

# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Founded in 1873



STEPHEN A. FORRESTER, *Editor & Publisher*

LAURA SELLERS, *Managing Editor*

BETTY SMITH, *Advertising Manager*

CARL EARL, *Systems Manager*

JOHN D. BRUIJN, *Production Manager*

DEBRA BLOOM, *Business Manager*

HEATHER RAMSDELL, *Circulation Manager*

## Water under the bridge



Compiled by Bob Duke

From the pages of Astoria's daily newspapers

### 10 years ago this week — 2006

The Port of Astoria Commission has imposed sanctions against port Executive Director Peter Gearin in response to last year's dredging activities, which resulted in fines of \$293,000 from state and federal agencies.

The details of the sanctions, discussed in an executive session Tuesday, were not made public, but Gearin will be placed on a performance plan that identifies problems and sets improvements to be made, port attorney Heather Reynolds said after the session.

"The commission and executive director want the citizens of the port district to know that the problems and violations arising in the 2004-2005 dredge season are taken very seriously and are being addressed," read a statement released by the port. "The commission is taking all action it can to ensure that any future dredging is done in compliance with all laws and environmental regulations."

Another key domino in Astoria's development is about to slot into place.

After the Liberty Theater and Hotel Elliott renovations and the expansion of the Riverwalk, a familiar name is looking to spruce up another landmark.

The old Fisher Bros. building at 42 Seventh St. on Astoria's riverfront was built in 1910. Used mainly as a warehouse for almost a century, the landmark industrial building is about to be reborn.

Chester Trabucco, who transformed the Hotel Elliott, has plans to work his magic on the recently vacated two-story concrete structure. The Astoria Planning Commission has already approved Trabucco's proposal to use the first floor as commercial space, and convert the second floor to residential use.

"He's trying to take an underutilized waterfront building and renovate it for a contemporary use, and still retain its historic character," said City Planner Rosemary Johnson.

### 50 years ago — 1966

PORTLAND — Cinderella Baker, the most surprising development of the 1966 Oregon A-1 high school basketball tournament, shoved Astoria into the consolation bracket here Thursday afternoon by whipping Coach Pete Bryant's Fishermen 53-49 in a quarterfinal round game.

The intermountain league second place team forced the Fishermen into playing Bakerball, a slow methodical Oregon State University-type offense, and pulled its second surprise of the tournament. In Wednesday's opening round, the Bulldogs clobbered Wilson, the tourney favorite and No. 1 ranked team in the state, but tourney guessperts did not anticipate the second upset.



Astoria fans at Portland's Memorial Coliseum went wild Thursday during close contest which Fishermen lost 53-49 to Baker. (Photo by Paxton Hoag)

A storm front with gusts up to 40 knots lashed the Sunset Empire early today, but was expected to subside through the afternoon.

The storm halted ship traffic across the Columbia bar, prevented ferry service during the early part of the day, and blew down a few signs but did no serious damage.

Drilling operations, financed by five oil companies, will begin this week off Willapa Bay on the Southeast Washington coast, according to G.A. Burton, official of the Shell Oil Co.

The company announced Monday it is moving the drilling rig Blue Water No. 2 to a site off the bay where workmen will drill a well in 230 feet of water.

The site is located about 15 miles offshore.

### 75 years ago — 1941

Astoria was Oregon's high school basketball champion today for the fifth time since the annual state tournament was started in 1920.

The Fishermen won the title in Saturday night's final game with Salem, when 2500 persons watched Rudy Lovvold drop a field goal and a free throw in an overtime period to give his team a 35-32 victory.

Astoria trailed most of the game and was one point behind with 10 seconds to play. Roy Seeber sank a free throw to tie the score at 32-32 and throw the contest into an extra period. Lovvold was high scorer with 11 points.

The Navy Department has awarded to the Astoria Marine Construction Company a contract to build four minesweepers at an approximate value of \$1,125,000, according to definite word received by the Astoria Chamber of Commerce Thursday morning from Senator Charles L. McNary.

The vessels will be wooden craft, each 135 feet long. Joseph Dyer, manager of the marine construction company, has been in Washington, D.C., for several weeks in an effort to line up these and perhaps other contracts for his company.

Search for a 3,200 acre beachfront tract to serve as a camp for 20,000 anti-aircraft troops is being made in Clatsop County by a military committee from Fort Stevens assisted by the Clatsop County Industrial commission.

The investigation resulted from a decision of the army to establish such a camp in the Northwest and a beach location is wanted in order to do practice shooting out over the ocean.

Continued fair weather has turned Seaside into a summer playground. With the maximum temperature averaging 65 and the mercury jumping to 76 on Tuesday, according to official records, Seaside is rivaling southern winter resorts.

