

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*



EO Media Group/File Photo

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service workers carry a captured Columbian white-tailed deer netted near Skamokawa in 2013. Some deer were moved to Ridgefield in an effort to make sure the species survives.

Some species protection may become impossible

Transplantation and strategic triage will become the norm

Our region boasts outstanding examples of once-endangered species that now prosper — bald eagles are perhaps the most obvious. Once teetering on extinction, they now are easy to see every day around the Columbia River estuary. Ongoing struggles of other species, however, give cause to wonder whether endangered wildlife strategies need a big rethink.

One such story concerns Columbian white-tailed deer, an elegant and sympathy-arousing little species that dwindled to about 300 by 1967. Since then, intense efforts have probably succeeded in ensuring the survival of the species. This is mostly because deer have been successfully nurtured in southwest Oregon's Douglas County, where they number more than 6,000.

Meanwhile, several pockets of deer on Columbia River islands — including Oregon islands east of Tongue Point — and adjoining floodplains totaled nearly 1,000 last year. Though better positioned to survive disaster, a tripling of deer numbers here on the Columbia is not very impressive or reassuring after nearly half a century of intense spending, community disruption, predator control and so on.

An April report by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife concluded most Columbia River subpopulations of the deer still aren't at a self-sustaining level — though they aren't actually sure what that level is. Such low numbers

make them especially vulnerable to inbreeding, diseases and natural disasters. These are the very same issues that led to the deer being listed as endangered 49 years ago.

It may be that the deer live in brushy backwaters of the estuary not because they prefer to, but because that is all the habitat left to them after decades of intense land conversion efforts by white settlers. These areas are likely to become even less tenable deer habitat as the sea level rises, the climate fluctuates and additional millions of people move to the Northwest.

White-tailed deer are far from the only regional species in these straits. From snowy plovers to pocket gophers, dozens of species — including iconic salmon — hang on, thanks only to constant human aid.

The white-tailed deer story demonstrates a worrisome truth, that it may cease to be possible to preserve a particular species in every region they once occupied. As this troubled century moves forward, transplantation to new habitat and strategic triage decisions will, sadly, become the norm.

FYI: Clippings from the press of the Pacific Northwest and the nation

ESPN's talent dynasty is walking out the door

If ESPN were one of the teams ESPN covers, it might describe itself as an organization "in transition," which is a dainty sports cliché that means the immediate future isn't as promising as the recent past.

One reason for pessimism: The

"Worldwide Leader in Sports" has seen a steady drain of superstar talent over the past 10 months, an exodus that is occurring amid deeper structural changes that are eroding ESPN's once-unassailable fortress.

— *The New York Post*

A German on England's European Union question

In any case, leaving the European Union is not in the end an option for Germany in the way it is for the UK. Germany is simply too central to the EU, which, after all, was created in

part as a solution to the vexed "German question". The EU could survive a British withdrawal, but not a German one.

— Hans Kundnani in *The Observer*

Working-class fraud

By **TIMOTHY EGAN**
New York Times News Service

He descended from the sky last Sunday in a helicopter that could have come from heaven, landing outside a hangar in Hagerstown, Maryland. He would talk for little more than an hour, mostly about himself, how he is "a smart guy" and "I look really good" and "I equal love."

To chants of "build the wall!" he said he would "talk about jobs for a second, then we're getting the hell out of here." He made good on both promises. He closed with a vow that no more jobs would leave Maryland, and then Donald J. Trump disappeared back into the sky.

As he spoke, jobs were leaving Maryland. Credit card processors, which had found a home in a place where people used to make pipe organs and leather car seats, were "consolidating," as they put it. The biggest company, First Data Corp., had let people go at their big office at the edge of Hagerstown.

But these jobs were not going to Mexico. And they were not leaving because dirt-cheap operations in China could track credit cards any better than the people of Hagerstown. They left because the company wanted "to upgrade the talent and skill sets available to us," as it said in a news release. Where would that be? Possibly somewhere in the New York metro area, the company announced in another of its disruptive moves. Essentially, the jobs were following Trump to New York. Others were disappearing. No wall could prevent that.

