

Get U.S. back

Trump is building war not peace, not education, not school lunches, not Medicaid for the folks down the street. Trump is the worst thing that has happened to this country, and in the 50 days on the throne, has destroyed many of our freedoms and hopes. Those values that the rest of the world looks to us for an example of how things can be are fading. No Sesame Street?

We must fight or perish. Contact your senator, your legislator, your mother, your neighbor, your old boyfriend, your cranky uncle. This must stop. This is not 1938 Germany, is it?

I want my country back.

MARY TANGUAY WEBB
Astoria

President Joe King?

The notion that our president's false accusations and statements could be "jokes," and not taken seriously, is absurd. This behavior is contrary to our collective desire of honesty and faith in our elected representatives, our government.

In my opinion these unfounded statements are clearly intended to incite Mr. Trump's political base. They are a national disgrace that must not be ignored.

I call on my fellow citizens to step up your game and speak out. Find a channel to express your opinion.

CLAYTON RICE
Warrenton

Budget must be cut

I'm really getting sick of the national media, as well as the local media, ranting and raving about national budget cuts. They allowed the last president to never send a budget to Congress in eight years, thus running the country on extending resolutions — driving our national debt to about double, without any oversight of what all of the previous presidents had built up — without a word of objection. So, what has built up must be driven down before our country has a financial meltdown.

There is fat everywhere, including the Coast Guard and Social Security. Some on Social Security have collected as much as 100 percent every year, more than they contributed. Our local media would have you believe that the Coast Guard wouldn't exist if they are cut. I'm sure that negotiations can be made to lessen the cut.

And, some Coast Guard stations should be eliminated. Just look at what has been downsized here in Astoria: Point Adams Life Boat Station was closed; Coast Guard Base Tongue Point, that worked on buoys, was closed or downsized, and three buoy tenders in Astoria became one; the Port Security unit Astoria was closed in 1960; and the U.S. Navy closed Tongue Point in 1963-1964.

Obamacare is a disaster. I have friends paying between \$700 to \$1,500 a month now under Obamacare. I'm under Medicare, which approves about 10 percent of the bill for payment on whatever we have done. It is no wonder that doctors and hospitals have begun to refuse taking on new Medicare patients.

Wake up America, the national debt has to be cut and yes, we all have to suffer. We've lived off the fat far too long. If we do nothing, we could have a financial situation like Germany after World War II — our money could become worthless. Is that what you want?

ROBERT JACOBSON
Astoria

Art, not bombs

We are grateful to be living in Astoria, which is rich in artists, writers, musicians, actors, etc. And, according to Americans for the Arts, the nonprofit arts industry (museums, theater and dance companies, performing arts centers, orchestras, arts councils and others) generates \$22.3 billion in federal, state and local tax revenues annually — a yield well beyond their collective \$4 billion in arts allocations.

Because the National Endowment for the Arts sup-

A supporter of Warrenton, always

I love Warrenton. I love the people I have met and the politics; I even love the Eighth Street "dam" (FYI, it's a tide gate, not a dam). I hate to step away from something I've enjoyed nearly half of my adult life, but my business and personal finances dictate that I have to make this decision.

I will miss my Monday morning coffee meetings, and countless work sessions with my fellow commissioners, where we envisioned the future. I learned a lot during the last dozen

years from five city managers and several more department heads that each brought different strengths to the job.

I saw a new wastewater treatment plant and water reservoir get built, the emergence of a strong retail hub along U.S. Highway 101, and some long-awaited improvements to our marinas. I loved being part of an effort to help folks solve problems. That made the donation of my time worthwhile.

I will still be involved with my city, because achieving the goals that

we established at the beginning of the year are extremely important to me. However, I will be doing it in a different capacity, as I focus on what's best for my family's future at this time. I will not say this is the end to public service for me; I will always remain a supporter of this community.

Thanks for letting me be your mayor.

MARK KUJALA
Mayor of Warrenton
Hammond

ports artistic excellence and improves access to the arts by granting funds to nonprofit arts organizations, I call on our federal officials to support an increase in funding for the NEA beyond its 1993 funding level of \$174 million. That funding figure equals \$290 million in today's dollars.

