

Thank you

I can't believe graduation is almost here for the class of 2016. Most of us can say that without many important people in our lives, we wouldn't be where we are today. To our family, friends, schools, teachers, coaches and role models: we owe you so much. When bad and heart-breaking events have occurred in our everyday lives, it seems like our communities have grown stronger and closer together.

To you, Clatsop County citizens, I say thank you for making a difference in the lives of all 2016 graduates.

CHANEL KELLY
Knappa High School
Class of 2016
Astoria

Take care

I read, with great interest, two separate articles about the environment in *The Daily Astorian* ("Speak now on coal exports upriver," May 3) and *The Oregonian*, which would have been enlightening to run side by side.

The Daily Astorian piece addresses the plan to establish two behemoth coal distribution plants on the Columbia River. The terminals would store and deliver large deposits of coal that will be brought by train to Longview-Kelso, Washington, then shipped to Asia.

The proposal speaks to the creation of jobs in the area, tax receipts, and the betterment of the economy. Little shrift has been given to the potential for disastrous, domino-effect occurrences should one of the container ships hit foul weather, as is predicted. The Northwest isn't immune to severe weather.

The people of Oregon recently turned "thumbs-down" on a proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant in Warrenton at the mouth of the Columbia River for many reasons, but mostly in light of what a study proposed would happen if a container ship was blown off course. The resulting explosion would literally wipe out most of the local area from Warrenton to Astoria.

This is an extreme example, and additionally, the degradation of building a pipeline and placing a natural gas plant in an ecologically and industry-sensitive area is beyond comprehension. The proponents stated they could guarantee safety and preventative maintenance for the plants and the ships, taking natural gas to Asia for sale. Who really benefits from this folly?

The Oregonian article is about coral reefs being decimated by the acidification of our oceans. Carbon dioxide accumulations are degrading calcium-producing organisms — such as crab, lobster, shrimp, clams, etc. — and threatening their existence. The increased amount of carbon dioxide in our oceans has been proven to be largely contributed by mankind.

Fish species depend on coral reefs to sustain their lives. Loss of this habitat will affect all of us. As the oceans go ... so do we. We are all dependent on our ecosystems for our quality and sustainability of life as we now enjoy it.

I am not a bleeding-heart, liberal tree hugger. I support sustainable business and ecological-friendly business practices. Some businesses are currently working to help nature recover; solar and wind power are but a small part of this endeavor.

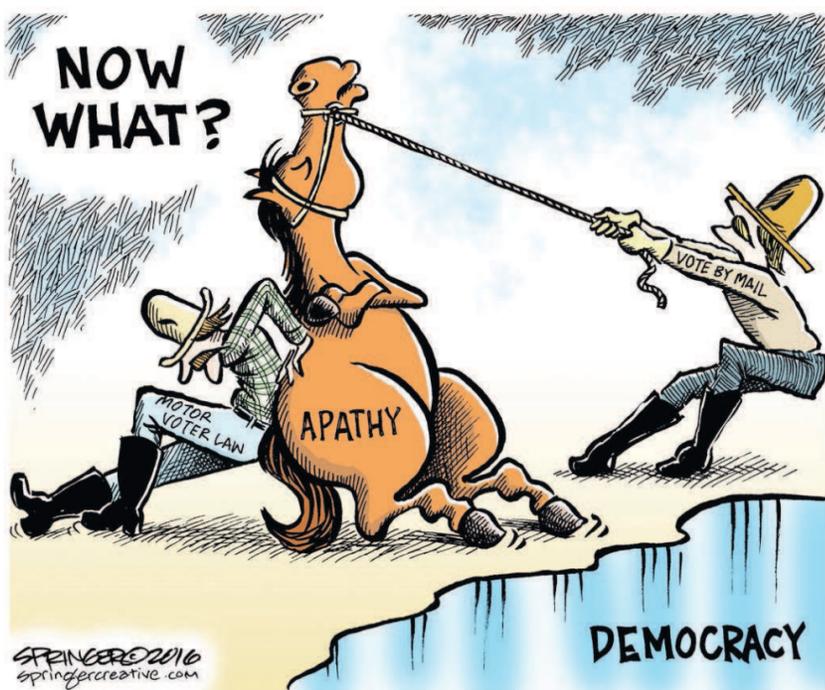
If each of us recycles, puts compost into a recovery system and relies more on public transportation, statistical models indicate our planet would be thankful in so many ways. We either take care of Mother Nature, or she will take care of us — and not necessarily in a good way.

