

# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Founded in 1873



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## OUR VIEW

Each week we recognize those people and organizations in the community deserving of public praise for the good things they do to make the North Coast a better place to live, and also those who should be called out for their actions.



## SHOUTOUTS

This week's Shoutouts go to:

- The **Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce** and the sponsors, organizers and hundreds of volunteers who pitched in last weekend to make the 35th annual Crab, Seafood & Wine Festival a highly successful, family friendly event. The three-day event attracted an estimated 18,000 people to the Clatsop County Fair and Expo Center for food, wine, arts and crafts, live music and a variety of other exhibits. More than 175 vendors participated in the festival, including nonprofit groups. Chamber Executive Director Skip Hauke gave much of the credit for the festival's success this year to event coordinator Kelsey Balensifer and said a portion of the proceeds goes back to nonprofit organizations in the community.



Submitted Photo

**Tammy Heintz and Kayla Warner from Clatsop Community College participated in the Earth Day Riverwalk Cleanup on April 22.**

- The organizers and 48 volunteers who braved the weather and collected about 300 pounds of garbage during the **Earth Day Riverwalk Cleanup** on April 22. The volunteers, including teams from Wauna Credit Union, Clatsop Community College and the Astoria Coast Guard, picked up the garbage along the Riverwalk from Buoy Beer all the way to Safeway despite the rainy, windy weather. The event was sponsored by Wauna Credit Union, Buoy Beer and SOLVE, which also provided cleaning supplies.

- Members of **Gateway Lodge 175**, which conducted its 57th Warrenton High School Honor Student Banquet last month and awarded 11 Baldwin Scholarships collectively worth \$30,500 per year and renewable for four years, bringing the Gateway Scholarship total for 2017 to \$122,000. Gateway 175 is a Masonic Lodge and has awarded more than \$1.32 million to Warrenton High School seniors during the past 15 years. The lodge began its scholarship program in 1960.

- The **River Inn at Seaside**, which was recognized by the Asian American Hotel Owners Association with an award as a national winner in the category of "Independent Hotel of the Year" for its standard of excellence in quality, service and guest satisfaction. Managing Director Masudur Khan was honored last month before 6,500 attendees at the association's awards ceremony in San Antonio, Texas.

- **Ed Heckard**, a 72-year-old Ilwaco High School alumnus, who completed his third Boston Marathon on April 17. Heckard, who now lives in Mill Creek, Washington, completed the course in 4:26:07 and finished 41st out of 138 runners in his age group. Heckard didn't take up long-distance running until after he reached retirement age.



