

Lax laws

Obama's idea of ignoring our immigration laws and encouraging those who break them makes me think we need to take his thoughts a step further, and legalize bank robberies. This plan would require all banks to give money to any thief who asks for it, and have the taxpayers cover the cost to the banks.

This would be similar to the guidelines that Obama and many others in our government are now using concerning illegal aliens. Letting the taxpayers take care of all the cost. Any bank that refuses to cooperate with such a plan would be referred to as "un-American" for wanting to deny thieves a better life for themselves and their families. The cost to the taxpayers in this plan might be similar to the cost for the illegal aliens.

This plan may sound a little ludicrous, but Obama's guidelines on the illegal aliens have a similar tone, and Hillary Clinton seems to be having very similar plans to Obama's. Or maybe even worse.

Our immigration laws no longer exist — nor will our country, as we know it.

JIM ELVIN
Salem

Good call

I would like to send a big thank you to Councilors Cindy Price, Zetty Nemlowill and Russ War for their thoughtful evaluation and realistic vote to direct the city staff to plan ways to renovate the Astoria Library at its present location ("Divided council looks to renovate existing library," *The Daily Astorian*, July 26).

I would support a modest remodel of the library, which

would make it Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible, and include an elevator to the basement. Lots of additional square footage. Libraries are not the asset today that they were 50 years ago, and I think this is especially true with the younger generations.

Financially, when looking over property tax statements to see where the money goes, we already have bond debt for Clatsop Community College and school districts, and support for additional bonding is unlikely.

The city does not need another big project to look after until we can take care of the infrastructure currently neglected: crumbling streets and sidewalks, parks, cemeteries and restrooms on the Riverwalk, to name a few.

Wish my home was inside the zone of the three councilors noted above.

Thanks again, good call.
MIKE GREEN
Astoria

Biased media

Associated Press (AP) political articles no longer offer balanced journalism. Most Republicans can give plenty of examples how the AP is blatantly biased these days toward the liberal (aka progressive) Democrat agenda.

For example, consider AP's last week's front page anti-Trump bashing article about the Latino vote ("Divided America: Will Trump Energize the Latino Vote?" *The Daily Astorian*, Aug. 12).

Then this week we read another front page AP article ("Divided America: Global Warming Polarizes More Than Abortion," *The Daily Astorian*, Aug. 16) filled with false and misleading statements and subtle comments to rid-

culare a contrary view about the "global warming" controversy, again a subtle anti-Trump piece.

For example, most Republicans realize the earth's climate undergoes natural change; but believe mankind's impact is minimal. To advocate the contrary is arrogant disregard of nature's much more powerful forces. Remember history when "overwhelming science" insisted the earth was flat?

The article is misleading because, for one thing, the piece makes no mention or analysis of the hundreds of millions of grants (tax dollars) to institutions that follow the liberal line of more government control over the country's energy resources and emissions. Follow-the-money is an appropriate phrase when it comes to the "global warming" controversy.

The AP usually injects emotion-gearred adjectives and adverbs to generate a subtle bias toward the liberal/progressive agenda. And it almost always identifies Republicans when bad things happen; but hardly ever Democrats.

Everybody expects political bias of one kind or another on the opinion page of newspapers. To put political bias elsewhere is a remarkable change in the professionalism of journalists. It's a change that's helped to lead to the demise of much of print media these days.

DON HASKELL
Astoria

Regatta success

The 2016 Astoria Regatta Festival was a huge success. I couldn't have been more honored to be a co-admiral this year with Astoria Mayor Arline LaMear, Regatta Presidents Cliff Fick and Dan

Amoth, along with members of the Regatta Board, made a concerted effort to make this year's celebration a regional one for the Lower Columbia and Clatsop County area.

I was pleased that the Rose Planting Ceremony and the Concert in the Park were events staged in Warrenton. The Concert in the Park, on Friday, was well-attended and the performances by Sherrie Austin and John Berry were outstanding. I had overwhelming feedback from folks that they were anxious to see the concert become a regular event. My thanks to Paul Mitchell and the Warrenton Business Association, as well as everybody else who worked together to make it happen.

As mayor, I'm proud of what is happening in Warrenton, but I'm also proud of what is happening in Astoria and throughout Clatsop County. As we become more connected and integrated in our daily lives, it demands that we work together to solve problems. Many of the challenges we face are the same in each of our respective communities, and regional issues require regional solutions.

We are stronger through cooperation and collaboration than we are individually. And, of course, it's great that we can celebrate together, too!

MARK KUJALA
Mayor of Warrenton

Enough

Enough is enough. Power of money and influence in collusion with corporate controlled mainstream media is

shaping what people think is true.

As a 70-year-old grandmother, I am strong with purpose, caring about our children and grandchildren. Become informed about Measure 97 and share the truth with voters. The Oregon Center for Public Policy points out corporations pay 6.7 percent of all Oregon income taxes today versus 18.5 percent 40 forty years ago, and are projected to pay 4.6 percent in 10 years, given the status quo.

About 3 percent of C corporations will be affected by Measure 97, which means only 1/4 of one percent of businesses in the state will see their taxes go up. This will not result in higher costs for goods and services.

We have 2,000 fewer teachers than before the financial crisis of 2008, even though enrollment has increased. Corporations were bailed out on the backs of our children, the most vulnerable in our society.

CAROL SCHERER
Eugene

Good job, Tim

It is not often that a member of our community retires with such an outstanding list of accomplishments, but Tim VonSeggern, born and raised in Astoria, retired in April having served a wide range of fellow citizens spanning from Portland to the Oregon coast.

