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U.S. Speaker of the House Paul Ryan gives a speech titled “Building a Confident America” in April, at Gaston Hall at Georgetown University in Washington.



AP Photo Andrew Harnik

The last sensible Republican leader

Speaker Paul Ryan gets grief for making a prudent choice

House Speaker Paul Ryan wants to do the fiscally responsible thing. And for that, he is getting grief from a faction of the U.S. House Republican caucus. The issue is Puerto Rico’s \$70 billion debt. On Monday the territory of Puerto Rico missed a \$422 million debt payment. The next step will be default.

Speaker Ryan favors a comprehensive solution. As *The Wall Street Journal* described it: “The legislation would create a federal oversight board with the power to approve or reject local budgets, and to approve plans for court-supervised debt restructuring. It wouldn’t commit taxpayer funds.”

Ryan argues that if Congress puts off dealing with the territory’s debt, the eventual financial burden will be much less manageable. In other words, Ryan wants to do the prudent thing.

Political side effects also should propel Republicans to act now. *The Journal* pointed out on Tuesday that the migration of young Puerto Ricans from the territory to Florida is raising the number of Democratic voters in that state, which is bad for the GOP’s prospects in the November elections and beyond.

The Journal noted that members of Congress don’t hear from their constituents on the Puerto Rican matter. Of course not. But Congress is charged with paying for an overseeing a vast enterprise that is the federal government. Letting Puerto Rico’s debt move to default would be an epic mistake.

As the national Republican Party devolves into a cacophony of name-calling and far-fetched schemes, Paul Ryan has quickly become the last sensible Republican leader.

Gearhart risks losing its singularity

Gearhart has been a reliable source of controversy and news for this newspaper. Starting with the advent of the Pacific Way Bakery and Cafe in 1988, various proposals have ignited fierce disagreement among the town’s year-round residents and seasonal residents. Golf course condominiums, a barn event center and short-term house rentals have been divisive.

On Tuesday night, the Gearhart City Council voted 3-1 (Mayor Diane Widdop was absent) to permit the owner of the Gearhart Grocery to convert the space into a brew pub. Opponents of this plan noted that the brew pub concept would be at odds with the city’s comprehensive plan.

In different manifestations over decades, Gearhart’s grocery has been one of the town’s hallmarks. It is difficult to think of Gearhart without one.

The larger choice which city leaders must face is where the conflicting forces are taking Gearhart. And do they have the gumption to draw a line. Among Oregon’s residential beach communities, Gearhart has been unique. With each new accommodation of commercial and financial pressure, Gearhart risks losing its singularity.

FYI:

Clippings from the press of the Pacific Northwest and the nation

Anybody but Avakian

All three candidates in this race—Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian, state Sen. Richard Devlin (D-Tualatin) and state Rep. Val Hoyle (D-Eugene) — bring strong political résumés to the race.

But it’s what they would do with the job that sets them apart—and makes it crucial that voters rally behind anybody but Avakian.

Avakian is pledging to be all

Trump, the party, and the Lord’s work

By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
New York Times News Service

Like many others, I watched the video that President Barack Obama showed at the White House Correspondents’ Dinner on Saturday of him inviting former House Speaker John Boehner over to solicit his advice on what Obama should do post-presidency.

It was remarkable to see the real Boehner and the real Obama acting like best buddies in the White House movie theater.

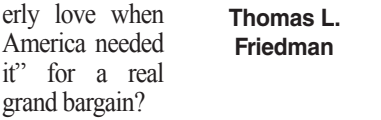
Boehner even tells Obama that he finally got a “grand bargain” — only it was on a Chevy Tahoe, not the one they tried to negotiate on the economy.

I watched that video with Chuck Todd, the host of “Meet the Press,” and he had the exact same reaction I had: “Where was that brotherly love when America needed it” for a real grand bargain?

That scene plucked the deepest emotional chord in the country today: The nonstop fighting between our two political parties has left many Americans feeling like the children of two permanently divorcing parents. The country is starved to see its two major parties do big hard things together again. And getting a glimpse — even just a pretend one — of Obama and Boehner teaming up reminds you what’s been lost.

