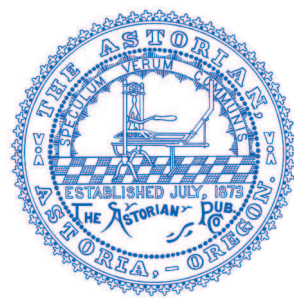


THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Founded in 1873



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Water under the bridge



Compiled by Bob Duke

From the pages of Astoria's daily newspapers

10 years ago this week — 2007

Cartwright Park, a small neighborhood park in Seaside, enjoyed a facelift over the weekend.

The city of Seaside, in conjunction with the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District and Hood to Coast, began updating Cartwright Park Saturday thanks in part to a \$17,000 grant from Hood to Coast.

"Hood to Coast realized they wanted to give something back to the community of Seaside," said Mary Blake, general manager of the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District. "So, last year they initiated a fee of \$1 per runner and gave that money to Seaside."

Chinook School is a tarnished treasure awaiting new life in that Washington town. Rebirth began last week when the Port of Chinook signed a 33-year lease with Friends of Chinook School, a nonprofit group whose mission is restoration of the historic schoolhouse.

The eagles have landed — again.

Bald eagles usually mate for life. Every spring for the last several years, the same pair of bald eagles has returned to a nest in the crotch of a tall Sitka spruce near the Astoria water tower to raise another chick.

And every year, Georgia Forrester is watching for them from her home across the street.

This year they were right on schedule, arriving at the same time as last year. On March 15, she saw them fly up into the tree tops to mate.

50 years ago — 1967

Treasure hunter Tony Mareno of Salem was spurred on over the weekend by discovery of metal 5 to 6 feet under sand and rocks at Neahkahnie beach.

An 8-inch spike and an L-shaped rod were found where Mareno has been digging for a week to find the legendary Spanish treasure. Also found in his diggings were several pieces of wood that appear to have been shaped by men. One is similar in shape to awl, but larger.

Local residents who were skeptical at first were beginning to believe that maybe Mareno has found the Neahkahnie treasure. Skeptics have seen treasure hunters come and go over the years.

Friday will mark the 90th anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church in Astoria.

Prior to 1877, those of the Presbyterian faith living in Astoria and vicinity were connected with the Clatsop Plains church, said to be the oldest Presbyterian church, and one of the oldest Protestant churches west of the Rocky mountains.

On May 5, 1877, Presbyterians gathered in the schoolhouse in Uppertown to meet with Dr. A.L. Lindsay of Oregon Presbytery, for purpose of organization of the First Presbyterian Church of Astoria.

City Council Monday night said "no" to a Blue Ridge condominium request for fire protection. It was the second request for Astoria services turned down. First was for annexation to the city.

Prime reason for defeat of the proposal was lack of fire department personnel, as stated by Fire Chief Arni Rautio, and feeling expressed by most of council members that protection of Astorians should come first.

