

Forests for all

I am writing to express my gratitude to the three county commissioners who voted to opt out of the Linn County lawsuit ("Clatsop County opts out of timber suit," *The Daily Astorian*, Jan. 12). Thanks go to Kathleen Sullivan, Sarah Nebeker and Scott Lee, and a thumbs down goes to the other two, whose foresight is questionable in this matter.

The 1998 change in forest policy to accommodate a variety of uses for our state forestlands was a good move to benefit all the citizens of Oregon, not just the timber industry. The state forests provide important habitat for all wildlife. They provide critical habitat for salmon reproduction and rearing, something that logging has affected negatively over the years.

The state forests are places where people can hike, bike and recreate. Perhaps most importantly, they are places where water can be protected for the use of all creatures. Finally, they are a source of timber production that can provide sustainable employment if managed wisely.

To sacrifice all that our state forests are to one industry's desire would be foolish, and would come with a price to pay down the road. In the long run, habitat and water quality for fish, wildlife and humans would suffer greatly. I urge all entities to opt out of this lawsuit.

NED HEAVENRICH
Brownsmead

Job well done

We want to thank all law enforcement agencies and the Seaside Fire Department for the professional and caring way they handled the situation on Whispering Pines. We appreciate you all for a job well done. Again, thank you.

LARRY and SHARON
JOHNSON
Seaside

Worst legacy

The nation's eight-year nightmare is finally over (End of an Error?). The incompetent Oval Office occupant vacates his post, and will continue to concentrate on creating a legacy for his misrule — one which he and his accomplices are going to "turn water into wine." They'll be aided, of course by 95 percent of the news media, aka the lapdogs of the left wing Democratic administration.

The affirmative action president's legacy, despite his delusional descriptions, is a complete disaster. The nation's reputation is worse than a disgrace. We are the laughingstock of the world with the ex-president issuing empty, laughable warnings such as "red lines" in Syria; the Taliban returning in force to Afghanistan; and the treasonous abandonment of our consulate in Benghazi, where four of our brave men, including the ambassador, were left to be murdered. Their blood is on the hands of Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, who deserted them because of the imminent presidential election — then trying to cover it up.

Nationally, the racial divide was widened considerably due to the blatant and obvious racism of the "commander-in-chief." He doubled the national debt from \$10 trillion in 2009 to \$20 trillion today. The number of Americans not in the labor force grew from 80 million, when he took office, to over 95 million today (U.S. Labor Department statistics).

However, there is one group which will be sad to see him leave — the Republican Party. When Obama took office, Democrats controlled both chambers of Congress. Two years later, the Republicans took over, and have enlarged their margin every two years.

During his presidency Republicans have, nationwide — i.e. governorships, state legislatures and the U.S. Congress — won more than 1,030 seats. The Democratic Party is in shambles, and its members are panicky and

Clatsop County concerns

Do Clatsop County commissioners opt out of matters of county concern ("Clatsop County opts out of timber suit," *The Daily Astorian*, Jan. 12)?

The Home Rule Charter for the Government of Clatsop County preamble: "The citizens of Clatsop County adopt this charter to provide for the exercise of authority over matters of county concern to the fullest extent permissible under the constitution and laws of the United States of America and the State of Oregon."

desperate. Thank you, President Barack Hussein Obama. He has a legacy which relegate him to the dustbin of American history, and will make him the nation's worst president. Jimmy Carter thanks and salutes you.

E. ROBERT NASSIKAS
Astoria

Harvesting sea lions

I am writing this letter to address the seal and sea lion population in our river and on our coast. There have been a lot of ideas that have been tossed around to reduce the population, and it has risen to epidemic proportions. This is just one idea.

Running around on the river in fast boats with high powered rifles, shooting sea lions and seals is not going to work. It won't be accepted by the public and it's very dangerous. So, this is my proposal: We put out bids to companies that would want to participate in this project, and they would be properly vetted by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

These companies would be licensed and bonded to harvest sea lions and seals humanely and bloodlessly. They would then process the sea lions and/or seals and use the waste to grind up for fish meal, sell the hides to help pay for the program, process the meat then vacuum pack and freeze it. Then, we will ask environmental groups — who are well-organized and well-financed — to volunteer their expertise, and to donate freezer vans that they can put their logos on.

