

## Kudos to shelter

Open letter to the Clatsop County Animal Shelter: Thank you for all for all the time and effort and love that you guys give to the animals you take in. It really does take a special person to donate as much time as you guys do.

I am very excited to have the opportunity to volunteer and help the animals at the shelter. I absolutely love the fact that our shelter is such a low kill one, even with how small it is. It is awesome that you take the extra time to help the disabled animals, knowing that they might find a special place in someone's heart. I can't wait to volunteer more, and get to know what you do even more. Thank you for that opportunity.

HEATHER BALLARD  
Astoria

## Singled out

How sad and ironic that the tradition of the Warrenton Warriors mascot, which has been part of the school since around the 1920s to the present day, may possibly be gone forever.

When I saw the newspaper clipping of the helmet with the spear and feather running through the W, my first thought was, "what a well done, artistic rendition of the logo" ("Warrior mascot changes, but not enough for some," *The Daily Astorian*, April 13).

There is nothing offensive about it as far as I'm concerned, even if someone thinks it's not accurate. It's called artistic license to do a rendition of the logo, which some might not consider as being politically correct. Which to me, now, is way overdone, and I ask: What has happened to common sense in this country?

What makes anyone think Native Americans are not being honored by the imagery on the district's Warriors mascot? When I heard about all the controversy, I inquired if there were protests or petitions to change anything by the local Native American people regarding the warrior name and mascot, and was told there were none.

I question what was the reason given by the state board of education to enact a ban on Native American mascots in 2012. Why single out one mascot group?

I understand all this controversy was started by a high school student in another district in the state, for a senior project, objecting to Native American depictions in schools as being objectionable to him. Why have the views of one student become more important than the voices of many people who have made their viewpoint known at meetings?

VIRGINIA E.  
(WOFFORD) HOLDENER  
Warrenton High School  
Class of 1954  
Vacaville, California

## Honor his memory

On May 22, it will have been 36 years since James D. Shepherd, a sergeant with the Oregon State Police, assigned to the Astoria station, was ambushed on a lonely dirt road in 1980 by Michael E. Sture. He was shot and left to die.

In 2006, the Marine Corps League, Detachment 1228 in Astoria was formed. The membership, looking for projects and programs that might help benefit our community and our local law enforcement within Clatsop County, decided to recognize those in law enforcement that we felt were both outstanding in their performance of duties and community policing.

Chosen by the membership as coordinator for the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year awards within Clatsop County, I, as a life member in the league, and the staff of Detachment 1228, chose to honor Sgt. Shepherd and to name the award in his name.

The Law Enforcement Officer of the Year was awarded to: in 2007, Kenneth McCoy, Clatsop County Sheriff's Office; in 2008, Kenneth Hansen, Astoria Police Department; in 2009, James Pierce, OSP; in 2010, Michael Nelsen, Sheriff's Office; in 2011, Eric Halverson, APD; in 2012, Matt Beeson, OSP; and in 2013, Tom Guest, Sheriff's Office.

Additional awards were given for runner-up, superior and outstanding achievement,



## Thanks volunteers for a memorable job fair

Last month, the second annual Clatsop County High Schools Career and Job Fair was held at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds.

The focus of the career & job fair was threefold: 1) Employers from throughout Clatsop County hiring for positions for immediate employment, and summer jobs. 2) Sharing vocational and career technical careers available that provide family wage jobs, including a pathway through Clatsop Community College and 3) Sharing with our students going away to four year colleges and universities that they can come home after graduation and find a fulfilling career in Clatsop County.

More than 700 students from Astoria, Jewell, Knappa, Seaside & Warrenton High Schools attended.

Sixty-eight businesses participated, more than last year. Many companies hired students on the spot!

Business evaluations were very positive, and said the kids were very wellorganized this year. The student responses continually stated they were unaware of all the job and career options we have in Clatsop County, and were excited of the potential.

Clatsop Economic Development Resources (CEDR) partnered with the Oregon Employment Department (WorkSource Northwest Oregon and Pacific NW Works) to organize and facilitate this event, but we could have not done it without the over 20 community volunteers who came to twice monthly planning meetings for months, and of course the schools who invested their time with us to

make this experience for our kids so memorable

Everyone worked collaboratively to ensure success of this countywide event for our students, and inspired all involved!

Take a look at [www.clatsopjobfair.com](http://www.clatsopjobfair.com) for more information. This is the new "go to" website, created by Jim Servino from the Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce.

We are already starting planning for next year, but I could not let the file close on this year without acknowledging our volunteers.