I think what’s propelling Donald Trump’s success more than anything is the feeling of many Americans that our politics are totally stuck. There is an overwhelming sense of “stuckness” — and the fantasy that Trump plays to, and plays up, is that he can pull the sword from the stone and do deals. No one was more responsible for this “stuckness,” though, than today’s Republican Party. When Mitch McConnell, the GOP leader in the Senate, said in October 2010 that “the single most important thing we want to achieve is for President Obama to be a one-term president,” he described the Republicans’ dominant strategy since 2008. The party stopped thinking seriously about market-based alternatives. Into that emptiness entered Trump, like an invasive species.

This was a really bad time for us to be stuck. I’m just finishing writing a new book, which is partly about the inflection point we hit around 2007. In 2007, Apple



Thomas L. Friedman

came out with the iPhone, beginning the smartphone/apps revolution; in late 2006 Facebook opened its doors to anyone, not just college and high school students, and took off like a rocket; Google came out with the Android operating system in 2007; Hadoop launched in 2007, helping create the storage/processing power for the big data revolution; Github, launched in 2007, scaling open-source software; Twitter was spun off as its own separate platform in 2007. Amazon came out with the Kindle in 2007. Airbnb started in 2007.

In short, on the eve of Obama’s presidency, something big happened: Everything started getting digitized and made mobile — work, commerce, billing, finance, education — reshaping the economy. A lot of things started to get very fast all at once. It was precisely when we needed to double down on our formula for success and update it for a new era — more lifelong learning opportunities for every worker, better infrastructure (roads, airports, rails and bandwidth) to promote the flow of commerce, better rules to incentivize risk-taking and prevent recklessness, better immigration policies to attract the world’s smartest minds, and more government-funded research to push out the boundaries of science and sow the seeds for the next generation of startups.

That was the real grand bargain we needed. Instead, we had the 2008 economic meltdown, which set off more polarization, and way too much gridlock, given how much rethinking, reimagining and retooling we needed to do. In this vortex a lot of the public got unmoored and disoriented, opening the way for populists with simple answers. Get rid of immigrants, end trade with

Open forum

Vote for Woltjer

It’s a little tough to figure out how to vote for a judge. We don’t often get to see them “judging,” and will rarely come in contact with them during the year in our everyday lives. In this election for Circuit Court judge, all of the candidates have worked for Josh Marquis in a very well-run district attorney’s office. So I’m making my decision for a candidate based on what I know on a personal level.

Ron Woltjer, his wife Cindee, and their kids have been very active in our community and our schools. They are volunteering kinds of folks, easy to talk to and willing to do the dirty work. Ron has a calm demeanor and is a good listener.

He is intelligent, reliable, and kind to others. He’s a kid person, and dog person, and has raised a family while working as an attorney and a judge, giving of his time and effort.

Judge Nelson was also involved in the community, a great listener and reliable. The times I was in court on jury duty, I found him very considerate of all involved in the legal system. I feel confident that Ron Woltjer would exhibit those same qualities. Please give him a good look before casting your ballot.


BOB ELLSBERG
Astoria

Vote for Goldthorpe

It is an honor to write a letter of recommendation on behalf of David Goldthorpe as he seeks the position of Circuit Court judge for Clatsop County.

David is active in his profession, community and church. He proudly serves on many committees, including the Warrenton-Hammond School Budget Committee, where I have the pleasure of serving with him. David is an elected delegate on the Oregon State Bar House of Delegates. He has an excellent reputation, the highest ethical standards and is truly looked up to and respected by all those who know him well.

In addition, he is very respectful. He listens and remains completely neutral and fair. He is a meticulous lifelong learner, and his knowledge and love of the law is excellent and above reproach. His legal expertise is recognized,



AP Photo/Mary Altaffer
Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is joined by his daughter Ivanka, left, and son Eric, background left, as he speaks during a primary night news conference Tuesday in New York.

came out with the iPhone, beginning the smartphone/apps revolution; in late 2006 Facebook opened its doors to anyone, not just college and high school students, and took off like a rocket; Google came out with the Android operating system in 2007; Hadoop launched in 2007, helping create the storage/processing power for the big data revolution; Github, launched in 2007, scaling open-source software; Twitter was spun off as its own separate platform in 2007. Amazon came out with the Kindle in 2007. Airbnb started in 2007.

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as he has served as an adjunct professor of criminal justice at Clatsop Community College. He currently serves as an instructor at the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, and is a vital team member of the Clatsop County Adult Drug Court.

