

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump has stood up for our country

If it wasn't so serious, it would be funny. Why is it that when former President Barack Obama used Facebook to get personal data, liberals cheered, they said he was so smart. It was a marvelous time to be alive.

Then came President Donald Trump; he used the same tactic, and liberals went wild. They called for a good old fashioned lynching. They wanted to see his blood run in the streets.

President Trump has stood up for our country, our citizens, and most importantly, our economy. He's lowered taxes, eliminated some business-killing regulations, and liberals still want his blood.

They say only the rich will benefit from lower taxes. Nancy Pelosi said \$1,000 is crumbs. Really, Nancy? A thousand dollars is a lot of money to me. Besides, how many jobs have been created by the tax cuts?

Bill Clinton had how many affairs while in office? The true number will never be known, but the ones we do know about boggles my mind. My morals say one affair is too many. My kids know better than to cheat on their spouses.

Trump is accused of cheating, and every news source talks about it on a daily basis. The only thing you heard when Clinton did it was crickets from the news outlets. Except Fox News.

It's time to open your eyes people. Join me, help me make Clatsop County great again.

JIM HOFFMAN

Chairman, Clatsop County Republicans
Gearhart

Protect our voting rights

I'm appalled that Oregon Secretary of State Dennis Richardson, a Republican, wants to limit election information provided by his office in a blatant attempt to limit voting by Oregon's 820,000 registered non-affiliated voters ("IPO opens primary to unaffiliated, but they must request ballot," The Daily Astorian, April 4).

He would probably be more comfortable in other states, like Kansas and Mississippi, where officials boast about disenfranchising voters, and thereby weakening democracy. He certainly doesn't belong in Oregon, nor should he be running our state's elections.

He evidently agrees with the Republican Party's nationwide work to erect new obstacles to voting. He is apparently willing to abandon all the principles of democracy and representative government that elected him. Perhaps he's forgotten that voters elected him to strengthen our democracy, to improve access to voting, to guarantee honest elections, and to encourage citizen engagement in politics.

All Oregonians deserve to have a secretary of state who actually believes in the beauty and power of elections.

I encourage readers to contact Mr. Richardson at 900 Court Street N.E., Capitol Room 136, Salem OR 97310-0722, or call 503-986-1523, or email oregon.sos@oregon.gov

If he believes he can limit voting options for non-affiliated voters to serve his own or another political agenda, then that means he might try to limit everyone's voting rights.

Laurie Caplan
Astoria

Vote Orr for state representative

I am writing this letter to endorse candidate John Orr for state House District 32. I have known John for over 20 years, and have always found him to be honest and a straight shooter. He will not tell you one thing and do something different, and will listen to all points of view.

I believe his values on compassion and fairness to be important, but his stances on protecting the environment, and restoring corporate taxes to their 1980 levels, and closing loopholes, are what brought my attention to his candidacy.

John is passionate about affordable housing and improving the quality of schools, human services, and infrastructure. Not everyone in this world has the right to vote, so by all means when it is your opportunity, I urge you to exercise your right ... and I hope you'll vote John Orr for Oregon House District 32.

NEAL CUMMINGS
Astoria

Keep internet free and affordable

Gov. Kate Brown has signed the state's recently passed net neutrality bill into law, HB 4155, prohibiting certain public bodies from contracting with Internet Service Providers (ISPs) that engage in certain network management activities based on paid prioritization and content blocking.

This is a workaround for the Federal Communications Commission's repeal of net neutrality laws, preventing ISPs from throttling

content, keeping the internet free and fair.

Due to the FCC's provision keeping states from creating their own net neutrality laws, it will most likely be legally challenged in court, where the future of net neutrality will be decided.

I now urge Oregonians to support HB 4155 and the preservation of net neutrality, keeping the internet free and affordable to all.

NICHOLAS SCHAEILING
Astoria

Opioid epidemic in Clatsop County

From 2001 to 2010, Clatsop County ranked highest out of 25 counties in Oregon with the most deaths caused by opioid drugs per 100,000 people. From 2011 to 2017, we have ranked fourth in the state behind Multnomah, Lincoln and Tillamook counties.

Why is this epidemic occurring right now in our community? It might be that opioids are way too easy to get hold of. It also could be that we aren't educating ourselves enough about the dangers of these opioids.

Let's be honest, there is no single answer to fixing this crazy unfortunate problem going on in this county. The deaths to these drugs are becoming more and more consistent through the years, it's starting to feel like a norm ... that is not good.

In order to beat this epidemic we, as the strong and tight community that we publicize we are, must come together, and figure it out, and get everyone involved, instead of trying to figure it out in little groups.

We are a great community of people. Let's start acting like it.