KEVIN LEAHY  
executive director,  
Clatsop Economic Development  
Resources (CEDR) and Clatsop  
Community College Small  
Business Development Center

special and reserve, to the Seaside, Gearhart, Warrenton and Astoria police departments, the U.S. Coast Guard and the Sheriff's Office.

After I left the position of coordinator, and transferred from Detachment 1228 to at-large, the Marine Corps League decided not to continue sponsoring the awards.

As the 36th anniversary of the passing of James Shepherd nears, I ask that all who knew Jim will remember who he was, what he did for his family and community. We send our prayers and blessing to his widow, Virginia Shepherd, who still resides in Clatsop County.

We honored Jim through Virginia, who was our special guest each year at our awards event. She is and always will be very special to my wife, Betsy, and I.

MEL JASMIN  
Warrenton

## Thanks, teachers

Open letter to Knappa High School teachers: Thank you for making me feel like I mattered. My name is Andrea Burnard, and I'm a student at Knappa High School. I wanted to do my best in your classes to impress you. Skipping your class or not doing your homework wasn't an option because I didn't want to let you down. I would work really hard on assignments for your class, and I would be extra excited knowing your class was coming up sometime in the day.

You transformed a class I had to go to into a little spot of sunshine in my day, as I couldn't wait to be in your presence for an entire 50 minutes. You fed me your knowledge, and taught me life lessons. Overall, you made my high school experience really special, and you have truly helped me prepare for college.

Teachers like you are undervalued, but to the students, you mean everything.

ANDREA BURNARD  
Astoria

## Fewer nursing beds

The recent article "Clatsop Care Center to relocate some residents" (*The Daily Astorian*, April 25) did a good job of explaining the decision to reduce bed capacity due to

staffing issues. What it did not address is the changes made at the state level that have serious impacts to providing long-term nursing home care in this community.

In 2013, the state passed HB 2216, which mandated a reduction of nursing home beds across the state. Rural communities are held to the same reductions as the metropolitan areas, even though communities like ours only have one nursing home facility that serves a large geographic region that includes southwest Washington.

Only 309 the initial target of reducing 1,500 nursing home beds by Dec. 31 were achieved. This now means that the state will cut the amount of reimbursement we would have received for care by the percentage that they did not achieve.

Closure of nursing home beds shifts care to community-based care, which is considerably less expensive. Community-based care means a care setting that does not exist primarily for the purpose of providing nursing/medical care, but where nursing care is incidental to the setting.

This community is fortunate to have Clatsop Care Health District and the tax revenues, approximately \$500,000 per year, to offset the decline we receive from the state. Currently, over 70 percent of our long-term care population at Clatsop Care Center receives Medicaid assistance. Without this tax money, we would not be able to serve such a high level of Medicaid residents.

However, the amount of subsidy we now need to operate beds at the Care Center, and our other facilities in the district, has exceeded the total tax revenues received and limits the district on providing wage increases needed to compete with other health facilities in the area.

The state has been successful in their efforts to reduce nursing home beds in the state. Since 2013, they have taken a total of 309 beds offline. This is fine in regions such as Portland, where there are more choices for placement opportunities for those who need these services. In our community, we continue to be the only choice for nursing home beds, and as a district,

we stay committed to providing these services despite the efforts from the state to close facilities.

NICOLE WILLIAMS  
CEO, Clatsop Care Health  
District

## Goldthorpe is right

I would like to voice my endorsement for David Goldthorpe for Circuit Court judge. Serving a career in law enforcement in Clatsop County taught me that it is imperative that the right person be placed into a judicial seat who will do the right thing with those who will appear in court. He will apply the law in the correct way and be fair to all, whether guilty or not. He will also be fair towards the law enforcement officers as they work with the courts to do the jobs that need to be done.

I worked my early years with the Seaside Police Department and Warrenton Police Department before joining the Oregon State Police. I served a full career with the State Police and for the past 20 years of it, I was responsible for or supervised the handling of all fatal traffic collisions that occurred in Clatsop County.

Many of those collisions involved individuals who were impaired or distracted in their driving. Most of those cases were prosecuted by the Clatsop County District Attorney's Office for charges that would include criminal negligent homicide to manslaughter. David Goldthorpe has a hand in cases that were successfully prosecuted near the end of my State Police career.

I have seen many judges come and go in the many counties that I have worked in. Some of these judges were all talk and no action, while others were very good at their jobs. Believe me, David Goldthorpe understands the needs of the people and of law enforcement, and will serve the citizens of Clatsop County very well.