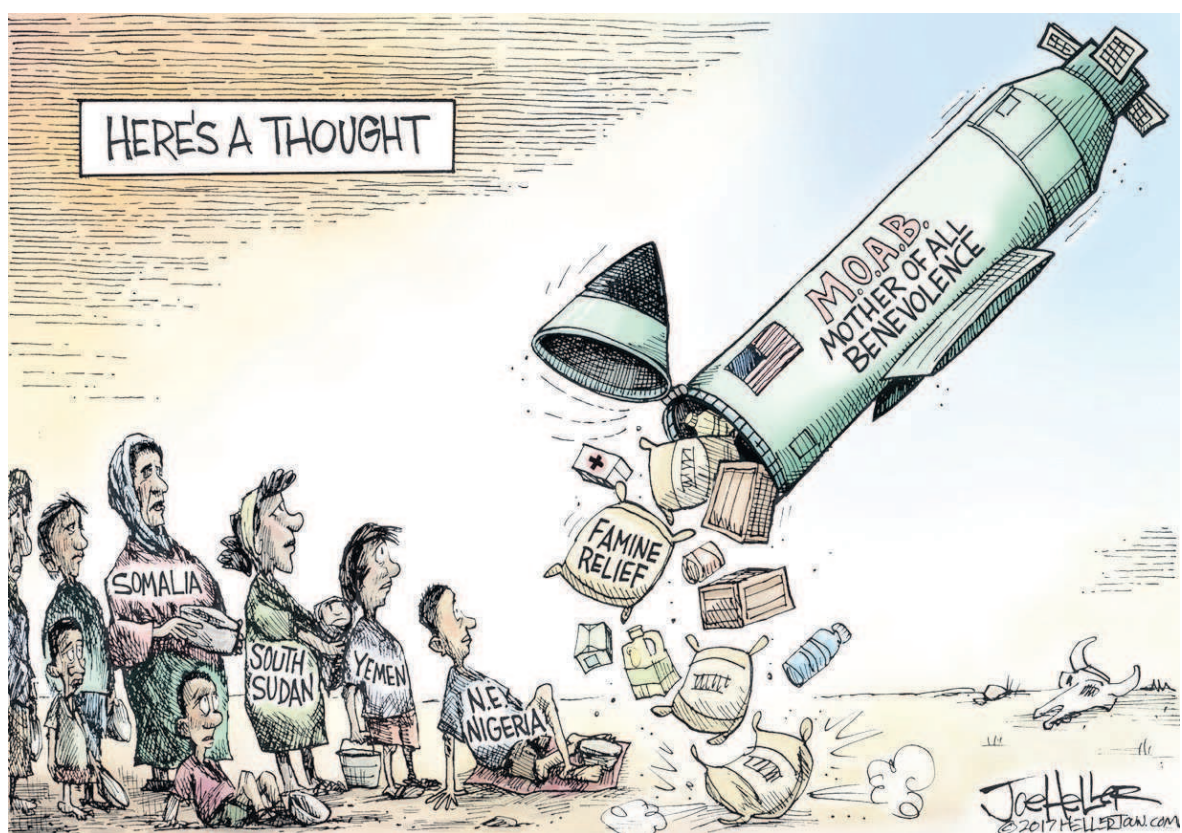
Fifty years ago: From Evening Budget, May 3, 1917 — The weather station here reported the wettest April in many years with rainfall measuring 9.8 inches. There were only 10 days of the month during which the sun shone briefly.

75 years ago — 1942

The old argument over employment of married women as teachers came to the fore again at the school board meeting Tuesday night, as Superintendent Arle C. Hampton informed the board that it would be extremely difficult to maintain a good teaching corps during the war years if the rule was left intact. Several of the key teachers in the staff intend to be married this summer and would automatically lose their positions under present rule, he told the board qualified applicants for teaching positions this year have been very few.

After considerable argument a motion was carried to the effect that women teachers now on the staff who get married during the war shall have the right to apply to the superintendent to continue as war emergency teachers for the duration of the war.

If the Navy accepts James F. Hensley of Warrenton as a construction specialist in Portland today, the father of eight children will follow three of his sons into service of their country, it was revealed today.



On the power of being awful

By PAUL KRUGMAN

New York Times News Service

The 100-day reviews are in, and they're terrible. The health care faceplants just keep coming; the administration's tax "plan" offers less detail than most supermarket receipts; Trump has wimped out on his promises to get aggressive on foreign trade. The gap between big boasts and tiny achievements has never been wider.

Yet there have, by my count, been seven thousand news articles — OK, it's a rough estimate — about how Trump supporters are standing by their man, are angry at those meanies in the news media, and would gladly vote for him all over again. What's going on?

The answer, I'd suggest, lies buried in the details of the latest report on gross domestic product. No, really.

For the past few months, economists who track short-term developments have been noting a peculiar divergence between "soft" and "hard" data. Soft data are things like surveys of consumer and business confidence; hard data are things like actual retail sales. Normally these data tell similar stories (which is why the soft data are useful as a sort of early warning system for the coming hard data.) Since the 2016 election, however, the two kinds of data have diverged, with reported confidence surging — and, yes, a bump in stocks — but no real sign of a pickup in economic activity.