REECE HUNT
Knappa

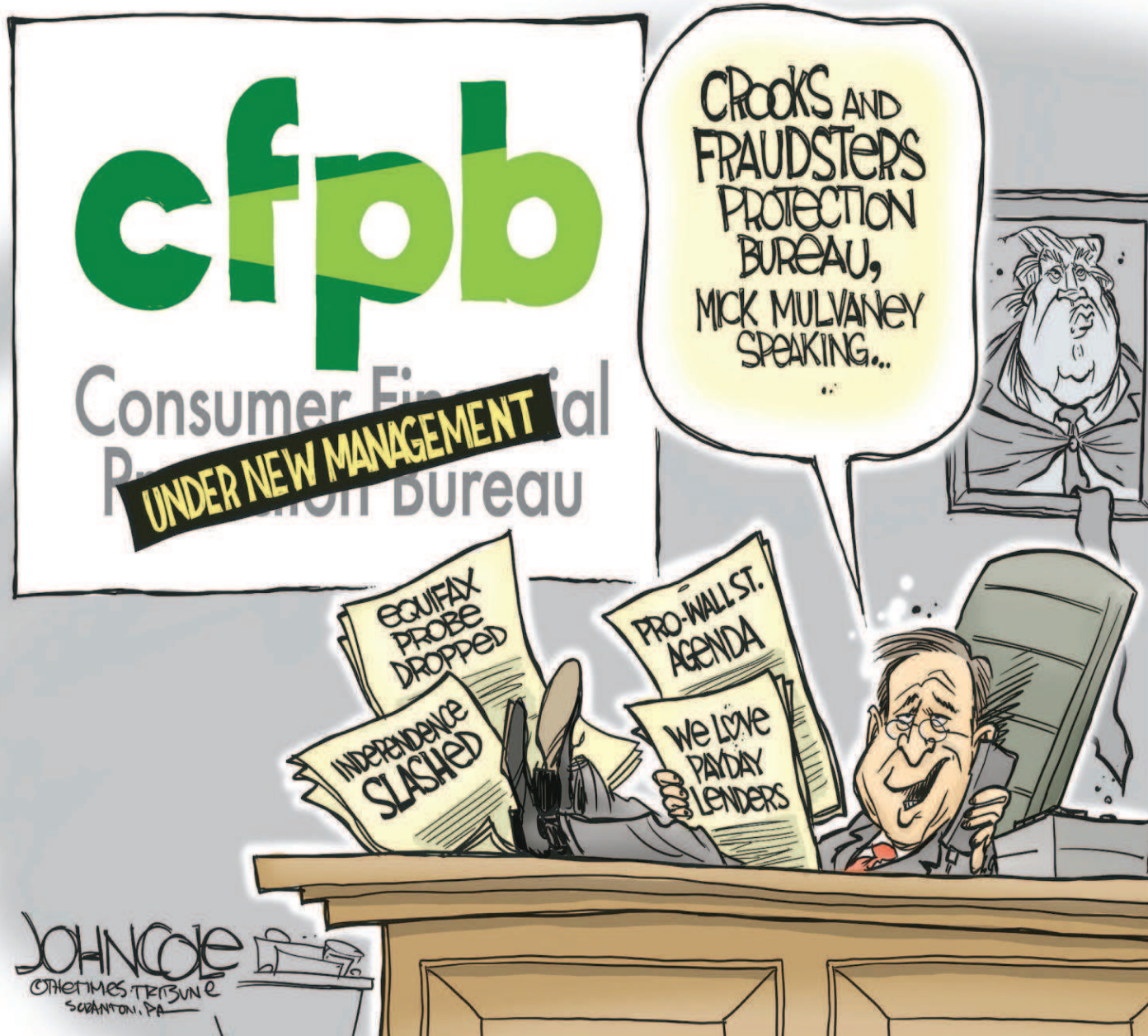
Sexual assault awareness in Astoria

Every 98 seconds, someone in the U.S. age 12 and older is sexually assaulted. According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN), one in every six American women are victims of sexual assault; for American men, that number is one out of every 33.

I'm writing this letter to bring attention to Astoria's support for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Astoria has publicly displayed support, showing the Astoria Column lit up in teal, as well as The Harbor hosting a candlelight vigil and walk on Tuesday.

Our small town has shown large amounts of acknowledgment and support for all victims of sexual assault. We have shown support to those of all ages, gender identities, and sexual orientations. This excites me greatly, as a young resident of this town — seeing the way we have evolved makes me excited for the future, and I can't wait to see where the next few years take Astoria.

SOPHIA HANSEN
Knappa



Please practice bathroom etiquette

Let's talk bathroom etiquette. First off, some background. I work in fast food. OK, now let's talk about some simple things you should do when you use public restrooms.

If you are going to pee standing, please lift the seat. Now if that's too much of a bother, at least clean the seat with the toilet paper after you are done.

If that was too much for you, the least you can do is remember to flush the toilet, and if for some reason that still is too much, just wash your hands. We don't need anyone getting sick over your inability to practice basic bathroom etiquette.

KEENAN GEBHART
Astoria

Lights needed at Astoria skate park

Have you ever tried skateboarding in the dark? It's really not that fun. The Astoria skate park is a relatively good skate park, but there is definitely room for improvement. One thing that would be very nice to have at the skate park is lights. At night it is pretty much impossible to skate there, because you can't see what you're doing, or where you're going.

