

Positive change

As a Clatsop County native and a taxpayer for the past 40 years, I think one of the most positive things to happen to Clatsop County in the past several years was the recent change in management and direction of Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare (CBH).

CBH falls under the influence and determination of the oligarchy of Clatsop County. This change came about due to Clatsop being one of the neediest for crisis services. I have watched, and managed to keep my tongue silent, while thousands of my tax dollars have been capriciously used due to knee-jerk reactions from a lot of troublemakers or individuals who manipulate others for their own agenda.

That is what I have seen regarding the various agencies addressing our numerous needs, such as homelessness, substance use disorders, domestic violence resulting in person-on-person crimes etc. Many of these agencies overlap, but come under the influence of the county government.

Clatsop County was selected by Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc. (GOBHI) to oversee the mental health contract that addresses many of the problems which marked Clatsop as one of the neediest counties in Oregon. To do this, CBH embarked upon plans to meet state and GOBHI standards, which were higher than previously enacted.

Adherence to these standards has been to our benefit as citizens, and especially beneficial to the clients who depend upon the agency to learn to cope, improve their immediate conditions and become strong enough to integrate into mainstream society.

Most of the agency staff have been straight-forward, and understand precisely what the job descriptions are and what is expected of them. Whenever someone doesn't do the proper reporting and work required of GOBHI standards, the management of CBH has to report it. When reported, some individuals got upset and created smoke screens of blame. It is my opinion this is standard operating procedure in the labor movement in the past 25 years, here and nationwide.

I believe in pointing out the positive in most situations, whenever given the chance. The new directors of CBH have guided that agency from the dark ages of mental health and spearheaded the beginning of a safe place for those in crisis, and for the general health of the county, I say thank you.

RETA LEITHNER  
Seaside

Vote Goldthorpe

I am pleased to endorse David Goldthorpe for the position of Clatsop County Circuit judge. I am a retired parole and probation officer, and have worked in the treatment field for 25 years. Currently, I work as a licensed treatment provider here in Clatsop County.

Having worked from these diverse perspectives, and with David in the Clatsop County Drug Court, I recognize him as an individual who considers thoughtfully, and without bias or prejudice, before making his recommendations. It has been my experience that David makes careful decisions based on a balance of community safety, victim rights and what is in the best interest of the individual — whether it be treatment or incarceration.

For these reasons, I hope that you will join with me in voting for David Goldthorpe in the 2016 election.

MICHAEL D. CROWE  
Warrenton

Trustworthy judge

Lawyers: You either love them or hate them. I guess it depends which side of the courtroom you're on. Either way, you have to trust the judge to make the final decision.

It's a good thing we have some say in the selection of our judges. Right now we have three excellent choices for Circuit Court judge. Hmmm, whom to choose, whom to choose? Well, fortunately, we have one choice who is hands down above the rest. I'm talking about Ron Woltjer.

I have known Ron for many years, and know him to be honest, hard working and a true professional. His legal background

# The Goonies win again

Hey, you guys! We have a victory worth celebrating. While Oregon LNG was doing the truffle shuffle, citizens were meeting, giving testimony to the local and state agencies, writing letters, marching and rallying to make their voices heard.

The river is not for sale. The citizens continued blocking corporate greed at every turn until the decision was made to abandon the LNG project at the mouth of Columbia, which was just plain stupid to begin with. You all know why — letters and headlines have chronicled the saga over the past almost 12 years.

Sometimes fairy tales and stories are metaphors for real life. Along the way there were villainous crooks, with their pirate's maps, underground pipes (caverns), booby traps, and the monster who made grandiose promises, all in an effort to secure the treasure on the river, but in the end the kids saved the day.

It was the Goonies who realized their town was worth fighting for. They were up against the big developers who wanted to take over the town for their own greed. Not so quick.

"Goonies never say die!" See the movie again.

LaREE JOHNSON  
Astoria

and his experience make him the obvious choice for the judge position. Not only is he an outstanding attorney, he's already working as a Municipal Court judge, gaining more experience on the bench every week.

A lawyer is a lawyer, but a judge is something else entirely. We need someone whom we can count on and trust. Ron Woltjer has what it takes to be fair and impartial, and to make the right choices from the bench. And when it comes down to it, isn't that what we all want?