The funny thing about that confidence surge, however, was that it was very much along partisan lines — a sharp decline among Democrats, but a simply huge rise among Republicans. This raises the obvious question: Were those reporting a huge increase in optimism really feeling that much better about their economic prospects, or were they simply using the survey as an opportunity to affirm the rightness of their vote?

Well, if consumers really are feeling super-confident, they're not acting on those feelings. The first-quarter GDP report, showing growth slowing to a crawl, wasn't as bad as it looks: Technical issues involving inventories and seasonal adjustment (you don't want to know) mean that underlying growth was probably OK, though not great. But consumer spending was definitely sluggish.

The evidence, in other words, suggests that when Trump voters say they're highly confident, it's more a declaration of their political identity than an indication of what they're going to do, or even, maybe, what they really believe.

May I suggest that focus groups and polls of Trump voters are pick-



AP Photo/Susan Walsh

President Donald Trump walks from the Rose Garden back to the Oval Office of the White House Tuesday following a presentation ceremony of the Commander-in-Chief trophy to the Air Force Academy football team.

ing up something similar?

One basic principle I've learned in my years at The Times is that almost nobody ever admits being wrong about anything — and the wronger they were, the less willing they are to concede error. For example, when Bloomberg surveyed a group of economists who had predicted that Ben Bernanke's policies would cause runaway inflation, they literally couldn't find a single person willing to admit, after years of low inflation, having been mistaken.

In a perverse way, Trump's sheer awfulness offers him some political protection: His supporters aren't ready, at least so far, to admit that they made that big a mistake.

Now think about what it means to have voted for Trump. The news media spent much of the campaign indulging in an orgy of false equivalence; nonetheless, most voters probably got the message that the political/media establishment considered Trump ignorant and temperamentally unqualified to be president. So the Trump vote had a strong element of: "Ha! You elites

think you're so smart? We'll show you!"

Now, sure enough, it turns out that Trump is ignorant and temperamentally unqualified to be president. But if you think his supporters will accept this reality any time soon, you must not know much about human nature. In a perverse way, Trump's sheer awfulness offers him some political protection: His supporters aren't ready, at least so far, to admit that they made that big a mistake.

Also, to be fair, so far Trumpism hasn't had much effect on daily life. In fact, Trump's biggest fails have involved what hasn't happened, not what has. So it's still fairly easy for those so inclined to dismiss the bad reports as media bias.

Sooner or later, however, this levee is going to break.

I chose that metaphor advisedly. I'm old enough to remember when George W. Bush was wildly popular — and while his numbers gradually deflated from their post 9/11 high, it was a slow process. What really pushed his former supporters to reconsider, as I perceived it — and this perception is borne out by polling — was the Katrina debacle, in which everyone could see the Bush administration's callousness and incompetence playing out live on TV.

What will Trump's Katrina moment look like? Will it be the collapse of health insurance due to administration sabotage? A recession this White House has no idea how to handle? A natural disaster or public health crisis? One way or another, it's coming.

Oh, and one more note: By 2006, a majority of those polled claimed to have voted for John Kerry in 2004. It will be interesting, a couple of years from now, to see how many people say they voted for Donald Trump.

LETTERS WELCOME

Letters should be exclusive to The Daily Astorian. We do not publish open letters or third-party letters.

Letters should be fewer than 350 words and must include the writer's name, address and phone numbers. You will be contacted to confirm authorship.

All letters are subject to editing for space, grammar and, on occasion, factual accuracy and verbal verification of authorship. Only two letters per writer are printed each month.

Letters written in response to

other letter writers should address the issue at hand and, rather than mentioning the writer by name, should refer to the headline and date the letter was published. Discourse should be civil and people should be referred to in a respectful manner. Letters referring to news stories should also mention the headline and date of publication.

The Daily Astorian welcomes short "in gratitude" notes from readers for publication. They should keep to a 200-word maximum and writers are asked to avoid simply listing event sponsors. They

must be signed, include the writer's address, phone number and are subject to condensation and editing for style, grammar, etc.

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Online form at www.dailyastorian.com;

Delivered to the Astorian offices at 949 Exchange St. and 1555 N. Roosevelt in Seaside.

Or by mail to Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103