# You can run 3,000 miles, but you can't hide from Donald Trump

## SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

BY R.J. MARX



CANNON BEACH — Whenever I'm in Cannon Beach, people want to talk to me about Donald Trump.

It's not because the Donald and I have the same hairdresser, but we did live in the same town, Bedford, New York.

"You must write another article on your old pal Donald Trump," Rex Amos wrote. "You might be interested to know that I keep telling Diane that if he'd just shave off that horse's mane, he'd look just like Mussolini. You know, the way he purses his lips and juts his jaw."

"Well, today he quoted Mussolini. The NASCAR circuit loved him for it!" Amos continued. We have become dumbed down in our ever-loving search for entertainment. Our culture is becoming caramel corn (which I really like)."

For the record, I am no "pal" of Trump. I talked to him as a journalist a few times on the phone. The first time after he won a lawsuit against the town I lived in and then again when he commented on a lawsuit he won against the Nature Conservancy, a nonprofit the Trump Organization had just KO'd in court.

Both times, I might add, he was quite cheerful. In general, though, I fear I may be in the same category as the protester Trump singled out at Central Florida University. "Get that guy out of here," Trump snapped to his security force. "But don't hurt him."

As entertaining as Trump is today when he's not discussing actual policy, he was making us laugh — and weep — in Bedford long before his first bankruptcy.

Trump is the owner of Seven Springs, 213 acres straddling three suburban towns. (Coincidentally, Seven Springs' address is 52 Oregon Road, which may give Trump something of a "native son" feel to us in the Beaver State.)

Trump planned to turn the fancy estate into a Masters-qual-

ity, 750-member golf course. When neighbors objected to limos arriving on dirt roads and choppers landing on wetlands, the plan stalled.

A decade ago, Trump said he would build a ghetto of 109 luxury homes if the three towns — Bedford, North Castle and New Castle — didn't approve his golf course.

While Trump's plans slogged through the courts, he decided to rent the place out. He made the most daring short-term rental deal ever, leasing his property to Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi and entourage.

The Libyans were occupied pitching tents when town officials told them they were violating local zoning code.

A couple years later Trump declared "he got the better of Gadhafi in the deal" by refusing to return the dictator's deposit.

Foregoing Seven Springs as transient lodging, Trump's son Eric moved in.

Meanwhile, there is no golf course there and the McMansions have yet to be built.

### Public, private interest

My dad, who retired to western Michigan a few years back, has long been railing about a guy named Aubrey McClendon, the CEO of Chesapeake Energy, a mid-western Trump, bullying everyone in his way.

McClendon bought what's known as the Denison property, overlooking the mouth of the Kalamazoo River, in 2006 for \$39.5 million. He sold a portion which is now the Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area, but was involved in a lengthy legal battle over his plans for a development that would include high-end homes, a resort and golf course.

The McClendon developer of Singapore Dunes has built a 2-mile, paved road in what are described as "critical dunes" along Lake Michigan to provide access to proposed homes.

As I'm writing this my dad informed me McClendon was killed in a crash in Oklahoma City after his car hit a highway overpass at high speeds early this month. It happened the day after McClendon was indicted on federal bid-rigging charges accusing him of conspiring to suppress prices for oil and natural gas leases.

### Castles in the sand

The North Coast has faced big Tegos before: It took Gov. Tom McCall to stand up in 1967 in Cannon Beach to the string of developers, successful and not, who had chosen to take their God-given rights as cor-

porate citizens all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

A little more than a century ago, real estate developer Thomas Benton Potter and surveyor H.L. Chapin were so eager to make a quick buck that, despite geologic evidence to the contrary, he built a town along the Oregon Coast, south of Nehalem, called Bayocean. It was billed as "the next Atlantic City."

"Never once," wrote author Bert Webber in his book "Bayocean," "did Potter seem concerned about putting buildings on sand foundations."

The town of Bayocean fell into the sea one house at a time, until 1952 when giant breakers collapsed the spit leaving an island separated from the land by a mile of ocean. Within a month the population dwindled to six people.

Author Matt Love may be touching an important nerve when he writes in "The Great Birthright": "Ever since the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980, much of the country had suffered from an ongoing political conspiracy to implant a virus to privatize, profitize and corporatize everything. The virus was of such a malignant strain that it had weakened the resolve for community leaders and politicians to come out in favor of anything that proposed or even lauded elevating the larger public good over the smaller private interest."

Matt Love is not the only Oregonian to share this thought. His passion for the land and sea — and the shared goals of most Oregonians — is what keeps our beaches public and forests protected. It is important for Oregonians to cherish this rare privilege.