Tim has been married to his wife, Cammie, for 30 years, and they have two children, Jeremy and Melissa. Other members of his very close knit family include his brother

Scott and his two supportive parents, long-time residents of our community, Jim and Claudia VonSeggern.

Tim began his career as a paramedic, but his ambition and desire to serve others led him to become a fire fighter, the captain of a fireboat, a harbor pilot captain, and the project manager for the two primary fire boats that patrol the area from Portland to the mouth of the Columbia River. In all, Tim completed 30 years of service for the city of Portland.

Fellow employees and subordinates would describe him as demonstrating an incredible work ethic, and embodying traits such as honesty, confidence, resourcefulness, and fairness. Throughout his career, Tim has shown the determination to attack problems, learn new strategies and techniques for solving problems, and has demonstrated a willingness to share what he has learned with others. He is an individual committed to hard work and serving others.


With such a multitude of skills and wealth of knowledge, Tim hopes to continue to be involved in his community, while spending more time with his family, fishing, hunting, working on his property in Nehalem, and remodeling a house with room to house a boat and room for friends and family to enjoy the coast that he so loves. Tim is wished the very best of luck by family, friends, and co-workers alike.

CLAUDIA
VONSEGGERN
Nehalem

The price of powerlessness

By CHARLES
KRAUTHAMMER
*Washington Post Writers
Group*

WASHINGTON — This week Russian bombers flew out of Iranian air bases to attack rebel positions in Syria.



The State Department pretended not to be surprised. It should be.

It should be alarmed. Iran's intensely nationalistic revolutionary regime had never permitted foreign forces to operate from its soil. Until now.

The reordering of the Middle East is proceeding apace. Where for 40 years the U.S.-Egypt alliance anchored the region, a Russia-Iran condominium is now dictating events. That's what you get after eight years of U.S. retrenchment and withdrawal. That's what results from the nuclear deal with Iran, the evacuation of Iraq and utter U.S. immobility on Syria. Consider:

Iran

The nuclear deal was supposed to begin a rapprochement between Washington and Tehran. Instead, it has solidified a strategic-military alliance between Moscow and Tehran. With the lifting of sanctions and the normalizing of Iran's international relations, Russia rushed in with major deals, including the shipment of S-300 ground-to-air missiles. Russian use of Iranian bases now marks a new level of cooperation and joint power projection.

Iraq

These bombing runs cross Iraqi airspace. Before President Barack Obama's withdrawal from Iraq, that could not have happened. The resulting vacuum has not only created a corridor for Russian bombing, it has grad-

ually allowed a hard-won post-Saddam Iraq to slip into Iran's orbit. According to a Baghdad-based U.S. military spokesman, there are 100,000 Shiite militia fighters operating inside Iraq, 80 percent of them Iranian-backed.

Syria

When Russia dramatically intervened last year, establishing air bases and launching a savage bombing campaign, Obama did nothing. Indeed, he smugly predicted that Vladimir Putin had entered a quagmire. Some quagmire. Bashar Assad's regime is not only saved. It encircled Aleppo and has seized the upper hand in the civil war. Meanwhile, our hapless secretary of state is running around trying to sue for peace, offering to share intelligence and legitimize Russian intervention if only Putin will promise to conquer gently.

Consider what Putin has achieved. Dealt a very weak hand — a rump Russian state, shorn of empire and saddled with a backward economy and a rusting military — he has restored Russia to great power status. Reduced to irrelevance in the 1990s, it is now a force to be reckoned with.

In Europe, Putin has unilaterally redrawn the map. His annexation of Crimea will not be reversed. The Europeans are eager to throw off the few sanctions they grudgingly imposed on Russia. And the rape of eastern Ukraine continues.

Ten thousand have already died and now Putin is threatening even more open warfare. Under the absurd pretext of Ukrainian terrorism in Crimea, Putin has threatened retaliation, massed troops in eight locations on the Ukrainian border, ordered Black Sea naval exercises, and moved advanced anti-aircraft batteries into Crimea, giving Moscow control over much of Ukrainian airspace.

And why shouldn't he? He's pushing on an open

door. Obama still refuses to send Ukraine even defensive weapons. The administration's response to these provocations? Urging "both sides" to exercise restraint. Both sides, mind you.

And in a gratuitous flaunting of its newly expanded reach, Russia will be conducting joint naval exercises with China in the South China Sea, in obvious support of Beijing's territorial claims and illegal military bases.

Yet the president shows little concern. He is too smart not to understand geopolitics; he simply doesn't care. In part because his priorities are domestic. In part because he thinks we lack clean hands and thus the moral standing to continue to play international arbiter.

And in part because he's convinced that in the long run it doesn't matter. Fluctuations in great power relations are inherently ephemeral. For a man who sees a moral arc in the universe bending inexorably toward justice, calculations of raw realpolitik are 20th-century thinking — primitive, obsolete, the obsession of small minds.

Obama made all this perfectly clear in speeches at the U.N., in Cairo and here at home in his very first year in office. Two terms later, we see the result. Ukraine dismembered. Eastern Europe on edge. Syria a charnel house. Iran subsuming Iraq. Russia and Iran on the march across the entire northern Middle East.

At the heart of this disorder is a simple asymmetry. It is in worldview. The major revisionist powers — China, Russia and Iran — know what they want: power, territory, tribute. And they're going after it. Barack Obama takes Ecclesiastes' view that these are vanities, nothing but vanities.

In the kingdom of heaven, no doubt. Here on earth, however — Aleppo to Donetsk, Estonia to the Spratly Islands — it matters greatly.

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