Don't be a knucklehead. Vote for Ron Woltjer for Circuit Court judge.

DAVE BERGQUIST  
Gearhart

Judicial traits

Dawn McIntosh has the temperament, work ethic and the experience to do an incredible job for Clatsop County as Circuit Court judge.

Over the last approximately 10 years, I have had cases with Dawn when I was a deputy district attorney for Tillamook County and as a Circuit Court judge. In my experience in the legal field, and as an engineer officer in the Marine Corps, I have had the chance to evaluate people and their performance. Dawn McIntosh is very smart, very capable, she knows the law, she cares about people and she is a very hard worker. Those are very good traits.

Dawn has experience in criminal law, civil law, juvenile law, domestic relations and almost all other aspects of law that would come in front of her as a Circuit Court judge.

Dawn McIntosh will be able to do a great job, from the first day on the job, as Circuit Court judge. That is not only because she has a great wealth of experience, but also because she is a very hard worker and has the temperament to be a Circuit Court judge.

JONATHAN R. HILL  
Presiding judge, Tillamook County Circuit Court  
Banks

Teen problem

Clatsop County has faced an alcohol dependence problem in youth for years. One of the main reasons this problem is ongoing is because of the lack of parental guidance and the police force. Don't get me wrong, a lot of police care about drinking and driving, but more police than there should be just tap them on the hand and let them be. Although this might be seen as a "break" for a minor in possession (MIP), it actually creates more of a problem than before.

Having peers around you who constantly get behind the wheel as a drunk driver is nerve racking, especially because they don't care about the safety of their own lives. It's sad to think that boredom takes such a big toll that youth often turn to alcohol "just to have a good time," without facing the actual consequences.

It is because that most parents nowadays seem more like friends to their young and less like parents. What we need to force out the alcohol and drug use and teach these young kids the consequences, instead of letting them slide by, and hoping they'll do right next time they get behind the wheel.

Clatsop County has faced this problem for years, and will continue, if we don't make a stand to stop it.

TIEARA MOORE  
Astoria

Time for change

We don't need to memorialize "Jim Crow" with a place name in Wahkiakum County. Removing artifacts of racism is a way to acknowledge

that we are moving on from the racist history that Oregon (and this country) is still living down.

See the Oregon Historical Society's "The Oregon Encyclopedia" for a summary of exclusion laws, and the complicated history regarding slavery. Until 1926, it was illegal for black people to move into the state. How we talk, and what words we use, convey our attitudes to our children and grandchildren. If names or symbols had no meaning, we wouldn't use them.

I give Southerners and rural people some space regarding symbols of the past. What I mean is, I understand Southerners and rural people are devalued, stereotyped and dismissed. I get that. I've lived in Wahkiakum County long enough to see the paternalistic view that some educated/liberal urban people (of which I am one) hold about rural people. That said, holding racist symbols close is mistaken.

When I came to Cathlamet I asked where Jim Crow Sands got its name. It's a place name that implies ugly history. It's time to change it. The other question I asked when I came to Wahkiakum County was where the native people were. We should ask our Chinook neighbors to give us a proper place name.

RUBY HANSEN  
MURRAY  
Cathlamet, Washington

Anti-LNG victory

The anti-LNG (liquefied natural gas) effort was truly a David vs. Goliath scenario. The feisty group of volunteers in Astoria/Warrenton/Skipanon actually did it. They were able to win their fight to oppose an LNG terminal in Warrenton.

What an amazing group of activists. They organized and attended dozens and dozens of hearings and Clatsop County Commission meetings. They had innumerable field trips. They stood on street corners in the Astoria rain, held signs, chanted to passing cars and marched in their red shirts.

They wrote letters to the editor. They frequently drove to Portland (a two-hour drive one way) to meet with the anti-LNG Sierra Club folks on Ankeny Street. They organized politically to get rid of certain county commissioners who didn't understand or appreciate the environmental costs to the Columbia River, the estuary, and specifically the salmon, if the terminal was built for exports to Asian markets.

They got tired — sometimes their adversaries seemed insurmountable — but they kept going. They skipped their vacations and their family time to participate in their opposition efforts. Ten years rolled by and they never gave up. Wow, wow, the victory is so wonderful, it is hard to believe. With gratitude to Dan Serres and Brett VandenHeuvel and Columbia Riverkeeper for their remarkable leadership, and to all the volunteers who worked so hard for such a long, long time.