When you think about all that it takes to be a Circuit Court judge, there is really no way not to place David Goldthorpe to the front of the voter's mind. I give him my full endorsement for the position of Clatsop County Circuit Court judge.

JAMES PIERCE  
Warrenton

## Care needed

There are challenges to treating mental illnesses in Clatsop County. Columbia Memorial Hospital is not certified to have custody of the mentally ill. The patients have to find a psychiatric hospital somewhere else in the state, and sometimes it is hard and expensive to find a hospital somewhere else.

It would be nice if CMH could get certified to have custody of the mentally ill, to make it easier for the patients to get the care they need.

HANNAH OLSON  
Astoria

## Thanks for the help

The families and friends of the Warrenton Grade School Library are awesome. Fifteen years ago this spring, our library faced a tight economy with little or no district funds for new books. In talking with teacher friends from the Portland area, we decided to try a fundraiser: selling frozen cookie dough.

Oh my. It was an amazing success. And, even as economic times improved, and with renewed support by the district for books and materials, we continued the fundraiser all these years with proceeds now also going to support visits by authors, illustrators, and/or storytellers.

In looking at our spreadsheets for these past 15 years, I am amazed at the support shown by our Warrenton community: As of this year's sale, our Warrenton Grade School Library has received over \$63,800 since we began this fundraiser. Wow!

On behalf of the students and teachers of Warrenton Grade School, I send our families my heartfelt thanks for such generosity.

KATHI MERRITT  
Media specialist,  
Warrenton Grade School  
Library

## One of a kind

was not compatible and sustainable economic development for Oregon's North Coast. Thoughtful Clatsop County citizens are in favor of sustainable economic development which is compatible with the heritage, culture

and resources here. Oregon LNG did not fit any of those categories.

Respected local, regional and national organizations charged with looking at the long term consequences of industry to the health and well-being of the Columbia River Estuary, salmon and wildlife knew this, as did local citizens, who spent countless hours doing the research and showing up at meetings to testify.

Twenty-seven percent of the jobs in Clatsop County are tourism related. Travel dollars coming into Clatsop County in 2002 were \$300 million; in 2014, it was \$516.7 million. Oregon LNG would have threatened our growing tourism economy.

While it might have provided some short-term jobs, there would have been long-term economic pain. These short-term jobs, when over, could have resulted in folks going on unemployment. It was a fallacy that LNG would have provided sustainable jobs for locals. Oregon LNG would have cost jobs and cost us the environment.

This place belongs to the world because of the rich history of Lewis & Clark and the vision of John Jacob Astor. It has had an important place on the world stage for over two centuries, and it has a vital and important place now. Today the communities of Astoria and Warrenton are international tourism destinations because of their heritage, culture and beauty.

Heavy and dangerous industry would have changed the Columbia Pacific region's character forever and undermined our thriving visitor economy, which is booming now and can continue to grow, provided we are considered a beautiful and safe destination. The North Coast has a responsibility to preserve the Lewis & Clark legacy, our important American history and our unique national story which exists here, in this one-of-a-kind geographic location.

Oregon LNG would have destroyed over 100 acres of critical endangered salmon habitat in the Columbia River estuary, done great harm to our water quality, negatively impacted a healthy commercial and recreational fishing industry, threatened public safety — the list of reasons why this was a bad idea is long.

Oregon LNG — with their expensive lawyers and compromised scientists, smoke and mirrors public relations campaigns and questionable findings — shimmered alluringly with promises it would not have been able to keep. Thank you to Columbia Riverkeeper and Oregonians everywhere for protecting what is, in essence, a World Heritage Site. Astoria, which helped define the western boundary of the U.S., is a rare jewel which belongs to everyone.

DONNA QUINN  
Astoria

## Very grateful

This is for all low-kill animal shelters, including our local Clatsop County Shelter: You are truly amazing for donating the time to give the animals a second chance at a better life. I know many shelters believe that once they have hit capacity, someone has to go. I'm very grateful that you don't think that way. If you did, I would have missed out on the best dog, who has spent 12 years with me, and still counting. My hope is that some day all shelters have the heart to stop killing, just because they don't have room.

BAILEY CORDER  
Astoria

## Always a Warrior

I am writing about the debate to change the Warrenton High School mascot. Our family has proudly graduated "Warrior" alumni for nearly a century. The WHS logo has always been about school pride in a positive context. If the high school is forced to change their six-generation logo, it will be the perfect example of political correctness gone amuck.

JOY (WHEATLEY)  
MAZEIKAS  
Warrenton High School  
Class of 1967  
Salem