It would also be nice if the skate park was expanded, because all it is now is basically one big bowl, and not everyone can skate transition, so some more street-type obstacles would be nice. The expansion and addition of lights would be pretty awesome to see, and would make a lot of skateboarders happy.

NOAH GANNAWAY
Astoria

Vote Orr for House District 32 I am voting for John Orr for state representative in District 32. When I was a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer 15 years ago, I would see John in court representing foster children, and he impressed me with his attention to detail, integrity, dedication, and compassion.

My deceased wife, Jackie Taylor, served eight years in the House of Representatives, so I am aware that all of the above mentioned attributes are a necessity to being a good representative.

Talk to this man, and get to know him. He will make a good representative.

NELSON TAYLOR
Astoria

Vote Ogden for labor commissioner

Oregon voters should pay close attention to the May primary election for commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI). A very important choice will be made in this nonpartisan race.

I hope voters will support Lou Ogden. Lou has been mayor of the city of Tualatin for the

last 24 years. His balanced and fair leadership has brought business and industrial development, providing thousands of jobs and over \$1 billion of investment by the private sector.

He wants to lead BOLI as the driver for skills training and apprenticeship programs that will put employees into living-wage jobs, and provide high school graduates an alternative to college. Lou is an insurance broker, farmer, husband and father. He has the vision, experience, and proven record of leadership necessary for the job.

GARY WILHELMUS
Portland

The plastic islands

According to the World Epidemic forums, we dump a garbage truck worth of garbage into our oceans every minute, and we should be ashamed of it. One hundred thousand sea animals, and millions of seabirds, die each year because of the garbage we dump into our oceans.

Think about it as a cycle: We dump toxic waste into our oceans, fish eat that waste, and we eat the fish. We are killing ourselves off, so if you don't want to do it for the animals, clean this waste for yourself.

The garbage patches have increased a hundred-fold since the 1970s. If we don't turn that around now, we might never be able to. We are the cause of the dying fish, and eventually we will be the cause of extinction in our oceans.

We will be the reason bears and wolves don't have fish to eat, and we will be the reason all animals will die. In the end, we will be the reason we die.

LEVI CHRISTIE
Astoria

Teenagers allowed to have opinions

I am tired of hearing about Tide Pods. I keep hearing adults talk about the Tide Pod challenge as a way to delegitimize the thoughts, opinions, and efforts of teenagers because a couple of people decided to put a Tide Pod in their mouth. Eighty-six teenagers, total, have had injuries, out of an estimated 41,731,233 teenagers that live in the U.S. That's 0.0002 percent of the population. Of the 10 deaths in the last five years from Tide Pods, two were toddlers and six were adults with cognitive impairments. Not one from the "challenge."

In the 1990s a hyperventilation challenge went around, killing 82 people, and in the 1940s people were swallowing live goldfish. We are not the first generation to do stupid challenges for the sake of fitting in. Stop treating us like we are. Kids doing dumb things has been around forever, the difference is you had no way of documenting it. Teenagers are allowed to have opinions. If you don't like them, come up with a better argument.

ALYSSA WHITE
Astoria

WHERE TO WRITE

• **U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D):** 439 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20515. Phone: 202-225-0855. Fax 202-225-9497. District office: 12725 SW Millikan Way, Suite 220, Beaverton, OR 97005. Phone: 503-469-6010. Fax 503-326-5066. Web: bonamici.house.gov/

• **U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley (D):** 313 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. Phone: 202-224-3753. Web: www.merkley.senate.gov

• **U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden (D):** 221 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20510. Phone: 202-224-5244. Web: www.wyden.senate.gov

• **State Rep. Brad Witt (D):** State Capitol, 900 Court Street N.E., H-373, Salem, OR 97301. Phone: 503-986-1431. Web: www.leg.state.or.us/witt/ Email: rep.bradwitt@state.or.us

• **State Rep. Deborah Boone (D):** 900 Court St. N.E., H-481, Salem, OR 97301. Phone: 503-986-1432. Email: rep.deborah.boone@state.or.us District office: P.O. Box 928, Cannon Beach, OR 97110. Phone: 503-986-1432. Web: www.leg.state.or.us/boone/

• **State Sen. Betsy Johnson (D):** State Capitol, 900 Court St. N.E., S-314, Salem, OR 97301. Telephone: 503-986-1716. Email: sen.betsy.johnson@state.or.us Web: www.betsyjohn-

son.com District Office: P.O. Box R, Scappoose, OR 97056. Phone: 503-543-4046. Fax: 503-543-5296. Astoria office phone: 503-338-1280.

• **Port of Astoria:** Executive Director, 10 Pier 1 Suite 308, Astoria, OR 97103. Phone: 503-741-3300. Email: admin@portofastoria.com

• **Clatsop County Board of Commissioners:** c/o County Manager, 800 Exchange St., Suite 410, Astoria, OR 97103. Phone: 503-325-1000.