BARBARA WILSON  
Beaverton

Victory

Who are the people who stopped a \$6 billion liquefied natural gas terminal and over 200 miles of pipeline? How did we have the patience to fight LNG projects for 11 1/2 years? How did we manage to inflict the storied "thousand cuts" to achieve victory? We are a cross-section of America: mothers, retirees, students and workers at every kind of job. A retired librarian led loud and vigorous rallies, and an energy company veteran explained global fossil fuel trends. A fisherman delivered passionate testimony about how salmon fish-

ing on the Columbia feeds his kids — and his soul.

A dancer took photos, and a paper artist made sure we had fresh coffee at every meeting and event. A hospital administrator discovered errors and omissions in the small print and footnotes in company documents. A farmer described to agency officials how losing land to a gas pipeline would jeopardize his future.

We stayed focused on the same shared purpose: to protect our communities and our children's future. We discussed and pondered and disagreed. We planned, and then had to start all over again with another plan. Each of us contributed whatever work we could.

Someone always took on a task no one else wanted. Our rallies reached out to the public and rallied our own spirits. We learned to turn on a dime, to wait months to hear from agencies and courts, and to expect more years of vigilance and diligent work.

Perhaps the only personality trait we share is that we began as optimists. We had our moments of doubt. And now, in victory, we emerge once again as optimists, trusting in our power and ready to do battle with those who would destroy our communities and planet.

Perhaps Brett VandenHeuvel, Columbia Riverkeeper's executive director, said it best: "This was not an orchestrated campaign. This was a campaign where ideas flowed around kitchen tables and pastures, and where farmers and fishermen stood side by side with climate activists. This was a campaign whose heart and nerves showed the Pacific Northwest that we will prevail, in the end, no matter what."

LAURIE CAPLAN  
Co-chairwoman, Columbia Pacific Common Sense  
Astoria

Unfair regulations

We are writing in response to the published comments by Terry Graff ("Gearhart City Council has underestimated anger over rentals," *Seaside Signal*, April 15), in which he describes anger over rentals in Gearhart as expressed during the public hearing on April 14.

Mr. Graff's somewhat skewed assessment of the meeting failed to accurately describe the context of the complaints and the arguments on both sides of the issue. Only 14 people spoke against allowing short-term rentals and in favor of more regulations. They cited noise, litter, parking problems and too many renters in one house as examples.

Most of the complaints expressed can be addressed with enforcement of current city ordinances. Some people claimed to have reported their complaints to the police, but there appear to be no records of such over the past two years. A few residents stated that Gearhart is more crowded now, and no longer the quiet little town of their childhood.

A large majority attending the hearing spoke against the draconian measures the city planning commission is recommending to address some of these complaints. Some people were opposed to the planning commission's apparent shift in its charge from managing the city to managing the individual property owners in an arbitrary and capricious manner.

Only about 85 property owners in Gearhart rent their homes on a short-term basis. This is not a new use of property in Gearhart; it has been in practice for over a century. The planning commission is recommending a lottery in which 35 property owners will be chosen at random and allowed to rent their

homes on a short-term basis, while the other 50 homeowners will be denied that property right. We object to this unfair method of solving a problem, that can be better addressed by enforcing regulations.

When we purchased our home in Gearhart, we checked to make sure we could occasionally rent the home to offset the expenses of taxes, insurance and maintenance. We know of nothing in our deed or in federal, state or local regulations that says that we cannot rent our home to a family while they vacation on the Oregon Coast. In fact, the city of Gearhart has acknowledged the legality of short-term rentals by imposing a 7 percent lodging tax on our guests.

Private property rights are fundamental to the citizens of the U.S. The proposed standards that prevent some owners from renting are a "taking," denying a property right without fair compensation. Gearhart should allow those who are renting now to continue, as long as they comply with reasonable regulations.

BOB AND CLARE  
CARSON  
Walla Walla, Washington

Omit terms

I wish to take exception to the word choices used in the article, "Warrenton to part ways with South Jetty High" (*The Daily Astorian*, April 15) and in previous articles concerning South Jetty High School, located at the North Coast Youth Correctional Facility.