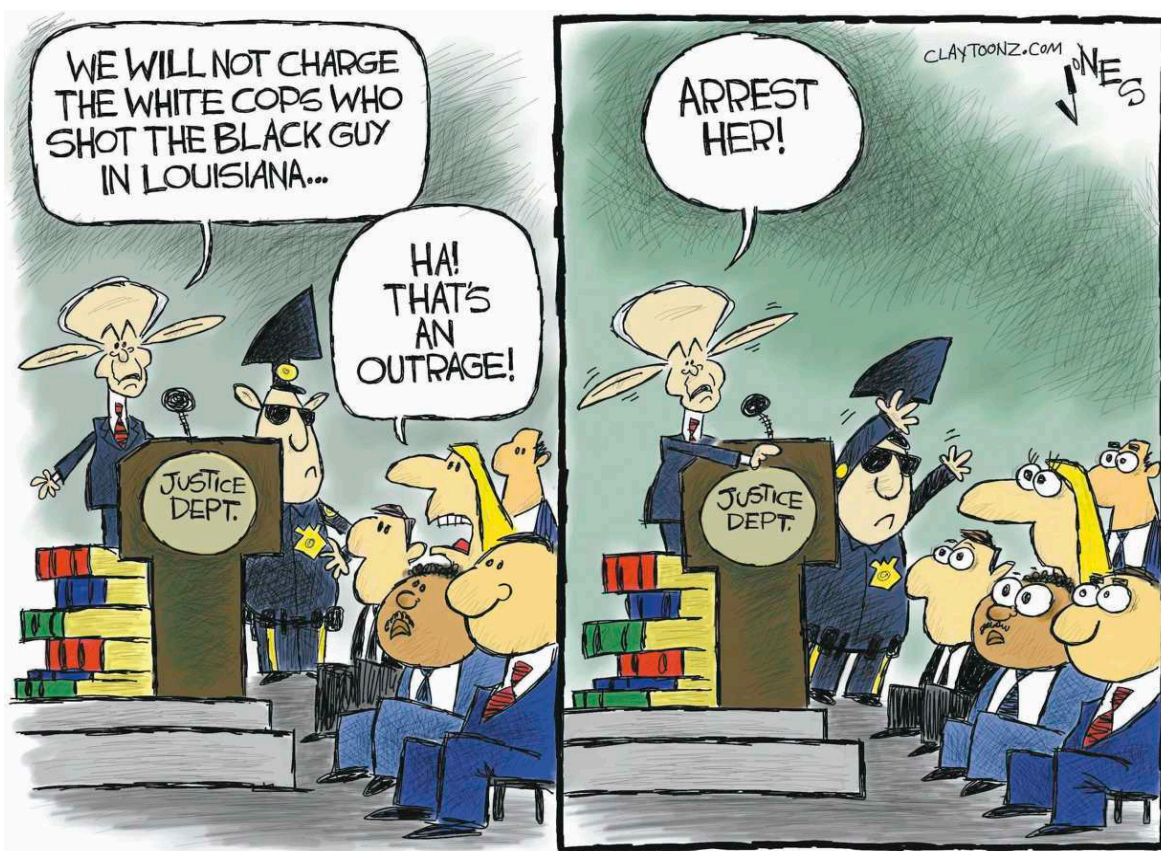
## CALLOUTS

This week's Callouts go to:

- The **state Department of Revenue**, which has about 100 open positions, 31 of them in collections, despite receiving \$10 million from the Legislature to fill them during the current two-year budget period that ends in June. Gov. Kate Brown last week called for renewed efforts to collect hundreds of millions owed to the state, and legislators including state Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose, are asking the department to explain why those positions remain open, and what the department spent that money on. Shawn Waite, director of the department's administrative services division, told legislators during recent budget hearings that some of the money was spent on personal services and backfilling positions, but that about \$4.5 million should be left over. Johnson said she wants to know why that information wasn't disclosed to the Legislature. "We appropriated money based on certain representations that the agency made, and it appears that those promises haven't been kept," she said.

### Suggestions?

Do you have a Shoutout or Callout you think we should know about? Let us know at [news@dailyastorian.com](mailto:news@dailyastorian.com) and we'll make sure to take a look.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### No shows

Last Wednesday, April 26, a candidate forum for those seeking an Astoria Port Commission position was held at the Warrenton High School. Three of the candidates did not appear. Two had agreed to participate, and the third made excuse after excuse for not coming.

What part of a representative democracy do these men not understand? They are seeking to represent all citizens of Clatsop County, not just those who live in Astoria. By not appearing, the 30-plus members of the audience who came to hear all the candidates did not hear what these three know, why they are seeking office, what they see as the issues facing the Port and what solutions they have to solve those issues.

These three have not demonstrated they understand the basic requirement of an elected official to be accountable to the public they seek to represent.

I am voting for the three who did attend and did answer the audience's questions. Dick Hellberg, Pat O'Grady and Steve Fulton will represent the public interest of all Clatsop County.

PATRICIA ROBERTS  
Gearhart

### Re-elect Campbell

I am writing to endorse the re-election of James Campbell to Port Commissioner Position 1.

I am very concerned over the level of vitriol and lack of civility by Jim's opponent. His opponent's baseless accusations and outright misrepresentations of the truth are over the line, in what should be a campaign of issues and facts.

I have known Jim Campbell for years. He is a gentleman. I know he prepares well for Port Commission meetings, and has the best interests of the citizens of Clatsop County in mind when he considers issues facing the Port. When Jim Campbell was elected four years ago, the Port finances were in complete disarray. In addition, Port management and leadership were ineffective.

Jim guided the Port into hiring a professional executive director, Jim Knight. It took herculean effort, but the new management team cleaned house on ineffective staff members, and took the Port back into financial stability.

Today, except for dissention caused by two disruptive commissioners, the Port functions as it should, creating wealth for the taxpayers.

As a Port commissioner with over 16 year's experience, Jim Campbell knows how the interface between the commissioners and the executive director staff works. Commissioners set policy and long-term goals. It is up to the director and his staff to execute the policy.

The director makes the daily decisions, implementing the goals set by the commissioners. Commissioners who get involved in daily minutia of the Port staff, and try to manage in detail the daily tasks of the director, cause disruption and negatively impact staff morale. Jim Campbell is not a commissioner who will direct the director in the director's routine daily duties.

Please join me in voting for Jim Campbell to return the Port Commission to a board of polite professionals who will follow proper procedures and good manners when debating issues.

TERESA J. STEVENS  
Warrenton

### Need for free trade

The First Triumvirate was described as an informal alliance between three prominent men of the late Roman Republic, Julius Cae-

sar, Pompey the Great and Marcus Licinius Crassus. Now we have the Second Triumvirate, being formed with the association of Dick Hellberg, Pat O'Grady and Steve Fulton, in their running for commissioners for the Port of Astoria. And, like smart politicians, they are sharing their advertising expenses.