Our schools need more arts education. Schools, especially those struggling, can retain their best teachers by becoming incubators for creativity and innovation; places where students want to learn, and teachers want to teach. Students with an education rich in the arts have better grade point averages, score better on standardized tests in reading and math, and have lower dropout rates — findings that cut across all socio-economic categories.

Congress and state education leaders should support strong arts education programs in order for local school leaders to include the arts in all disciplines (dance, theater, music, visual and media arts) in their curriculum.

Some of the greatest cultural assets of our country are in our rural communities. Rural economic development should be strengthened to help these communities promote the richness of their heritage, and assist local artists with their entrepreneurship.

Across the country, the role of the arts as an economic engine is growing in acceptance and strength. I call on all lawmakers to support funding and policies at the federal level that would recognize the growth potential and direct benefits of encouraging cities and states to strategically invest in the arts in order to drive economic development. Art, not bombs — let's create not destroy.

LaREE JOHNSON
Astoria

McCarthyism?

The Seifers' March 10 letter catalogues allegations against Russia and Vladimir Putin characteristic of the "liberal" media during the heightening new Cold War with Russia ("Affairs of state"). The charges are characteristic of a dangerous new McCarthyism.

There is no evidence of "Russian aggression." The two tiny states, South Ossetia and Abkhazia, illegally claimed by Georgia, chose to protect themselves from Georgian absorption in 2008 by joining Russia. The Ukraine fracas began in an illegal Neo-Nazi led coup against a legitimate government. It was an act of U.S. sponsored "regime change," piloted by the neoconservative National Endowment for Democracy.

The Crimea has harbored Russia's sole warm-water port for centuries, anchoring Russia's fleet. Western Ukrainians had supported the Nazis in World War II, when the USSR lost some 28 million people to the Third Reich. Rather than live under a new fascism, Crimea's 97 percent Russian population voted in a referendum, legal under international law, to rejoin Russia. Russia never invaded Ukraine to take Crimea. Nor has Russia invaded Ukraine on behalf of the ethnic Russian population of the eastern Donbass region, seeking separation from Kiev.

In the matter of the 2016 election, Princeton Russian Studies scholar, Stephen Cohen states: "CIA allegations of Russian hacking are wholly unsubstantiated. Best evidence shows that inside sources leaked embarrassing DNC information to WikiLeaks, which then exposed it." Cohen also points out that a "cautious" Putin

would hardly wish to meddle in the American election in favor of an "erratic" Trump.

Trump's "lavish praise" of Putin, merely complimented the Russian leader's high intelligence and 86 percent home approval rating. Cohen points out that Franklin D. Roosevelt said more complimentary things about Stalin, and Nixon about Brezhnev. The meeting of Michael Flynn with the Russian ambassador was also nothing out of the ordinary for an incoming National Security chairman. And the sole evidence of Trump's business deals with Russians had to do with U.S. condos.

The New Cold War is U.S. manufactured, and dangerously reckless. As there is little to no high level communication between the U.S. and Russia, in the face of NATO's provocations and missiles on the Russian border, the Union of Concerned Scientists views the chances of nuclear war now as higher than in the Cuban Missile Crisis.

STEPHEN BERK
Astoria

Studying Oregon

I am a fourth-grade student in North Carolina. In fourth grade, we do state reports, and I have chosen your state. I am very excited to learn about the great state of Oregon as I work on my report.

Most of the information that we get for our reports will be from books and websites. We also like to get information from people who live in the state, too. This is why I am writing.

I am hoping people will be willing to send me some items to help me learn more about the best things in Oregon. I could be things like postcards, maps, pictures, souvenirs, general information, newspaper articles or any other items that would be useful. You can mail the items to: Brooke Burtowski, Mrs. Dodd's Class, Charlotte Latin School, 9502 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28277.

BROOKE BURTOWSKI
Charlotte, North Carolina

Overlooked

The Friday, March 17 Letters to the Editor section in The Daily Astorian had two disparaging letters regarding Astoria as a tourist destination. The fella from Gearhart apparently has hated Astoria for over 50 years because of "panhandlers" and "potheads" ("Tourist destination?"), and the woman from Astoria thinks the town is wonderful, but is embarrassed by the east end "lady" figure and the fact that the downtown has too many "shops of alternative health and recreation" and far too many breweries ("Inviting trouble?").

