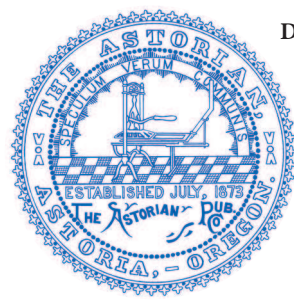


THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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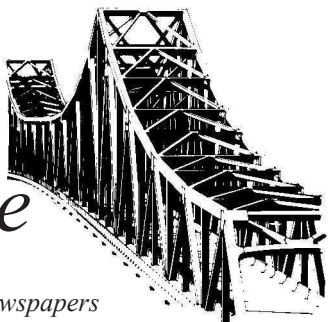
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Water under the bridge



Compiled by Bob Duke

From the pages of Astoria's daily newspapers



The Daily Astorian/File

Bottom right, Camp Rilea's Staff Sgt. Toben Pond, left, and Sgt. Mike Williams fire off a few rounds Thursday on 'Old Smokey,' a howitzer once used in Vietnam, to commemorate the June 21, 1942 Japanese submarine attack on Fort Stevens.

10 years ago this week — 2007

Lefse was selling like hotcakes Saturday at the fairgrounds, where the 40th annual Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival was in full swing.

Visitors were queuing up for favorite delicacies like aebleskiver (ball-shaped pancakes) and frikadeller (pork meatballs) at the Danish Society booth and Finnish cardamom bread.

A study commissioned by liquefied natural gas developer NorthernStar Natural Gas Co. identifies LNG as an "engine for economic growth."

The study's author, University of Oregon economist Dr. Phil Romero, found an LNG terminal in the Pacific Northwest would support between 5,100 and 20,300 more jobs and household income growth between \$51 million and \$214 million.

The bizarre ecosystem in Long Beach's Island Lake Forest is safe from development, thanks to a deal struck between a family of longtime cranberry farmers and a Columbia region conservation group.

The 359-acre property is an anomaly, scientists say, because old growth Douglas fir and Sitka spruce trees, which prefer drier climates, sprout from sand dunes in an area doused by more than 80 inches of rain each year.

This habitat — acquired May 31 by Columbia Land Trust — gives refuge to herons, eagles, osprey, bears, elk, river otters and woodpeckers, said Glenn Lamb, the conservation group's executive director. Some scientists believe the forest could be home to the federally endangered marbled murrelets, seabirds that look like a duck crossed with a penguin.

The land had belonged to Long Beach resident Frank Glenn IV's family since 1940, and Glenn said the idea of selling the land to a logging company broke his heart. He started visiting the area as a teenager.

50 years ago — 1967

Chamber of Commerce members enjoyed fine weather Friday for what was termed "a most interesting" tour of the Portland waterfront along the Willamette River.

Members returned with a suggestion from officials of Portland International Airport, also a part of the tour. Officials recommended Astoria consider use of miniliners, 8-to 10-passenger planes for flights between Astoria and Portland.

The twin-engine small aircraft are capable of traveling more than 200 mph, and it was noted that with use of the aircraft more frequent scheduling could be arranged. Up to four flights per day could be made without loss.

Even though the session of the state Legislature just ended in Salem failed to see enactment of some type of a property tax relief bill, Clatsop County will benefit in this regard when all details are worked out allowing Northwest Aluminum to locate here.

Treasure digger Tony Mareno of Salem said Tuesday he thinks he is getting closer to locating the fabled Spanish treasure on the beach at Manzanita south of Neahkahnie mountain in northern Tillamook County.

Mareno has erected a plywood shelter over the deepening hole on the sands and said he has unearthed what he believes are pieces of redwood timbers.

There appear to be traces of strong mineral in the hole, he said. Shovels left in the diggings overnight turn green by morning, he reported, indicating the presence of copper compounds.

75 years ago — 1942

The boom of hostile gunfire, a sound not heard in Clatsop County since the earliest days, broke upon the startled ears of many a resident Sunday night, but frightened few and the chief emotion it aroused was a burning curiosity to know what had happened.

Many Clatsop residents slept through the whole thing, but in Warrenton and the Clatsop Plains district the sound of banging gunfire was so loud that nearly everyone who had gone to sleep was awakened.

In fact, people of the district from Hammond south several miles all thought they could hear the whistle of shells right overhead.

Nine 5-inch explosive shells, "undoubtedly" fired by a large enemy submarine several miles at sea last night, landed near the Columbia River harbor defenses at Fort Stevens reservation, Col. Carl S. Doney, commanding officer of Fort Stevens disclosed today.

Col. Doney said the submarine, presumably Japanese, probably aimed its shots at Fort Stevens but that the aim was bad. He acknowledged however that the shells "came close — too damn close." There was no damage and no casualties. No buildings on the military reservation were hit. The shells landed harmlessly on the beaches and swamps bordering the shoreline on the south bank of the mouth of the Columbia River.