Both Dick Hellberg and Steve Fulton mention that their families have lived in the Astoria area for over 100 years — Dick's family in fishing, and Steve's family with the Port of Astoria. Has Dick's family's influence increased the prosperity of fisherman in the Astoria area the past 20 years? Has Steve's family association with the Port of Astoria increased the prosperity of the average citizen in the Astoria area?

I think not, in both cases. And Steve's relinquishing his position as commissioner only to apply for James Campbell's commissioner position. Talk about being in a bush league.

Pat O'Grady makes the statement, "No repeat of past Port history of hiding information." Where is his proof? Steve says he is running to make the Port work for everyone. My translation: Make the Port work for the Longshoreman Association, which is unionized, and a monopoly on the Columbia River.

Violence almost erupted a couple of years ago when a grain company in Longview, Washington, wanted to hire people other than people from the Longshoreman Union. The sheriff had to be called out to keep people from being hurt or killed.

The Longshoreman Union, in my opinion, can bring commercial traffic on the Columbia River to a standstill — if they choose. A monopoly. We need not only free trade, but free access to the Columbia River for all commercial vehicles.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote for James Campbell, Dirk Rohne and Frank Spence.

TERRY SMITH  
Warrenton

### Positive Port business

Several weeks ago The Daily Astorian reported that Port Commissioners Robert Mushen (chairman), Jim Campbell and John Raichl have largely been supportive of Jim Knight's efforts to put the Port of Astoria on a professional and respected course ("Port Commission's petty infighting needs to stop," The Daily Astorian, Feb. 14).

The article went on to point out that Knight is also well-respected by other port professionals, as Port of Portland Executive Director Bill Wyatt noted during a recent visit here, saying that "Astoria is lucky to have him." I would just like to say a big "thank you" to Knight, Mushen, Campbell and Raichl for putting the Port back in business in a respectable and responsible way, after so many years of turmoil and scandal. The entire county benefits from the Port's economic success.

Since that report, Campbell has filed to retain his seat; and two excellent candidates have filed to fill the two empty seats, Dirk Rohne and Frank Spence. Spence has served this community in several capacities and, importantly, on the Port's Budget Committee, for the past three years.

Rohne served two terms on the Clatsop County Commission during a critical period in its recent history, notably when a majority of maple in this county were fighting the incursion of LNG proposals.

You, Knight, should take great encouragement from the many letters in the editorial section on Fridays in The Daily Astorian, particularly the April 14 edition. Many good people have written in support of Campbell, Rohne and Spence for commission-

ers in the May 16 special election to help you continue to build a well-run, financially sound and environmentally conscious port.

Again, thank you.

LETITIA TARVER  
Astoria

### Port management

I'm new to the area, and struck by the number of articles and letters regarding the Astoria Port Commission. The two most important business issues appear to be a late water treatment project that failed to account for bad weather, and an expensive bond measure to make modest improvements to the medical helicopter facility — but the December audit on the website shows more serious problems.

A million dollar loss last year, a significant finding about the lack of an inventory of Port assets (there are over 600, worth nearly \$30 million), and a request for more detail on pension obligations. I haven't seen a commissioner or candidate state how they would solve these problems.

I also haven't seen any admit that they did a poor job last year, and need to improve. So why are we voting for incumbents and past commissioners? We need people with recent experience managing profitable organizations with large budgets. Being a good neighbor should be a requirement, not a qualification.

ED VERDURMEN  
Seaside

### Service above self

As a longtime observer of the Port of Astoria leadership challenges, I am excited to see productive opportunities on this year's ballot for the visionary growth that is necessary for our Port to productively serve this community.

One of these opportunities, due to the North Coast's unique geographic setting, is creating a strong and healthy Life Flight facility. Such a facility needs to be optimized for staffing, maintenance and, if we are wise, built in a way to also ensure growth potential for future vital life saving resources.

That is why both Lynne and I are voting in favor of Bond Measure 4-187, which is not only intrinsically worthy, but financially modest, when considering the long-term benefits to our community. We are convinced that support of this project is critical to quality of life for ourselves and our neighbors and now is the time to get this done.

I am also pleased that James Campbell, Dirk Rohne and Frank Spence are willing to serve on the Port Commission, as I know they all embrace the core values of professionalism, team building and positive regard for organizational discipline.

Such values are absolutely necessary to not only ensure productive meetings, but will make possible progressive agendas the Port of Astoria so desperately needs to move forward. These attitudes and commitments to professional standards that these three bring will foster and stabilize a more civil social/political environment, an environment our public bodies must maintain in order to attract future generations of willing public volunteer leadership.

I can assure you that these three individuals are indeed great people, committed to bringing needed professional expertise and good manners so necessary to build an effective team in order to get good works underway. Best yet, they are not narrowly focused, as James Campbell, Dirk Rohne and Frank Spence are willing to serve all of us with our diverse needs and interests with the sole motive of "service above self."

JERRY L. OSTERMILLER  
Astoria