**For the record, I am no 'pal' of Trump.**

### Straight to the top

Back to my pal, the Donald. Long before Trump's presidential visions were an apple in Melania's eyes, his political charisma was apparent. In 2014, New York's 19th Congressional District lacked a Republican candidate to face off against incumbent Sean Patrick Maloney. Maloney had easily knocked off a health care industry lobbyist in 2012 and the GOP needed some muscle to compete.

Perhaps prophetically, we wrote: "Finally, we are confident that Donald Trump, despite a Bedford residence, will not run for Congress. Unless someone asks him to."

He skipped Congress. R.J. Marx is *The Daily Astorian's* South County reporter and editor of the *Seaside Signal* and *Cannon Beach Gazette*.

# America's new shame culture

By DAVID BROOKS  
*New York Times News Service*

In 1987, Allan Bloom wrote a book called *The Closing of the American Mind*.

The core argument was that American campuses were awash in moral relativism.

Subjective personal values had replaced universal moral principles. Nothing was either right or wrong. Amid a wave of rampant nonjudgmentalism, life was flatter and emptier.

Bloom's thesis was accurate at the time, but it's not accurate anymore. College campuses are today awash in moral judgment.

Many people carefully guard their words, afraid they might transgress one of the norms that have come into existence. Those accused of incorrect thought face ruinous consequences. When a moral crusade spreads across campus, many students feel compelled to post in support of it on Facebook within minutes. If they do not post, they will be noticed and condemned.

Some sort of moral system is coming into place. Some new criteria now exist, which people use to define correct and incorrect action. The big question is: What is the nature of this new moral system?

Last year, Andy Crouch published an essay in *Christianity Today* that takes us toward an answer.

Crouch starts with the distinction the anthropologist Ruth Benedict popularized, between a guilt culture and a shame culture. In a guilt culture you know you are good or bad by what your conscience feels. In a shame culture you know you are good or bad by what your community says about you, by whether it honors or excludes you. In a guilt culture people sometimes feel they do bad things; in a shame culture social exclusion makes people feel they are bad.

Crouch argues that the omnipresence of social media has created a new

sort of shame culture. The world of Facebook, Instagram and the rest is a world of constant display and observation. The desire to be embraced and praised by the community is intense. People dread being exiled and condemned. Moral life is not built on the continuum of right and wrong; it's built on the continuum of inclusion and exclusion.

This creates a set of common behavior patterns. First, members of a group lavish one another with praise so that they themselves might be accepted and praised in turn.

Second, there are nonetheless enforcers within the group who build their personal power and reputation by policing the group and condemning those who break the group code. Social media can be vicious to those who don't fit in. Twitter can erupt in instant ridicule for anyone who stumbles.

**It is a culture of oversensitivity, overreaction and frequent moral panics.**

Third, people are extremely anxious that their group might be condemned or denigrated. They demand instant respect and recognition for their group. They feel some moral wrong has been perpetrated when their group has been disrespected, and react with the most violent intensity.

Crouch describes how video gamers viciously went after journalists, mostly women, who had criticized the misogyny of their games. Campus controversies get so hot so fast because even a minor slight to a group is perceived as a basic identity threat.



David Brooks

The ultimate sin, Crouch argues, is to criticize a group, especially on moral grounds. Talk of good and bad has to defer to talk about respect and recognition. Crouch writes, "Talk of right and wrong is troubling when it is accompanied by seeming indifference to the experience of shame that accompanies judgments of 'immorality.'"

He notes that this shame culture is different from the traditional shame cultures, the ones in Asia, for example. In traditional shame cultures the opposite of shame was honor or "face" — being known as a dignified and upstanding citizen. In the new shame culture, the opposite of shame is celebrity — to be attention-grabbing and aggressively unique on some media platform.

On the positive side, this new shame culture might rebind the social and communal fabric. It might reverse, a bit, the individualistic, atomizing thrust of the past 50 years.

On the other hand, everybody is perpetually insecure in a moral system based on inclusion and exclusion. There are no permanent standards, just the shifting judgment of the crowd. It is a culture of oversensitivity, overreaction and frequent moral panics, during which everybody feels compelled to go along.

If we're going to avoid a constant state of anxiety, people's identities have to be based on standards of justice and virtue that are deeper and more permanent than the shifting fancy of the crowd. In an era of omnipresent social media, it's probably doubly important to discover and name your own personal True North, vision of an ultimate good, which is worth defending even at the cost of unpopularity and exclusion.

The guilt culture could be harsh, but at least you could hate the sin and still love the sinner. The modern shame culture allegedly values inclusion and tolerance, but it can be strangely unmerciful to those who disagree and to those who don't fit in.