

Think carefully

If The Donald is successful in buying the presidency, heaven help the U.S. and much of the world.

Running a nation is about the people. Yes, this includes the 99 percent who aren't among the wealthy. This includes: the disadvantaged, all the way up to the extremely advantaged; both genders as equals; religious freedom, as well as the freedom to not be religious; sexual freedom; quality education and health care for everyone; decent housing and decent jobs; rebuilding this nation's infrastructure; and yes, our military and national defense systems.

Being president is a tough job. The president needs to be rational, responsible, strong, considerate, reasonable, able to work with all political parties and other world leaders, and always thinking about how his/her actions will affect the future of our nation.

Which of the above does The Donald display today, and in his past? His past and his present will be his (and our) future, if he is successful in buying the presidency.

Think folks before you vote. If you fact check on the various things he says, most of his speeches aren't factual. His speeches aren't realistic or truthful. Don't be fooled by his power, money, or ego. Think before you vote.

Being president of our nation isn't a reality show. He/she won't get retakes when he/she makes a blunder. Our nation's future and place in the world is on the line with the outcome of this election.

Again, think before you vote.

KAREN ELDER
Astoria

Where are the girls?

I was very disappointed in *The Daily Astorian's* coverage of the Three-Course Challenge held at Camp Rilea on Saturday, Sept. 17 ("Cross-country runners tackle the 'Challenge,'" Sept. 19). As a volunteer at this event, I find it to be a very unique experience for cross country runners at all levels of ability, and from middle school up through high school levels.

However, Gary Henley's coverage of the event only had pictures of male runners. This was an event for both males and females. Where were the girls, Mr. Henley? Have you not heard of something called Title IX? Please try to keep your pictures and articles more balanced next time.

KAREN BECK
Warrenton

Thank you

Many upsetting headlines have focused on Oregon foster care providers who wronged youth in their care, prompting an investigation that will hopefully lead to much-needed changes ("Culture change" needed at state human services agency," *The Daily Astorian*, Sept. 14). These providers are the sad exception, brought about by a system in need of repair. They are not the norm.

The true heroes for children in foster care are those who never make the news. They make the beds, and wash the laundry, and read the stories, and wipe the tears. They open their homes and hearts to children who challenge them. They give shelter to the 4-year-old who can't understand what has happened, and to the 14-year-old who struggles with the uncertainty of what is next. They are the families who make a difference for children in care: kind, loving, patient foster parents.

"The cost of failing to protect foster children from harm is high," the article states, going on to quote dollar amounts of settled claims brought by youth formerly in foster care. Yet the true cost of failing to protect children and youth from further



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neglect and abuse does not fit neatly into a budget category for the legislature: mental illness, substance abuse, juvenile delinquency, life in poverty, and only disjointed family members to occasionally provide a connection.

The true cost of failing to protect foster children from harm is the loss of their health and happiness. Denying children the ability to pursue happiness means denying them their unalienable rights. Fortunately, many children in foster care have temporary personal champions of happiness and safety.

I would like to send a huge "Thank you!" to the foster parents whose homes and hearts are havens to the most vulnerable children in Clatsop County. We deeply appreciate you. You save lives every day.

JULIA MABRY
Executive director, Clatsop County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

Vote Keniston

Chris Keniston is an appealing candidate for U.S. president for our country. As a constitutional centrist his focus is on U.S. citizens, and first and foremost his actions are based on our constitution.

As a veteran, he has the political courage to stand up for each citizen of this country. He knows what needs to be done domestically and internationally. He comes from working class roots, and he's no political insider. Stand up for America, vote Veterans Party of America. In Oregon, please write-in Chris Keniston (president)/Deacon Taylor (vice president) on the ballot this fall election.

The Veterans Party of America was set up by veterans, but is open to everyone. For more information, see our websites www.veteranspartyofamerica.org and <http://chriskeniston2016.com>

JIM FRYCKMAN
Lincoln City

Great performance

This past Sunday afternoon, my wife and I, along with six friends, went to the Kiggins Theater in Vancouver, Washington. We were treated to a wonderful and well-attended live music performance of Charlie Chaplin's "The Kid."

Rodney Sauer, the pianist and music arranger, and members of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra — violinist Eva Richey, cellist Dieter Ratzlaf, Bruce Dunn on trumpet and Igor Shakhman on clarinet — provided the most excellent and lively accompaniment to Charlie Chaplin's poignant creation. The audi-

ence responded with a standing ovation at the completion of the performance.

What a wonderful opportunity for the community to enjoy the Vancouver Symphony Chamber Series in such a lovely historic theater. Certainly we will plan to drive the distance to enjoy more such fine offerings.

Following the performance, we walked about eight blocks to enjoy a delicious dinner with most excellent service at La Bottega Restaurant at 19th and Main streets.

ART LIMBIRD
Warrenton

Helpful community

This Monday, around 5 p.m., I was taking my daily walk and was on West

Marine Drive just past the Dairy Queen, on the river side of the road. I was walking with my canvas carry bag for bottles and had my jacket off my shoulders. Traffic was light but I did notice an ambulance driving slowly towards the traffic circle.

A minute or so later I heard a vehicle coming my way, but it was off the road since I could hear gravel crunching. I looked and saw an ambulance stopping. I thought that they had just picked a nice place to park and eat lunch or dinner.

Robin (her name tag said) got out and walked up to me and asked me if I was OK. I told her that I felt just fine, and was on an evening walk. She told me that someone had seen me walking and was worried that I was in trou-

ble, so they called to have me checked out. She then gave me a nice smile and got back into the ambulance.

Sigh. Not a minute later, another gentleman stopped his pickup truck to see if I needed a ride. It's nice that there are concerned people in this town, and that they took the time to do something.

My pride was a bit hurt because while I am certainly in the senior generation, I did not think that I looked that decrepit.

CHUCK MEYER
Astoria

Different views

Recent opinions by *The Daily Astorian* editorial board have indicated a shift to the political right. This is in

contrast to the many years of the paper's left-leaning tendencies. My sense is that this is a necessary inclusion of alternative perspective in an attempt to counter the biases among the people of this community. I tilt left politically, but I am not fearful of any differing points of view. In fact, I welcome them. A closed mind is terrible thing to waste.

BOB POTTER
Astoria

Too bad

Gov. Kate Brown/Oracle. Obama/Iran. What is the difference? Too bad we have no one else to vote for. We can't afford the stupid politicians we have.

DICK DARBY
Astoria

They're your dreams. Start building them.

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