

'Bart to the Future'

Did Donald Trump's emergence as a presidential contender surprise you? Did it seem sudden to you? Well, we just weren't paying attention...

"Bart to the Future" first aired March 19, 2000, just over 16 years ago. Slacker Bart is given a vision of his slacker future hanging around the White House...

How's that for prognostication? I guess it takes a wicked sense of humor to anticipate this election season.

STEWART BELL
Astoria

A man who cares

I will be voting for my husband, David Goldthorpe, for Circuit Court judge in Clatsop County.

I first met David when we were 12 years old. Even then, David stood out as a kind, hard working and thoughtful friend. Our friendship grew over time...

As the years have passed, I have watched as those simple traits I noticed years ago have helped David develop into a compassionate and hard working lawyer. I visited Dave many times late in the evening...

For the past month, I have watched as Dave has worked from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., come home to eat dinner with our family, leave to knock on doors in our community...

I graduated in elementary education and taught school for a living. My husband and I have very different educational backgrounds. I cannot quote case law, but I can tell you the type of person I would want as a judge...

David's work history and character have prepared him to be just such a judge. Dave is honest, fair and knowledgeable. As a judge, Dave will not be influenced by how much you spent on your lawyer...

David has experience and integrity, and I encourage you to join me in voting for him as our next Circuit Court judge.

JENNIFER GOLDTHORPE
Warrenton

Set record straight

Over the last year, I have attended every Gearhart City Council and Planning Committee meeting dealing with vacation home regulations. I think it is now time to correct conclusions presented by some residents...

According to the 2010 census, Gearhart had 1,450 housing units but only 649 households. The remaining 801 housing units included 723 for vacation use. The balance was vacant as either for sale or rent...

At the March 15 Planning Commission, Commissioner Terry Graff posited that with 100 percent occupancy of all the vacation rental homes in Gearhart, the population would swell to over 53,000 with over 17,000 cars...

Judd Todd's recent letter, "No more short-term rentals" (Seaside Signal, April 29) referenced "small investors, who realized they could buy single family homes and capitalize on their investments by renting them out regularly..."

We purchased our home in 2005. At the time it was a long-term rental in an extreme state of disrepair. It took a substantial investment of time and money to return the home to a livable condition...

There is a grave misconception that vacation-home owners are rich Portlanders who have no regard for the city or their neighbors, and only care about making money. Nothing could be further from the truth.

We have never made a profit renting our home, quite the contrary. I would be happy to privately submit audited P&L statements showing

losses in excess of \$15,000 per year (and some years more). Our intent was not to create a "commercial business." It was to buy a home for our family to enjoy for a lifetime...

JIM WHITEMORE
Gearhart

Worthy of the vote

Rarely do I publicly endorse a candidate running for any office, but Dawn McIntosh is worthy of my vote.

I have been working with the most vulnerable homeless population in Clatsop County for over 14 years, and I know that one of the best ways to serve this population is to understand the obstacles people face to re-enter society.

With the explosion of homelessness in the last 12 years, and the complexities that come with it, I have watched our court system adopt drug court, treatment court and other important programs to find comprehensive and understanding ways to address complicated issues...

Over the years, I have sat in the courtrooms of Judge Nelson, Matyas and Brownhill, and observed their dedication to assisting people in alternative ways, other than jail, to deal with legal issues and give everyone a fair shake.

These programs are important to our legal system, and to properly run any of these programs takes understanding of our community and experience. As I look at the options to fill the position I have to ask myself who I think is qualified...

I have known Dawn McIntosh both personally and professionally for many years. Dawn has always worked hard to help and understand our vulnerable population. In the last 14 years she is the only candidate I have seen gaining that experience in Clatsop County.

ALAN EVANS
Seaside

Cares for county

Once again, after attending an informal meet and greet candidate event, I have walked away being more aware, more comfortable and more involved in our community. Isn't that what local government is about?

Community involvement, and our voices being heard?

Kathleen Sullivan introduced herself as a newbie running for a position in local government. She lives and works in Clatsop County, and is not lacking in community awareness.

CLAUDIA RUSSELL
Astoria

Thanks for the help

Almost every day, The Daily Astorian editorial page is full of Donald Trump. His photo was even on the front page of USA Today right alongside the Pope's.

I have seen him and/or his name, in headlines in sports sections, financial sections and entertainment sections, besides news sections and op-ed pages in The Daily Astorian, The Oregonian, The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, and The New York Times every single day since his announced seeking of the Republican nomination...

He says he hates the press, and the press says it hates him, but they cannot help themselves, I suppose, and give him all the publicity for which he yearns, and without which, he must surely have realized, his chances of being nominated for candidacy were zero.

A fellow named Donald was rich, For the prez he had an itch; They say he is bad, But they've been had, 'Cause he's made the press his bitch.

LOUIS SARGENT
Gearhart

Alley for governor

As a business person, I know the importance of investment in the future, but with every investment there must be a worthwhile return.

For the past 30 years, one political party in Oregon has called the shots. In the last decade alone, they've passed 5,000 bills, increased spending by 63 percent and spent \$400,000 per classroom on K-12 education.

So what are the returns? Oregon continues to lag behind our neighbors and the rest of the country. Our house-

holds make almost \$2,500 less than their counterparts around the country, and over \$10,000 less than households in California and Washington. Our unemployment rate is higher than the national rate...

It doesn't take an experienced executive to see that something is wrong, but it might take one to fix it. That is why I am supporting Oregon entrepreneur Allen Alley for governor.

With an idea and \$10,000 Allen Alley created a billion dollar company; with \$500 million, Salem created a broken website and a bridge to nowhere. We can do better Oregon, and with Allen Alley, we will.

WAYNE TROSINO
Portland

Council listened

Many thanks to the Astoria City Council and staff for the recent safety improvements to the traffic flow at the Eighth Street and Irving Avenue intersection. I believe there will be fewer close calls due to the new stop sign and explanatory signs.

It is gratifying to know that when citizens express their concerns, the council listens to them.

JOANN WILTRAKIS
Astoria

Mindfulness

Lately there has been a lot written about the subject of mindfulness. I guess it means to be alert and present to all that is going on around us.

Our creator blessed us with five senses: sight, hearing, taste, smell and touch. It seems so easy when we're not practicing mindfulness to get bored. Often our focus is our ourselves and our ailments or problems. I've found out that if I get my mind off myself and become mindful of all the joy and wonder my five senses provide, my spirits are lifted.

On my "Morning Trail of Surprises," I often see a regal eagle soaring. I hear a woodpecker pecking on a tree, birds singing a melodious tune. I feel the touch of a gentle breeze on my cheek coming off our mighty Columbia River...

Missing the blessings of your five senses? Why not treat yourself to their blessings, and activate them with a renewed mindfulness.

JIM BERNARD
Warrenton

TV LISTINGS THURSDAY Evening listings THURSDAY MAY 5

Table with columns for time slots (6 PM, 6:30, 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30) and rows for various TV channels (KATU, KOMO, KOIN, KIRO, KGW, KRCW, KOPB, KPVT, KPDX, KCPO, KZJO, ESPN, etc.) listing programs and times.

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