The root cause of all the finan-

cial lives broken by First Data — in Hagerstown, in Maitland, Florida, in Denver and on Long Island — was a buyout by a private equity firm, Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, designed to enrich a few. It hasn't gone so well. "Drowning in debt," as *The Wall Street Journal* reported, First Data has been slashing workers to hit a stock target price after going public last year.

Trump never mentioned any of that. It's too complicated, and nasty. The villains don't match his narrative. And his prescriptions for winning — a trade war with China, a wall costing upward of \$30 billion on the Mexican border — would do nothing to bring those jobs back to Hagerstown. Nothing.

'So it goes for Trump, a traitor to the class he professes to speak for.'

So it goes for Trump, a traitor to the class he professes to speak for. He "loves the undereducated." He's a working-class hero to the angry white masses who flock to his rallies. Of all the parts Trump has been playing, this one is the phoniest.

With Trump, you can be sure of one thing: He will betray those people. We know this because he already has. Wage stagnation is the most glaring symptom of a declining middle class. Trump's solution? He believes that "wages are too high."

Jaws dropped when he first said this at a November debate. Then he said it again, in a morning show.

Would he support raising the pathetic federal minimum wage, from the current \$7.25 an hour? No. Higher wages make it hard for the United States to compete. This he knows from personal experience, outsourcing his signature products to low-wage Chinese shops. "It's very hard to have anything in apparel made in



Timothy Egan

this country," he said with a shrug, when asked about it on CNN.

Well then, how about the maids, bartenders and food servers at his five-star hotel in Las Vegas? They've been protesting in front of his gilded monolith because he will not allow them to join a union, which could raise their pay an additional \$3 an hour.

China and Mexico are not a problem there. Other hotels in Vegas pay union wages. Las Vegas is one of the few success stories for low-skilled people looking to ride an escalator to a better life. But Trump, the working class zero, is sticking it to them.

Trump's solution to the woes of working families is to slap a 45 percent tariff on goods coming from China. The Chinese would retaliate, of course, meaning American companies that sell aircraft, medical equipment and vehicles to China — part of the \$116 billion in exports there last year — would have to cut jobs to make up for losses.

In Pittsburgh he promised to bring steel mills back. What's left of the American steel industry has found a home in the low-wage South. But even China is losing \$10 billion a year on its struggling steel industry. Manufacturing jobs are in global decline, as robots replace people. "When I'm president," said Trump, waving his hand as if holding a magic wand, "steel is coming back to Pittsburgh!" No sane economist, or even steel industry shill, believes this.

"We can't be fooled," said Richard Trumka, president of the AFL-CIO, at its annual convention in Philadelphia this month. "Trump isn't interested in solving the problems he yells about and swears about. He delivers punch lines."

Yet they are being fooled. Meet the new boss, worse than the old boss. He fooled the folks in Maryland, a state he's unlikely to see again in the general election. "You're gonna remember this day," he said, just before being lifted out of Hagerstown.

Open forum

Blindsided

It's not every day one is unfairly, publicly slandered by self-appointed value experts ("City to hold hearing on property sale," *The Daily Astorian*, April 19). It created a moment of self-reflection on working nine years for the Clatsop County Assessors Office, and 32-years as an independent fee appraiser in Clatsop County, responsible for valuing over \$115 million of residential property last year, and a career total of over \$2 billion in valuations, resulting in a corresponding dollar amount of local mortgages, estates, and marketed properties. I am proud of the work I've done for the community.

The situation presents a teachable moment, to inform the public about real estate appraisals. Appraisals are objective, unbiased opinions of real property value based on a description of the subject property and a supportable analysis of the most comparable sales.

While a value amount can easily be criticized by homeowners, borrowers, loan reps, realtors, engineers or other unintended users, I know professionally the set of comparables I've selected and analyzed yielded a report which is not matched or exceeded by others who choose biased or limited information. And, Real Market Values (RMVs) from the assessor, list prices, or Zillow "Zestimates" are usually just slanted, unsupported numbers.

So, I take the opportunity to assure Clatsop County, and especially the residents of the city of Astoria, that I was never aware of, participated in, or had any involvement in a conspiracy of the "Astoria Order of the Well-Connected."

The staff of the city of Astoria has always engaged appraisal services from me in a completely open, transparent and professional manner. I never accept assignments where I feel there are conditions which are not completely honest to all parties involved, including lands owned by the public.

