massachusetts.

In a sense it became a unique American holiday when George Washington and Congress proclaimed a national day of thanksgiving in 1789. Their document of proclamation states: "Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly implore his protection and favor....(we) recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God."

President Washington was right. God has blessed this nation and we should pause and give him thanks for his generosity and goodness. Thanks for this wonderful land with its freedoms and opportunities. Thanks for the food and other necessities we so often take for granted.

Thanks for our military and military veterans who serve and sacrifice so that we may be free. For the police and fire personnel, and their efforts to protect us and our property. For the doctors and nurses and other professionals who serve us in our health needs.

I personally need to thank him for my wife, family, friends, church family, health, and a nice house that is warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Also, thanks for more material things than I'll ever use.

Make your own list — the blessings are almost endless. Thank you Lord.

"Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving" Psalms 95:2

KEN TIPPS
Astoria Church of Christ

Help the elderly

Several months ago I happened to catch a program on community radio. The subjects of aging and helping senior citizens were being discussed, and possible solutions given.

I was especially impressed with their goal of treating the elderly with respect and dignity. There was one all-purpose program that

could be reached by dialing only one person, and that person would be on the other line and would help. I wrote that number down.

I have a friend who is elderly. She has led a most productive life as a member of our community. After living a very long time, it has become obvious that her age and her resources are on a collision course. This is certainly the case for many seniors living in Astoria. Things get harder to fix, they wear out and break down. The cost of healthy food has skyrocketed. Utilities have risen. Things become more and more difficult, and finally impossible. It is the problematic life of poverty, especially for the elderly.

I gave my friend the phone number, and she called it. No one got back to her for almost a week. I called the social services agency and complained and they did finally call her back. She did not go down to their office, and no one came to her home. Some papers came in the mail, and now her name is on the list for weatherization. That was it. This is so not right in so many ways.

We need to do better, and we need to monitor our helping agencies to be sure they do what they promise.

MARY TANGUAY WEBB
Astoria

'Mr. Garrison'

Roy Garrison, a great artist and unequalled instructor, passed away on Sunday, Nov. 8. As a humble and generous leader, he built the Clatsop Community College art department into a first-class option. In 1970 he hired the now famed artist, Stan Wanlass. Roy continued as head of the department while also teaching sculpture, pottery and art history. Stan taught drawing and painting. Students came from other countries as well as the U.S. to participate in these top-notch classes. I was truly fortunate to be one of those students. Roy's retirement in 2006 was the end of a unique and awe-inspiring era. Many will miss "Mr. Garrison."

SHIRLEY DAHLSTEN
Astoria

Pay a dividend

This is not a letter to argue pro or con for liquefied natural gas (LNG). It is a letter to say if the proposed LNG deal is approved, every citizen of every county that is affected in the state of Oregon should receive a yearly or quarterly dividend. Small price for them to pay for any dangers and use of Oregon land.

STEVE CARUTHERS
Astoria

A holiday treat from the U.S. Congress

By GAIL COLLINS
New York Times News Service

In honor of the coming vacation travel season, the Senate is working on a bill that would loosen the requirement that pilots take medical examinations.

Yes! I know that's been on your mind a lot, people.

Next week, as you gather around the Thanksgiving table, be sure to express your gratitude to Congress. If you hear a small plane buzzing overhead, drink a toast to the future, when the folks in America's cockpits may no longer be burdened with repressive, old-fashioned health monitoring.

Pop quiz: Which of the following aviation issues would you like to see your elected representatives resolve by the end of 2015?

- Ban those laser lights that stupid kids keep flashing in pilots' eyes.
- Do something about all the damned drones flying around airports.
- End the passenger peril of being squashed by a reclining seat.
- Ease pilot health exams!

Ease pilot health exams!

"The U.S. Senate has an excruciatingly difficult time doing anything, and here they're dismantling something that's been working pretty well," complained Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut. He is opposed to the bill in question, and that puts him in pretty select company. More than two-thirds of his colleagues are co-sponsors.

We are talking here about general aviation pilots, the men and women who fly private planes. They're currently required to get a medical exam by an FAA-approved physician every five years, and then every two years once they pass 40. The pilots hatehatehate this rule. They claim the doctors are hard to find and charge too much money. But the great underlying fear is that some stranger with a stethoscope will strip them of the ability to fly. It's easy to understand why pilots want to stay aloft. I've enjoyed every noncampaign-related private flight I've ever taken, including in the two-seater owned by an environmentalist who once flew me over a lake full of pig feces that had been treated with chemicals that turned it the color of Pepto-Bismol.

However, I think I speak for



Gail Collins

most of America when I say that we ought to continue being a little picky about the people we let up there.

The bill's lead sponsor, Sen. James Inhofe of Oklahoma, is a very enthusiastic 81-year-old pilot who starred in an exciting airborne adventure about five years ago, when he landed his Cessna at an airport in Texas despite A) The large "X" on the runway, indicating it was closed, and B) The construction crew working on said runway, which ran for their lives when he dropped in.

As a result, the senator had to take part in a remedial training program. This irritated him so much that he successfully sponsored the first Pilot's Bill of Rights, which makes it easier to appeal that kind of harsh, unforfeiting judgment.

The Senate commerce

The great underlying fear is that some stranger with a stethoscope will strip them of the ability to fly.

committee is now considering Inhofe's PBR2, which would eliminate the current medical exam requirement. Instead, pilots would just write a note in their log every four years saying they'd been to a physician who said everything's fine. The bill has 69 sponsors.

Very little in the current world of Washington is that popular. You may be wondering why. Well, although Inhofe is best known as the climate change denier who once brought a snowball into the Senate to prove the globe isn't warming, he's also a very powerful guy, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, an architect of this year's \$350 billion highway construction bill.

Plus, there are hundreds of thousands of private pilots,



Manuel Balce Ceneta / AP Photo/File
Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., questions a witness during a hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington in September.

many of them rather wealthy. "Most of them are single-issue people, so it would be very good to join in on this," Inhofe said pointedly in a recent Senate speech. Some small-minded observers suspect he also has personal skin in the game, what with having had quadruple bypass heart surgery and all.

The bill hit a small snag on Wednesday when Democrats on the Senate commerce committee proposed that the doctors who do the new exams — who could be anyone from a dermatologist to a golfing buddy — be given a government-approved checklist of problems to look for.

They lost on a party-line vote. "My trust is in the physician compared to the FAA," said one of the Republicans.

The real problem was apparently resistance from a certain snowball-making highway bill author.

"The answer has always come back from Sen. Inhofe's staff: No," complained Bill Nelson of Florida, the ranking Democrat on the committee. Nelson, you understand, was not arguing that a dermatologist should be off-limits as a pilot medical examiner. He just wanted to increase the chances that the patient would be asked if he was subject to dizzy spells.

At that moment the committee suddenly discovered it was lacking a quorum. But everyone expects the bill to rise again in triumph. "It would have been laughable except it's so serious," Blumenthal said.