In the winter of 2012-13, through a wonderful convergence of events, timing, and funding, I was invited to design and create a library for the youth at the facility. It has been a great privilege to work with the youth. Prior to creating the library, the only thing I knew about the facility came from newspaper reports.

Nowhere on websites for the Oregon Department of Justice or the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) is the word "prison" used for OYA facilities. The appropriate word is "facility." In my opinion, the term prison conjures negative images that are not true of our North Coast Facility. The goal of OYA: "We continue to improve our treatment, education, and job training services to provide youth with the opportunity to learn personal responsibility and develop the skills and behaviors they need to make positive choices for themselves."

If not a prison, then the youth who are placed there are not prisoners, but youth offenders, or youth. And, further, the staff are not guards, but hold a variety of roles to assist the youth in changing their lives.

The superintendent of the facility oversees the staff, youth and activities, and the two units are staffed with a treatment manager, unit assistant, a qualified mental health professional, special development coordinator, and group life coordinators (GLC). These professionals work with the youth modeling positive behaviors, acting as role models, facilitating treatment programs and mentoring.

Also housed at the facility is South Jetty High School. Over the past few years, it has developed an amazing program to assist the youth towards their Oregon High School Diploma or their GED.

I ask that *The Daily Astorian* refrain from using the terms "prison," "prisoner," and, if needed, "guards." I feel these give the wrong impression of the great, dedicated work that is being done for and by the youth at our North Coast Youth Correctional Facility.

KATHLEEN MERRITT  
Warrenton

Merkley for pres.

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley has long been on my radar as possible presidential material. Anyone who's been on his mailing list would know that his long laundry list of issues he's working on lines up squarely with U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders'. He took a stand based on the issues, which makes total sense to me.

What we are seeing in this primary is that appearances matter more than the issues. If it wasn't the *New York Daily News* interview, it would have been something else that the media would seize on as a reason not to elect Sanders, who was 100 percent correct to state that it's not up to the president how the banks limit their size, or which assets they must sell off. If he had told them how to do it, he'd be seen as an authoritarian socialist, etc.

Merkley will ride a wave of support from constituents who want him to fight for the issues they care about, like getting money out of politics, taking care of seniors, marriage equality and slowing climate change. These are some of the issues that Sanders has rallied support on, and Merkley's endorsement of him sends a signal to the future of the Democratic Party — the overwhelming majority of constituents are younger than 45 — that they have another champion. It's very wise indeed, and perhaps not unlike a Boy Scout, to be prepared for that future.

PETER NEVINS  
Astoria

Vote Woltjer

I have known Ron Woltjer for many years, and find him to be thoughtful, articulate and fair. His help in getting me midwifery privileges at the local hospital years ago was invaluable. The fact that he is using his own resources to finance his campaign for Circuit Court judge attests to his integrity, and intention to be independent in his decisions.

Ron's degree from Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College, and experience as a private practice attorney, deputy district attorney for Clatsop County and Municipal Court judge prepare him well for the Circuit Court judge position. The fact that his wife is also a Circuit Court judge makes no difference in terms of conflict of interest, because the judges do not share cases, only a courthouse.

Please join me in voting for Ron Woltjer for Circuit Court judge — the best choice to replace Judge Nelson.

SUE SKINNER  
Astoria

NBA gold

Have you watched this NBA season this year? It was crazy. One of the best seasons in NBA history. The Golden State warriors beat the 1995-96 Bulls' record to 73-9, while Stephen Curry made 400-plus three pointers. That is just crazy. No other player has even reached 300 yet.

On the other hand, LeBron James is still trying to get a championship with Cleveland. The finals will probably be the same as last year. It wouldn't be surprising if the Golden State won back to back championships.

CAMERON WESTLEY  
Astoria

Thank you to all

Thank goodness liquefied natural gas (LNG) is not coming to our county. We can again rest easy without worrying about that huge industrial complex sitting along the Columbia River near our homes.

I don't know the names of all the people who worked to keep LNG out of our county, but they all need a huge thank you from all of us. The last 12 years has been a concern for all of us who just could not imagine a 36-inch diameter pipeline going through our forest and farm land. The explosive danger from it, and the LNG complex, is hard to fathom.

Now the natural beauty of our area can continue to be enjoyed without the threat of LNG.

KEITH NEAL  
Astoria