I was totally blindsided on April 20 to read that the appraisals of three unique, limited-use properties in Astoria, with difficult access, challenging topographies, and restricted potential ownerships were somehow diabolically connected to the "AOWC."

STEVEN WEED
Gearhart

Voting for Dawn

Just a note to let people know that not all of the Warrenton City Council agrees with the mayor's endorsement of David Goldthorpe. After giving thought to the amount and types of experience listed in the array of articles that have appeared in *The Daily Astorian*, I endorse and will vote for Dawn McIntosh.

Furthermore, I have had several of her clients give me rave reviews of the level of service, energy and intellect that she brings to the job. I think anyone who considers the broad range of attributes Dawn possesses will agree with me. Hopefully, the voters will give this serious thought before casting their ballots for this office.

Once again, I support and will vote for Dawn McIntosh.

RICK NEWTON
Warrenton city commissioner

Judicial character

I have been chief deputy district attorney here in Clatsop County since January 2004. I have been a prosecutor for 29 years, and an attorney for 37 years. I have been Dave Goldthorpe's supervisor for the past six years.

In fact, I hired Dave over the phone because I was so impressed with his good attitude and family and work ethic. I have not been disappointed since. Dave is very conscientious about his work and he handles everything from major felonies to drug cases to sex abuse cases, and is a member of the Clatsop County Multi-Disciplinary Team, which deals with the county's issues of child abuse and neglect.

Dave is very easy to supervise because he has a great work ethic. He never complains, and always has a positive attitude. He has tried a lot of jury trials of all types, and is a veteran in the courtroom. He has the respect of the police, the private bar and the judiciary. I have never had a single complaint about either Dave's personal or professional conduct or decision-making.

Above all, Dave has far better judicial temperament than his opponents. Dave remains calm under fire and never reacts angrily. He is always fair and compassionate with victims.

Dave Golthorpe will make a great judge. You can count on it.

RON BROWN
Astoria

Dam concerns

Capitalism frequently grapples with saving money over saving nature, but what if one choice could be fiscally and environmentally responsible?

Our region faces such a solution. The Snake River, which confluences into the Columbia, boasts 15 dams providing largely hydroelectric uses. The four lower Snake River dams, however, prevent endangered chinook salmon from reaching critical spawning grounds.

High temperatures the last two years have obliterated lower river basin spawning habitat and, thus, chinook returns have hit unprecedented lows.

Experts predict Columbia chinook extinction by 2018. Commercial fishing will likely fall into major decline.

Regarding eco-tourism, our endangered Southern Resident Orca population relies primarily on Columbia basin chinook for food. Since their Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing in 2005, over 40 individuals have died due to conditions they may have survived had there been an adequate supply of salmon. Their extinction would equal nearly \$34 million in lost annual revenue.

Furthermore, we are in a power surplus, wherein removing the four lower dams would not cause power deficits. However, their continued upkeep wastes taxpayer money, as the return is only 15 cents on every dollar spent. So, are we willing to suffer the economic and environmental repercussions that come with doing nothing?

Call Obama at 202-456-1111 and encourage executive action to breach the dams immediately. Save our endangered species, save our tax dollars, and save our economy.

ARIEL YSETH
Lynnwood, Washington

Collective thanks

Congratulations and thank you to Columbia Pacific Common Sense and Columbia Riverkeeper for their work in opposing the liquefied natural gas (LNG) push to build a \$6 billion terminal and pipeline on the Skipanon Peninsula.

We, who have not been actively involved, have no idea of the time, physical and emotional energy and money that the activists, farmers, fishermen and estuary residents have put forth on this for the last several years. There are hundreds of us who thank you.

KATHY WEIGEL
Seaside

Woltjer for judge

I am voting for Ron Woltjer for Judge of the Circuit Court, 18th District, Position 2. I have known Judge Woltjer from my years in the Astoria Regional 911 Center, collaborating on audio evidence while he was senior deputy district attorney and through his years as judge for several municipalities in Clatsop County.

I suggest all voters review the voter's pamphlet, because it provides important details. I think his background, experience and temperament will shape his performance as an excellent Circuit Court judge. I recommend you vote for Ron Woltjer.

DICK LANG
Astoria