Most importantly, David and his wife, Jennifer, are the proud parents of four beautiful children. He is invested in his children’s lives and activities. He serves as treasurer and assistant den leader for the Warrenton Cub Scouts, as well as basketball coach and soccer coach for his children’s teams.

I believe David Goldthorpe will be an excellent Circuit Court judge for Clatsop County.

DEBBIE MORROW
Chairwoman,
Warrenton-Hammond School Board

Rationality is key

Oh boy; It’s getting close to election time again. It seems like every time there is a national election, some folks seem to go a little nuts. Perfectly rational individuals spout a most perplexing amount of ingested drivel, garnered mostly from the plethora of news programs that occupy time slots on our television channels.

For some reason these individuals’ brains tend to switch to standby, and they become true believers of every word that the particular talking head they are watching spouts, no matter how lacking in factual basis their rhetoric may be. We seem to forget that, for the most part, these boob tube reporters are not reporting the news, but sharing personal, or network, opinion in an attempt to sway our views to match theirs, and thus drive home their vision of a better and brighter tomorrow.

What, you may well ask, is my point? Well I urge you to maintain some semblance of rationality, and think before you cast your ballot. Do not just vote for someone because they look good, or because they represent a certain political party, or because the talking heads tell you to.

Vote for the individuals whom you honestly believe have the ability, power and wherewithal to make decisions and changes that will be necessary to help

China or eliminate big banks and all will be fine. It’s nonsense.

We got strong as a country through democracy and capitalism. We got rich as a country through trade. We got smart and powerful as a country through immigration. We got fair as a country through Social Security, Medicare and Obamacare. They all lead to vastly more winners than losers. This is no time to lose confidence in what got us here. If you’re running for president and are not for all these things, you’re wrong — and I hope you lose.

But if you’re for these things only as they now exist, you’re also wrong. Each one needs retooling. It’s clear: Free trade with China has hurt more people than originally thought. It’s clear: Low-skilled illegal immigration has hurt more American workers than we’ve fully understood. (And more high-skilled immigration in a knowledge age would enhance our economy more than most people understand.) It’s clear: Social Security, Medicare and Obamacare all need fixes to remain sustainable. It’s clear: Capitalism driven more by machines and robots poses new challenges for both white-collar and blue-collar workers.

Every one of these challenges can be met if we put our heads and hands together. For that to happen, though, this version of the Republican Party had to be destroyed, so a thinking center-right party can emerge. If that is what Trump has done, he’s done the Lord’s work. We also we need Democrats to be a center-left party, though, and not let Bernie Sanders pull them to the far left. If both happen, maybe something good can actually emerge from this crazy election.

this great nation continue to prosper. Vote for representation that will protect and brighten your economic future, and not for those that make hollow promises of prosperity, but actually have no way to pay for the programs they espouse.

I believe that we should all tell the media, the political parties and factions who seek to badger us into accepting things that we don’t want because we might be ostracized, to take a hike and support those candidates who have the business sense and the tenacity to accomplish the job, without condescending to any groups or lobbies that seek to radically change our national beliefs and morals.

That is just my opinion; I could be wrong.

DAVID GRAVES
Astoria

Vote for McIntosh

Dawn McIntosh is an exceptional candidate for Circuit Court judge. I have practiced law for over 50 years, before a number of judges. Through my experience, I’ve witnessed the qualities that, in my opinion, make an exceptional judge. I believe these qualities are: Someone who believes in equality, is respectful of others and is dedicated to the bench. I believe Dawn McIntosh possesses all of these qualities.

First, and exceptional judge is one who treats all who walk through the door equally. Dawn will listen; she will be present. She will treat all those who enter her courtroom fairly.

Second, an exceptional judge is respectful. She will respect the law. She will respect those who believe in it, and she will respect those who challenge it.

Lastly, an exceptional judge is dedicated. Dawn has over 20 years’ experience with the law. She is motivated, determined and passionate. Through her experience she has proven that she will be successful as Circuit Court judge. She will share her talents with our community; please don’t ignore her gift.

To my fellow voters, I ask you to join me in voting for someone who is fair, respectful and dedicated. Join me in voting for Dawn McIntosh for Circuit Court.

PAT LAVIS
Astoria