If liberals bothered to vote



AP Photo/David Goldman

Jon Ossoff, Democratic candidate for Georgia's 6th congressional district, talks to reporters during a stop at a campaign office in Chamblee, Ga., on Monday.

By DAVID LEONHARDT
New York Times News Service

If liberals voted at the same rate as conservatives, Hillary Clinton would be president. Even with Donald Trump's working-class appeal, Clinton could have swept Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania.

If liberals voted at the same rate as conservatives, Democrats would control the U.S. Senate. Clinton or Barack Obama could then have filled the recent Supreme Court vacancy, and that justice would hold the tiebreaking vote on campaign finance, labor unions and other issues.

If liberals voted at the same rate as conservatives, the country would be doing more to address the two defining issues of our time — climate change and stagnant middle-class living standards. Instead, Trump is making both worse.

On Tuesday, the northern suburbs of Atlanta held the country's most significant election since Trump's victory. It was a special election in a conservative-leaning district once represented by Newt Gingrich and until recently by Tom Price, an architect of a health care plan that would take insurance from millions.

Special elections aren't normal. They can attract far more attention and money than a typical U.S. House race does, and the Georgia race did. Yet it nonetheless offered a tantalizing lesson for Democrats.

Their candidate, Jon Ossoff, had a real chance to win partly because he didn't suffer from the gap in voter passion and commitment that usually bedevils Democrats, especially in off-year races. Ossoff lost. But it would be a big deal if Democrats could more often close their passion-and-commitment gap. Even modestly higher turnout could help them at every level of politics and

hasten the policy changes that liberals dream about.

After all, polls show that a majority of Americans support progressive positions on most big issues. Yet Republicans dominate state and federal government.

Turnout is a big reason. Last year, Americans between the ages of 18-24 voted for Clinton over Trump in a landslide. Only 43 percent of citizens in that age group voted, however. By contrast, Americans over age 65 supported Trump — and 71 percent of them voted. Similarly, Americans in their 30s were more likely to support Clinton, and less likely to vote, than those in their 50s.

The pattern also exists across ethnic groups. Asian and Hispanic voters went for Clinton in a bigger landslide than millennials, but most Asian and Hispanic citizens didn't vote.

And the gaps grow even larger in midterm elections. A mere 17 percent — 17 percent! — of Americans between 18 and 24 voted in 2014, compared with 59 percent of seniors.

If you're liberal and frustrated by these statistics, you should be. But you shouldn't be defeatist.

What can be done? First, don't make the mistake of blaming everything on nefarious Republicans. Yes, Republicans have gerrymandered districts and shamefully suppressed votes (and Democrats should keep pushing for laws that make voting easier). But the turnout gap is bigger than any Republican scheme.

Second, keep in mind that turnout is a human-behavior problem. It involves persuading people to change long-established habits. And there is a powerful force uprooting all kinds of habits today: digital technology.

More specifically, smartphones are changing how people interact with information. I'd encourage progressives in Silicon Valley to think of voting as a giant realm ripe for disruption. Academic research by

Alan Gerber, Donald Green and others has shown that peer pressure can lift turnout. Smartphones are the most efficient peer-pressure device ever invented, but no one has figured out how social media or texting can get a lot more people to the polls — yet.

Finally, remember that the political left has had some recent successes in raising turnout, and they involved old-fashioned political excitement. Obama won partly through higher turnout among younger and nonwhite voters. Black turnout even exceeded white turnout in 2012, before slipping last year.

This month's British election is also intriguing. The Labour Party did better than expected, helped by a surge of younger voters angry about Brexit. But Britain also offers a caution to anyone who thinks higher turnout depends on far-left candidates, like Jeremy Corbyn, the Labour leader. Corbyn didn't win, and he didn't come very close.

My instinct is that the answer for Democrats involves a passionate message of fairness — of providing jobs, lifting wages, protecting rights and fighting Trump's plutocracy. It can be bolder than Democrats have been in decades. But it should not resemble a complete progressive wish list, which could turn off swing voters without even raising turnout.

People who don't vote regularly aren't progressive activists in disguise. They tend not to follow politics closely. Although most lean left, they are not doctrinaire, and they're not looking for white papers. They are looking to be inspired.

Obviously, these are tough times for Democrats. They haven't had much electoral cheer since 2012 — and Ossoff's loss was another setback. But Democrats should remember that they still have one enormous advantage.

The country's real silent majority prefers Democrats, if only that majority could be stirred to vote.

LETTERS WELCOME

Letters should be exclusive to The Daily Astorian.

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. 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. Disclosure should be civil and people should be referred to in a respect-

ful manner.

Submissions may be sent in any of these ways:

E-mail to editor@dailyastorian.com; online 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.