JOHN CROWLEY
Gearhart

Political thoughts

It is Tuesday evening on May 17 at 7:21 p.m. I have not heard anything about voting results and I shouldn't, because there is still time for people to vote and drop their ballots into a special ballot drop box.

But what I have heard is very unsettling. Watching



Ring of Fire news on my computer, I learned that Hilary Clinton has made a statement that when she is elected she is going to put Bill in charge of our economy. Bill Clinton, the man who sent one million American jobs overseas, and strongly favors all trade policies which gut American jobs.

Bill Clinton who signed the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, which repealed part of the Glass-Steagall Act, which led to the big financial explosion and bank bailout in 2008. Bill Clinton, who signed the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which brought us Big Brother Media (many different voices saying the same propaganda), higher prices for consumers, and caused the loss of half a million jobs. That Bill Clinton. Don't you feel better already?

And then, if that was not enough, I watched Mike Papantonio and Thom Hartmann talk about who is hosting the Democratic Convention. The 2016 Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia will be hosted by Republican donors, corporate executives, and anti-Obamacare lobbyists. According to an Intercept article, the 15 member Host Committee is composed of the same old Republican moneybags that bankrolled Republicans in past elections.

I left the Democratic party years ago when I realized it was corrupt. I suggest that all Democrats who realize that the present "Democratic Party" does not represent them do the same.

And then for the grand finale of the evening. A forthcoming book by Bob Fittrakis and Harvey Wasserman, "The Strip & Flip Selection Of 2016: Five Jim Crows & Electronic Election Theft," all about electronic election theft. Eighty percent of the votes that will be cast in the 2016 general election will be cast on electronic voting machines — which can have their records altered by a governor or secretary of state with just a few keystrokes. The solution? Observable hand counting of ballots.

I think Oregon has one of the best voting programs in our country. But it is still hackable. We should do something about that. It wouldn't be hard.

DIXIE GAINER
Nehalem

Do your job

A recent letter "Coal fired" (*The Daily Astorian*, May 13), was submitted by Tom Harris, executive director of the International Climate Coalition, Ottawa, Canada. It would have been nice had a note been added that Mr. Harris is not a climate scientist, but a former energy industry public relations consultant.

It might have also been helpful to note that the so-called coalition is primarily a climate denial organization that is funded by a Chicago-based front group for the energy industry. Go even further, and you will find the various members of this "coalition" have either zero, or highly questionable credentials within climate science, and are all paid by organizations created by and funded by energy industry monies.

As a former newspaperman and editor myself, I

asked myself why would a publication serving Clatsop County publish a letter from Ottawa, Canada, commenting on an Associated Press story about the presidential campaign? I understand that exporting coal via the Columbia River is a current local issue. But Ottawa? What's the connection, I wondered? So I did the simple thing any news organization would (or at least should) do — I looked further.

It was easy to find plenty of information about these folks, who are receiving money from the energy industry to spread official sounding pseudo-science denial about climate change and to support fossil fuel-based industries.

It was also fairly easy to find information about Ottawa, the electric prices, job losses and net job gains (yes, they are up a net 60,000 jobs) as they make the necessary transition towards a sustainable energy future that doesn't sacrifice the environment for profit today. It's not the doom and gloom Mr. Harris would have you believe.

Newspaper people seem to be baffled at why the public doesn't trust them. I think this is a good example. You gave this energy industry propaganda organization free publicity on an important topic that, as you well know, many of your readers care about. In my opinion, you should have added an editor's note explaining who Harris is, what his organization does and where they get their money. You might find people trust you better when you do your job correctly.

BILL GRAFFIUS
Gearhart

No secrets

I am writing to correct misconceptions created by reporting in your paper on a management review of the Oregon Department of Transportation ("Delay in ODOT review could hamper transportation plan," *The Daily Astorian*, April 5).

As chairwoman of the ODOT Management Review Committee, we are a small working group that was selected to help engage an independent third party to examine the management practices at ODOT. While this group is serving in an advisory capacity to the governor, it is not a decision-making body. Our meetings are, therefore, not subject to the notice and access requirements under the Oregon Public Meetings Law, nor has the governor told this group, publicly or privately, to close or conduct our meetings in secret. Nevertheless, we have worked diligently in the spirit of openness to share this group's work publicly, and will continue to do so.

