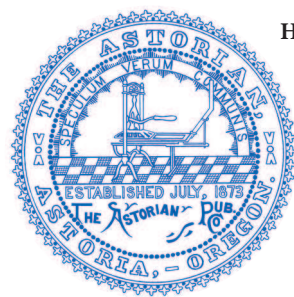


THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Founded in 1873



HEIDI WRIGHT, *Interim Publisher*

JIM VAN NOSTRAND, *Editor*

JEREMY FELDMAN, *Circulation Manager*

DEBRA BLOOM, *Business Manager*

JOHN D. BRUIJN, *Production Manager*

CARL EARL, *Systems Manager*

Water under the bridge



Compiled by Bob Duke

From the pages of Astoria's daily newspapers

10 years ago this week — 2007

The National Park Service's call for a freeze on new designations of national heritage areas has caused a stir nationally.

But Cyndi Mudge, director of Destination: The Pacific, was quick to reassure residents this morning that the potential policy change at national level won't affect efforts to create a Columbia-Pacific National Heritage Area.

"It has been such a good thing, they just want a formal program for designation," she said.

Mudge said her organization is already following the program recommendations from the National Park Service and heritage area organizers.

After approving just two dozen heritage areas since the early 1980s, Congress adopted 10 last year. The House signed off on six more last month, and the wait list is growing.

With Jon Englund's controversial riverfront condominium project in the works on his property between 15th and 16th streets in Astoria, another condo going up at the foot of Sixth Street and others waiting in the wings, some people fear a solid wall of buildings will line the Columbia River.

Others hail new development on the waterfront as an economic boon for the city as fish processing plants relocate to the Port of Astoria.

With two such opposite viewpoints emerging, city leaders are undertaking a community visioning process in the hope of forging a consensus on how to move forward.

The Ford Foundation is considering Astoria as a potential site for testing a new land use planning computer program. It includes a social component that focuses on people and their reactions to change as much as on building, open space, transportation and other components of what planners refer to as the "built environment."

Called HDOD for Human Development Overlay District, it uses GIS (Geographic Information System) to create a three-dimensional computer model, where land use planning strategies can be implemented virtually and their effects on a city or neighborhood and its inhabitants tracked in real time.

For the cities chosen to try it out, the program comes with a Ford Foundation grant of \$100,000 to \$150,000.

50 years ago — 1967

The state highway commission is examining the new Oregon beach law to determine whether the site of a proposed 160-home development at Seaside belongs to the public.

The 22-acre tract was sold to Sunset Cove Corp. by the city of Seaside for \$10,500. A portion of the tract was purchased from private interests. The firm, headed by William Holmstrom of Gearhart and Palmerton Development Corp. of Seattle plans to develop Pacific Riviera homesites. Bulldozers and carryalls are at the site moving sand.

The largest "set" of razor clams ever recorded by Oregon fish commission biologists occurred on the Clatsop beaches this year. Darrell Demory of the agency's Astoria research laboratory staff said sample screening of beach sands from Seaside north showed an average of 100 small seed clams for each square yard surveyed.

The number of Russian fishing vessels off the Oregon-Washington coast was reduced by half last week, according to the U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. Only five Soviet craft were seen off Washington. Fourteen Japanese fishing boats were counted in the area.

After learning Tuesday that one of his deputy highway engineers was investigating the million-dollar housing project proposed near the mouth of the Necanicum River in Seaside, Oregon highway engineer Forest Cooper stepped in and said the new beach law does not apply to the property.

75 years ago — 1942

State selective service officials of both Oregon and Washington will give favorable consideration to proposals for deferment of fishermen and key cannery employees, they informed James Cellars, who was authorized by packers and the union to consult with the officials of the two states.

Summarizing the results of his conferences, Cellars stated that "1. There is an evident willingness on the part of both state offices to cooperate to the fullest extent possible in maintaining manpower in the Oregon and Washington commercial fisheries.

"2. The industry and union should take every possible step to hasten the filing of deferment applications for every fisherman and key cannery worker."

The Astoria headquarters for mileage rationing was swamped today with last-minute efforts to obtain supplemental gasoline rationing by truck and commercial vehicle operators on the eve of national mileage rationing Dec. 1.

Many of the commercial vehicle operators had not received their necessary certificates of war necessity, which are prerequisites to a supplemental ration issued from the local office. They were being issued temporary 30-day supplemental rations, however, and the Clatsop County central rationing board was working hard to stay ahead of the work.