We have watched them for years on news programs move heaven and earth to save beached whales or dolphins with tremendous efforts and rescue missions around the world. They could move the vans, by sea or air to locations with the help of satellite images to locations that most need it, such as the habitats of starving polar bears. It would be a large effort; kind of like Meals on Wheels for polar bears. This way, you would not be mindlessly harvesting one species, you would be saving another species.

This will be my 59th year of commercial fishing in Alaska, California, Oregon and Washington.

GARY MARINCOVICH
Astoria

Pickpocket

Wake up, people. There is a new pickpocket in town. He's called the Oregon Department of Forestry, and he just added a "new line item levy" on your property taxes, starting this year. He's calling it the "Annual Forest Patrol Assessment" that will clip almost every property owner for about \$100 per year.

No matter that you are already supporting local fire districts with your tax dollars, he wants more. No matter that what he calls forestland is really residential land with well-maintained lawns. No matter that this pickpocket has no legal rights to impose such a new tax levy; they had a few meetings and wrote their own "Administrative Rules" with instructions that Clatsop County collect this new tax.

No matter that I've owned my property for over 20

years, and have never heard of such a "Forest Patrol Assessment." No matter that this is taxation without representation, and violates both the Oregon and U.S. Constitution. No, we should just clam-up and pay-up.

My question is why do we have elections if bureaucrats can write and impose taxes? And where are our elected representatives on this issue, like Sen. Betsy Johnson, Rep. Deborah Boone and the Clatsop County commissioners? Why are we allowing this pickpocket to put his hands ever deeper in our pockets, without the vote of the people? No wonder so many of our politicians and bureaucrats are not trusted.

BRIAN D. RATTY
Warrenton

Winter hunger

The South County Community Food Bank, a food pantry, has always valued the support of the local community. Although there are organizations at the national, state and local level helping us, hungry families, children and seniors have been fed through the generosity of locals and businesses for more than 30 years.

Community support in 2016 was remarkable, particularly during the holidays. Thank you. Now winter is here. This is the hungriest time of the year. Work is scarce and the holiday contributions are finished. Community support is needed more than ever. Whatever you can do will help those who cannot help themselves.

At this time we think of the locals who started this food pantry. The founders, like Harry Miller, are now gone. They wanted to create an institution to help feed the neediest in this community. The South County Community Food Bank, a food pantry and a 501(c)(3) organization is still here, and the children and their families and other hungry locals are still here.

Your support is needed the most at this time of the year. You can contribute by mailing a check to P.O. Box 602, Seaside, OR 97138, or by dropping a contribution of food or money to our building at 2041 N. Roosevelt Drive in Seaside. Whatever you can do will help. Thank you.

JAMES C. CASTERLINE
South County Community
Food Bank board member
and past president
Gearhart

At 8 a.m. the next day the

sheriff, in full battle dress and firearm, comes. My fearful wife gets me up. The sheriff announces that Bond felt threatened by my conversation and comments. Bond did not seem like a delicate snowflake, but perhaps I was wrong.

So, when someone complains about a new tax, the state will send out an officer with a gun to intimidate us. Who is threatened now? Dare I complain further and risk arrest?

ROY HACKETT
Seaside

Screw water rates

The water bill came today from the city of Astoria. It was almost double last month's bill for our family of six, but not because of any great additional amount of water usage. Newly instituted rates for water had almost doubled the bill.

Having noticed that the rates the city of Astoria were charging for water were not only higher than they had been locally in the past, but also much higher than Portland (where our daughter lives) and Lewis and Clark (where friends live), my wife called the water department to find out what this all about.

She spoke to an individual there who told her the following: There were two increased charges. The first was a general rate increase, because they were passing along the costs of the pipe replacement and water sys-

tem upgrades that has been going on for some time to the consumer. Secondly, the magnificent minds in charge of the city government felt that those who used more water in a month should pay a higher percentage rate, because they were using the new pipes more than others.

