

## Eliminate sea lions

Following four confirmed cattle kills by the wolves in northeastern Washington, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife managers ordered the killing of wolves. As a result, effectively 10 percent of the wolf pack was eliminated.

The cost to reintroduce wolves and build their populations over the years has likely cost in the millions of dollars. In the meantime, after millions — if not billions — of dollars have been spent over the years on any number of measures to bolster salmon runs, sea lions continue to multiply and feast on salmon.

A recent population survey counted thousands of these predators just on the West Coast. They have taken over docks from San Francisco to Astoria, and cost the Port of Astoria thousands of dollars a month in lost revenue. All the while, they take a significant portion of the salmon runs that have been so costly to rebuild.

Thank you Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler, R-Wash., for backing a bill to kill sea lions to protect fish runs. Maybe our leaders are finally going to address this problem. In the meantime, I guess sea lions are safe as long as they don't start killing cattle.

PATRICK ST. JOHN  
Vancouver, Washington

## Support schools

I write today urging everyone in our Seaside School District to vote yes for the bond issue for our local schools.

As a retired senior citizen, I have not had a child in these schools for many years. My grandchildren have all been educated in other places, where others have paid the taxes to educate them. I know it is my turn to step up to the plate and carry forward what the members of our community did for my generation and me in the 1950s.

Yes, I attended Broadway Middle School in the early 1950s, when it was new and in good condition. This is no longer the case. I recently visited Broadway, as well as Gearhart Elementary and the high school, and was astounded at the deteriorating walls, roofing and heating issues.

And, I learned that nearly \$500,000 a year is being spent beyond the normal maintenance budget to patch up the most pressing problems. What a waste to spend this kind of money, and still have unsafe facilities that no longer meet the needs of education in the 21st century.

We are fortunate to be in a position where the land for the new buildings has been donated by Weyerhaeuser, and when we can take advantage of some of the lowest interest rates we have ever known. The state will also contribute \$4 million as a one-time contribution if the bond passes this November. In addition, Seaside has three of the four schools in the state that are in the tsunami zone. And although it is uncertain when that could be an issue here, the probability is very high in the next 50 years.

These are some of the reasons that Seaside branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) has chosen to support this measure this year. Our children are our investment in the future. Our organization is one that values and supports education as a means to a better future. It is our time to step forward and insure that our children receive the education they need to be successful. They deserve it. Please give them your support.

CAROL BRENNEMAN  
President, Seaside AAUW

## Vote yes for schools

Dear Seaside School District residents: It's time for all of us to step up and support our children by voting yes on the Seaside School District bond measure this November. I was fortunate to grow up when the schools were maintained, and education was supported. Now it's my turn to support our district children, and I ask you to support me in voting yes, too.

In the 2013 election, the bond measure didn't pass. The writers of the bond listened to

# Monumental tribute

The ceremony confirming U.S. citizenship upon new citizens was recently held at Knappton Cove Heritage Center — a very appropriate venue. As one of the attending members of the Astoria Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, this was the first such event I had ever attended. Several other service organizations, such as the Astoria Lions Club, created an appropriate setting for the dignitaries and ceremony officiators.

As a native-born citizen, I was impressed with the one man and 10 women, from a variety of countries, who stepped forward to receive their official documents affirming citizenship. Later, they indicated it had not

been easy, but each had the determination to accomplish their commitment to the U.S. by attending classes, studying hard and passing the examination.

They were all smiling broadly, as were friends and families, and the youngsters who accompanied them. They were eager to become part of our democracy in a republic, and to use their rights and privileges to take part in their government and to vote.

As I watched them, I felt my maternal grandfather, the Hon. John A. Buchanan (1863-1935), standing next to me. Appointed to the American Legion Commission of Naturalization in 1920-1930s, he always kept his Astoria law office door open for loggers, fishermen, immigrants — anyone

and all who wanted to learn the history of these United States and about our form of government.

He also taught them about the formation of the Pacific Northwest and, his passion, about our area's Indian lore. Many of his students became naturalized citizens through his dedication to education and his strong belief in service toward all.

As a tribute to him, a monument stone will be placed on his gravesite at Ocean View Cemetery. To help fund this, please donate to the Clatsop County Historical Society, in benefit for the Buchanan Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 88, Astoria, OR 97103.

CAROL C. LAMBERT  
Hammond

your concerns and have made several important changes:

- They have reduced the cost of the bond by 37.5 percent.

- They have persuaded Weyerhaeuser to donate 80 acres of land east of Seaside Heights Elementary school.

- The district has applied for and is in line to receive \$4 million in state matching funds, but can only receive these funds if the bond measure passes.

But more important, three of the four schools that our children are attending are more than 50 years old. Their maintenance repair costs are ever increasing. Those same schools are in the tsunami zone, and cannot receive state funding to retrofit or relocate those schools.

It's time to act now. Interest rates are at an all-time low. Costs to build in the future are expected to rise 4 percent each year. The new schools will be more energy efficient, and those savings can be passed on to program development and teacher salaries.

Deteriorating schools give the wrong message to our students and teachers. They deserve safe, efficient locations in which to learn. Good education strengthens our community and creates leaders for our future.