Our primary task has been to develop a proposed scope of work that will be used to hire an independent contractor to review ODOT. This proposed scope of work has been developed with input from legislators and key stakeholders. This input, along with minutes from our meeting, is publicly available.

Additionally, we will offer a recommendation to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) on a contractor, but it is DAS, and not this working group, that will decide who will be hired. It should also be noted that the final report

developed by this contractor for the governor will also be made publicly available.

It is unfortunate that your news story created an illusion of secrecy where it does not exist. This work group has endeavored to exceed disclosure requirements because we believe both in sharing our work product with policymakers and Oregonians, and because we believe this review will ultimately be a tool the governor can use to further strengthen the work and confidence in our state's transportation agency.

SUSAN MORGAN
Commissioner, Douglas
County
Roseburg

Energy sense

In response, or as a follow-up, to the letter "Coal fired" by Tom Harris, executive director, International Climate Science Coalition, Ottawa, Ontario (*The Daily Astorian*, May 13), we Oregonians should become more aware/informed of failures of the European Union over the past decade.

Despite their combined governments' spending more than 1 trillion euros of tax-

payer money on "Green Subsidies," carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in the EU have actually risen. In 2015, CO₂ emissions from fossil-fuel combustion increased by 0.7 percent, compared with that of the previous year.

CO₂ emissions in Germany alone increased by an estimated 10 million tons from 2014 to 2015, in a setback to that nation's claims about "climate leadership." According to the Institute of German Business, the cost of Germany's once highly publicized "Energiewende" ("Transition to green energy") will increase another 31 billion euros (U.S. \$35 billion) in 2016 alone: this will further burden the already faltering German economy.

Amazingly, last year Germany paid wind farms \$548 million to close down, in order to prevent damage to the country's electricity grid. Germany's wind and solar power systems had provided too much power at unpredictable times, which damaged the power grid and made the system more vulnerable to blackouts. To fix the problem, grid operators paid companies to turn off their wind turbines — according to the German newspaper *Wirtschaftswoche*.

Energy is, of course, important for economic growth and general prosperity, but don't we also need to consider reason and common sense? Over the last 30 years, a fresh view of the English "Industrial Revolution" has begun to take shape, which suggests that fossil-fuel energy can be significantly used much more than is being allowed these days in "mainstream economics." This new realization gives further purpose that we should be concerned about reasonable global attempts to reduce emissions, rather than blindly adopting renewable energy at whatever cost.

DAN NEBERT
Tillamook

Reinstating award

In a recent letter submitted to *The Daily Astorian*, the importance of honoring the sacrifices of our law

enforcement officers, as well as the significance of the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year ceremony was discussed ("Honor his memory," May 6).

Marine Corps League Daniel E. Crockett Detachment 1228 was mentioned as having made the decision to discontinue the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Awards. We would like to clarify as to why we had to temporarily suspend the program, so that there is no confusion surrounding this.

Our law enforcement officers are near and dear to our detachment; we are comprised of a number of current and former officers who have stepped forward to serve and protect their community, and hold others who also do so in the highest esteem — especially those who have lost their lives in the line of duty. At the time we had to suspend the program, we simply could no longer afford to carry the program on, as we were operating in the red. This was the only deciding factor in having to suspend the program.

For the past seven months, Marine Corps League Detachment 1228 has been in the process of reinstating the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year program. We are well on our way to being able to financially cover the expenses of the program, and have a committee who is committed to not only honoring our law enforcement officers on the North Coast, but those in Southwest Washington, as well.

We are pleased to announce at this time that there will be a Law Enforcement Officer of the Year ceremony, to be held at our annual Marine Corps Ball on Nov. 12. Thank you, to all of our law enforcement officers, for all that you give of yourselves, and we extend our gratitude for the risk you take every time you put on that uniform.

LOU NEUBECKER
Marine Corps League
Detachment 1228
Seaside

alzheimer's  association®



Living with Alzheimer's: For Caregivers – Late Stage

Saturday, June 4

10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Clatsop Community College Columbia Hall,
Room 219
(1651 Lexington Ave., Astoria, OR 97103)

In the late stage of Alzheimer's disease, caregiving typically involves new ways of connecting and interacting with the person with the disease. Join the Alzheimer's Association Oregon Chapter for this class to hear from caregivers and professionals about resources, monitoring care and providing meaningful connection for individuals with late-stage Alzheimer's and their families.

This class is free, but registration is required.
To register, call 800-272-3900.

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