Neither letter mentioned the fact that Astoria also has the Columbia River Maritime Museum, the trolley, the Flavel mansion and museum, the docking station for the Coast Guard cutters, the Riverwalk, the Oregon Film Museum, the Astoria Bridge, the River Pilots' station, the Clatsop County Heritage Museum, the Garden of Surging Waves, the Liberty Theater, the East and West Mooring basins, the Astoria Music Festival, the Astoria Regatta Festival and parade, the Fisher Poets Gathering and the May and September arrival of cruise ships.

Astoria is a real live town, with real live people. If you want to visit a place where everyone lives in a fantasy world, go to Disneyland, where they have a Main Street void of panhandlers, pot shops and breweries and their highest

hill is a fake Matterhorn; but we have Coxcomb Hill, with its breathtaking views of the magnificent Columbia River, Youngs River, the Lewis and Clark River, Youngs Bay and our glorious forests, as far as the eye can see.

Then, if you really want to get "high," as suggested by "Mr. Gearhart," you can climb to the top of the Astoria Column and launch a balsa wood glider. A place like this can only be found in Astoria.

LARRY ALLEN
Astoria

Support NPV

The National Popular Vote (NPV) ensures a majority wins by making all votes equal. Opponents say it disfavors small states, but 94 percent of campaigning occurs in 12 "swing states," ignoring the majority of small states like Oregon.

Rural states are less diverse than urban ones, instead of rural, do opponents really mean white? Like slavery times, there's no penalty for voter suppression. Arkansas, with a 54.3 percent voter turnout, has the same electoral vote as if 100 percent turned out. The NPV makes voter suppression cost state's influence creating an incentive to, gasp, encourage people to vote. Counting minority party votes encourages voter turnout. Wyoming voters would

have the same representation as Californian voters. Campaigns will have to refocus on forgotten voters, giving us more influence, not less.

Until 1824, the electoral vote of each U.S. House district was cast for the candidate they chose, often resulting in an alternative election in the U.S. House, where Wyoming and the Dakotas could outvote California, Texas and New York combined. After 1824, without complaint, voters in 48 states gave up district rights to vote against the majority, and no one under an NPV will complain that the loser of the vote should win. It's irrational to believe that Oregon's electoral votes should be cast for the candidate chosen by Oregon voters. So that the candidate with less votes can win the presidential election, like in 2000 and 2016.

Now our Legislature is considering NPV. Please contact Sen. Lee Beyer 503-986-1706 and Sen. Arnie Roblan at 503-986-1705, and ask them to vote for SB823 that enacts the NPV like 11 other states have, and against the "poison pill" bill SB825. They're the two senators on the Senate Rules Committee that can kill the poison pill bill in committee.

If all votes were equal in the beginning, white, male, pro-slavery representatives wouldn't have gotten elected, and slavery would've been abolished without the Civil

War. If Native Americans' votes counted, there would've been no trail of tears, and if all votes counted equally in 2016, there would be no President Donald Trump.

THEODORE THOMAS
Astoria

Farewell to Astoria

Wow, hard to believe it's been 25 years. Even as we are excited to leave for a new chapter in our lives for our home in Coronado, California, we are going to miss Astoria so much. Our list of what we are thankful for is extensive: wonderful neighbors who were always there for us, good friends and co-workers, teachers who made such an impact on our kids' lives and incredible community members who taught us how a small town works together.

We've enjoyed the many opportunities to sing — at the Liberty, the Lund House, church and various concerts and events — and the performances of "Amahl and the Night Visitors" were especially memorable. We will miss the Riverwalk, good restaurants, viewing beautiful sunsets from our front window and eating really fresh salmon. We have fond memories of even noisy sea lions and one-way streets. The view from the Column, the sound of the trolley, fog horns at night — especially on New Year's Eve — geese flying and honking overhead ... we could go on and on.


We originally came here for our beautiful Victorian house we call "The Big Blue." The Holmes family lived in it for 70 years, the Collins family for 26 years, and now we leave after 25 years. We know that new legacies will continue to be formed in this historic home.

Astoria has been an amazing place to raise our children, as well as grow in our own maturity and experiences. For all this, we say a huge thank you and farewell — we will forever hold Astoria in our hearts.


KEITH and GENNY
BUTENSHON
Astoria

4,500 kids thank you


for protecting our river and making learning outdoors possible!




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