Now, I was never very good at math, and promotions are really not my thing either, however, it seems to me that paying a higher rate for water because you use more is very much like a retail store having a big sale where the customer is allowed to purchase one sale item at \$1, but if they wanted to buy five or more they could get them for the bargain price or \$3 each. A sale like that would probably make as much sense as the newly instituted water rates in the city of Astoria.

Could it be that decisions like this by the city officials of Astoria are probably why they have been largely unsuccessful in attracting new business to the area? They possibly made a smoking deal to tax potential incoming businesses at a much higher rate because they would be doing such a tremendous amount of business in the area, and then could not understand why these businesses declined to come to the area.

Hey, it sounds ridiculous to me, but I could be wrong.

DAVID GRAVES
Astoria

Observe the sign

Callout: People who abuse the 15 minute (only) parking space in front of the Blue Scorcher Bakery & Café. The sign is very visible. We all know the parking spaces in that area are usually full. When the 15 minute parking space is used for parking longer than 15 minutes, such as lunch or whatever, people who want a loaf of bread or baked goods to go are unable to use that space as intended. Please keep that in mind when you know you're parking in a space that is for 15 minutes only.

DIANE FINUCANE
Astoria

Under Chapter II, Section 2, Constitution of Powers: "... In this charter no mention of a particular power or enumeration of similar powers shall be construed to be exclusive or to restrict authority that the County would have if the particular powers were not mentioned or the similar powers not enumerated."

Two county commissioners did vote within the guidelines of the Home Rule Charter on participating in the Linn County lawsuit. Commissioners Scott

Lee, Sarah Nebeker and Kathleen Sullivan gave up Clatsop County's authority in the lawsuit. The class-action suit will still continue through the legal system, and opting out does not represent Clatsop County citizens to the fullest extent permissible.

I did attend two Clatsop County Commission meetings, and gave public testimony as a citizen of Clatsop County.

RICK CULVER
Astoria

I pay taxes to cover fire protection from our Seaside Fire Department. The forest ground is moist all year. We have never had a fire here. Salem has just lumped us in as a fire hazard. This tax is called a Forest Patrol Assessment, not a Fire Response Enhancement. It's like the TV ad about the bank guard saying during a robbery, "I am not a security guard, I am a security monitor."

Neal Bond, Protection Unit forester, is the contact at 503-325-5451. I visited Mr. Bond at the Astoria Forestry Office. Bond says this tax is to make the cost of fire fighting equal for everyone. It's all about the money. Find a cause, then fund a staff with a new tax. Next, buy something nice for the foresters (like a new pickup), and after a year, pop the funds into the General Fund and ask for more.

Many letters went out, and taxpayers are calling in to complain. I asked if Bond's shirt was Kevlar — a textile used for forester's chaps to protect the legs from chain saws. I asked how people living on Social Security were expected to pay these taxes to live in their own house. I am a frail old man of 72, with one good eye.

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sheriff, in full battle dress and firearm, comes. My fearful wife gets me up. The sheriff announces that Bond felt threatened by my conversation and comments. Bond did not seem like a delicate snowflake, but perhaps I was wrong.

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DIANE FINUCANE
Astoria



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What are your goals this year?

Get Fit

- Cardiac/Pulmonary Rehab **503-338-4052**
- A Matter of Balance class **503-338-7564**
- Strong Women, Strong Bones class **503-338-7564**
- Tai Chi **503-338-7564**

Manage Pain

- Physical Therapy Services **503-338-7555**
- Chronic Pain Management class **503-338-7564**

Eat Healthier

- Diabetes Education **503-338-4012**
- Living Well with Diabetes class **503-338-7564**
- Healthy Eating for Successful Living class **503-338-7564**

Quit Tobacco

- Tobacco Cessation **503-338-7564**

Help Others

- Volunteer **503-325-4321**
- Donate **503-325-3208**

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