As an added bonus, when the tsunami comes — and experts say it will occur sometime in the next 50 years — the new schools not only will keep our children safe, but will provide emergency shelters for the whole community.

For \$1.35 per \$1,000 value of your property, you can assure our children safety and a quality education. A win-win for all of us.

Vote yes for our local schools.

CYNTHIA GOULD  
Gearhart  
VERN FOWLER  
Seaside

## Thank you, Brent

I want to let the Astoria community know that you have an amazing Chamber of Commerce representative working in your Enterprise Rent-A-Car store: Brent Sullivan. He went out of his way to help me find transportation from Astoria to the Portland airport.

All of his cars were rented for the day I needed one, as cruise ships were docking for excursions. Rather than just saying so and getting back to the business of running his Enterprise Rent-A-Car location, he offered several options for me.

One option required that he research a local person who on occasion rented from Enterprise Rent-A-Car to do medical transports from Astoria to Portland. Within the hour he called back with the most perfect option for getting us to the airport. The following day Brent's contact, Elliott Jarrell, picked us up at the hotel and drove us to the airport.

I would have expected Brent to convey that all of his cars were booked and send me on my way. What I did not expect was for Brent to go out of his way to help me. Brent was my lifesaver. Brent was kind, caring and professional. He did not have to do what he did, but he stepped up and assisted a total stranger. Brent's Enterprise Rent-A-Car branch did

not make a dime off of me; what Brent did for me was priceless.

Thank you, Brent. May the kindness you generously shared with me return to you 100-fold.

DENESE SKINNER  
Amarillo, Texas

## Character?

After the Constitutional Convention in 1787, Benjamin Franklin was asked, what did you create? Franklin replied, "A republic, if you can keep it." America's founders did not always politically agree with each other, but there was a certain moral standard of conduct for holding public office.

As America's second president, John Adams, stated, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." Until recently, citizens would not tolerate politicians who demonstrated unethical or immoral behavior.

It is very perplexing how the ethically challenged Hillary Clinton can still generate support. Hillary lied to Congress and the FBI over the security of emails. In tes-

timony before Congress, FBI Director James Comey admitted that Hillary had received 110 classified emails. The decision by Comey not to recommend criminal indictment against Hillary, based on the difference of "intent" versus "gross negligence," is a blow to justice and those who have been convicted for lesser crimes in handling government secrets.

There is also the critical issue of how four brave men were killed in Benghazi. Hillary stated in congressional testimony, "... what difference does it make?" President Obama sent out national security advisor Susan Rice to deliberately lie to the American people, saying the attack was caused by a video, when in fact it was well planned terrorist attack. Wake up, America.

Does character still matter in politics? Fifty years ago, Hillary could not have been elected dog catcher, and now there is a chance of winning the election for president. Maybe the voters no longer care about personal and government ethics; just keep the welfare and entitlement programs coming.

LARRY SPARKS  
Cannon Beach

## Our team

It was so nice seeing representatives of the Trail Blazers in Astoria last week. I honestly didn't think they gave a care about us here.

There were so many attendees at the fair. My wife and I got to meet a few friendly folks, including the writer covering the story for The Daily Astorian, who seemed to know a lot about the team. We did enjoy seeing his story after ("Trail Blazers Rip City comes to the coast," Sept. 21).

It proved to me to an extent that maybe, just maybe, they realize there are fans outside the Portland area. I'm ready and excited for the approaching season. I just wish someone local could cover them. No radio station carries them. The local newspaper doesn't cover them. I'd like to see more coverage somewhere, if possible. After all, they supposedly are our team. That's what they say, anyway.

JIM SAUNDERS  
Astoria

## Housing hopes

Regarding the Planning Commission meeting Sept. 27, and The Daily Astorian article Sept. 28 ("Plan-

ning Commission mulls ways to gain homes"): There are a lot of problems with the concept of "accessory dwelling units," which really translates to increased density for a city like Astoria.

Increased density is not good for humans or animals, with the resulting loss of privacy, yards for kids and gardens, disputes with neighbors over parking spots and the deterioration of neighborhood characteristics.

Lots of single family homes in Astoria have already been converted into plexes, without off-treet parking, resulting in our narrow streets becoming, in effect, one-way streets.

The proposed plan will eventually get us into the same hassle taking place in Cannon Beach and Gearhart over vacation rentals.

For you homeowners who think this will be a financial benefit to you, beware. After you pay for design, permits and construction, your property's assessed value will increase, and likewise your property tax. Also, any income you receive is subject to income tax, or the IRS will come to visit.

The City Council can promote "affordable housing" by encouraging developers to accommodate this goal by building apartments on land such as the soon-to-be-gone Ford dealership property — and it's on a transit line. Other parcels of land are probably known to local Realtors.

If the proposed code changes are made, I am concerned that there will be a lack of code enforcement, and subsequent unintended consequences.

MIKE GREEN  
Astoria

## Editorially tired

Can we get some editorials from people other than The New York Times? It's depressing to open the paper every day and see Paul Krugman, Nicholas Kristof, Charles M. Blow, etc.

BUDDY HOELL  
Astoria

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