The biggest tax scam in history



AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite

Protesters shout their disapproval of the Republican tax bill outside the Senate Budget Committee hearing room on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., Tuesday.

By PAUL KRUGMAN

New York Times News Service

Donald Trump likes to declare that every good thing that happens while he's in office — job growth, rising stock prices, whatever — is the biggest, greatest, best ever. Then the fact-checkers weigh in and quickly determine that the claim is false.

But what's happening in the U.S. Senate right now really does deserve Trumpian superlatives. The bill Republican leaders are trying to ram through this week without hearings, without time for even a basic analysis of its likely economic impact, is the biggest tax scam in history. It's such a big scam that it's not even clear who's being scammed — middle-class taxpayers, people who care about budget deficits, or both.

One thing is clear, however: One way or another, the bill would hurt most Americans. The only big winners would be the wealthy — especially those who mainly collect income from their assets rather than working for a living — plus tax lawyers and accountants who would have a field day exploiting the many loopholes the legislation creates.

The core of the bill is a huge redistribution of income from lower- and middle-income families to corporations and business owners. Corporate tax rates go down sharply, while ordinary families are nickel-and-dimed by a series of tax changes, no one of which is that big a deal in itself, but which add up to significant tax increases on almost two-thirds of middle-class taxpayers.

Meanwhile, the bill would partially repeal Obamacare, in a way that would sharply reduce aid to lower-income families and raise the cost of insurance for many in the middle class.

You might wonder how such a thing could possibly pass the Senate. But that's where the scamming

comes in.

While the underlying structure of the bill involves raising taxes on the middle class, the bill also includes a number of temporary tax breaks that would, at first, offset these tax increases. As a result, in the first few years most middle-class families would see modest tax cuts.

But the operative word here is "temporary." All of these tax breaks either dwindle over time or are scheduled to expire at some point; by 2027 the bill is, as I said, a tax increase on the middle class used to pay for tax cuts that mainly benefit the wealthy.

One way or another, the bill would hurt most Americans.

Why would anyone write a bill full of provisions that evaporate over time? There's no economic or policy logic behind it. Instead, it's all about trying to have it both ways, making a safe space for political double talk.

Here's how it works: If you point out that the bill hugely favors the wealthy at the expense of ordinary families, Republicans will point to the next few years, when the class-war nature of the plan is obscured by those temporary tax breaks — and claim that whatever the language of the law says, those tax breaks will actually be made permanent by later Congresses.

But if you point out that the bill is fiscally irresponsible, they'll say that it "only" raises the deficit by \$1.5 trillion over the next decade and doesn't raise deficits at all after that — because, you see, those tax breaks will expire by 2027, so the tax hikes will raise a lot of revenue. By the way, the claim that middle-class taxes will rise is crucial to passing the bill: Only bills that

don't raise deficits after 10 years can bypass the filibuster and be enacted by a simple Senate majority.

The point, of course, is that these claims can't both be true. Either this bill is a big tax hike on the middle class, or it's a huge budget-buster. Which is it? Nobody really knows; probably even the people who wrote this monstrosity don't know. But someone is being scammed, bigly.

Oh, and ignore claims that tax cuts for corporations would jumpstart the economy and pay for themselves. Of the 42 ideologically diverse economists surveyed by the University of Chicago on the impact of Republican tax plans, only one agreed that they would lead to substantial economic growth, while none disagreed with the proposition that they would substantially increase U.S. debt.

So it's a giant scam. And while the exact nature of the scam may be unclear, ordinary American families would end up being the victims either way.

For suppose those temporary tax breaks did end up becoming permanent, so that the budget deficit soared on a long-term basis. Then what? You know the answer: Republicans would suddenly revert to the pretense that they're deficit hawks, and demand "entitlement reform" — that is, cuts in Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, programs that ordinary families depend on. In fact, they're already talking about those cuts — they've started the switch even before getting the suckers to take the bait.

So will they manage to pull off this giant con job? The reason they're rushing this to the Senate floor without a single hearing, without a full assessment from Congress's own official scorekeepers, is their hope that they can pass the thing before people figure out what they're up to.

And the question is whether there are enough Republican senators with principles, who believe that policies should not be sold with lies, to stop this bum's rush.

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. Discourse should be civil and people should be referred to in a

respectful 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.