

OPINION

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OUR VIEW

Avast there, mateys! Tall ships welcome here

If it looks like a scene from the movie “Pirates of the Caribbean,” that’s because it is.

The two tall ships that visited Astoria last week offer a delightful opportunity for photographers of all skill levels.

And when they dock, the enthusiasm of the guides who welcome visitors aboard — and take them out on the Columbia River on battle cruises — is worth its weight in doubloons.

The mission of the Grays Harbor Historical Seaport is quite remarkable in this day and age. Its leaders seek to recreate — and preserve — those rugged old days before steam engines forever changed the nature of ocean sailing.

Steeped in history almost as old as this nation, the original Lady Washington is believed to be the first American-made vessel to make landfall on the West Coast of North America in 1788 and the first to visit Japan and Hong Kong.

Leaders at the city of Aberdeen, Washington, set in motion a nonprofit group to create and maintain a replica sailing ship clear back in 1986.

The authentic-looking brig was built as close to the original as possible by skilled shipwrights and launched as part of Washington’s 1989 state centennial commemorations. Coast Guard inspections of all aspects of the vessel —



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian
The Hawaiian Chieftain, center, and Lady Washington engage in a mock cannon battle on the Columbia River.

including its three miles of rigging — maintain its seaworthiness.

Its smaller companion vessel, Hawaiian Chieftain, has also appeared in movies. The steel-hulled, flat-bottomed vessel was originally a private yacht and later a working cargo ship in Hawaii. It had several owners before the Grays Harbor group jumped in to purchase it.

Its function isn’t just creating photo opportunities for wannabe buccaneers. The Hawaiian Chieftain is home to Sea School Northwest, an innovative training course which sets cadets on a course to earning an entry-level Coast Guard Ordinary Seafarer Certification.

And both ships invite thousands of school students each year for memorable field trips that take a step back into history. There are also opportunities for



Linh DePledge/For The Daily Astorian
The Lady Washington on the Columbia River near Pier 39.

adults to join the crew and learn about seamanship in its “two weeks before the mast” programs. There is even a program designed for potential sailors who are prone to seasickness.

Those of us living in a maritime region recognize these tall ships as a priceless investment of time and energy; the foresight of its creators 30 years ago is commendable. Long may they sail.

On behalf of Astoria and our Washington neighbors in Ilwaco, we are delighted to welcome the Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain back any time they care to visit.

On the Web

For more about the Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain log on to historicalseaport.org

WHERE TO WRITE

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• **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

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Officials show attitudes against immigrants

My least favorite politicians in our area are state Sen. Betsy Johnson and Clatsop County Sheriff Tom Bergin.

Both seem to have something against being human while poor. The vast majority of people who come to the U.S., without going through the federal bureaucracy (the enemy of the far right), are only doing what humans do, in their circumstances.

I’m only inferring Johnson’s attitude toward immigrants from her other regressive opinions, and something she said at the Ghadar Party event. She praised Indians for coming to the U.S. “in respect with our laws,” which seemed an obtuse attack on Mexican immigrants.

Obtuse because Indians can’t migrate here except legally. If India had a border with the U.S., their numbers would dwarf all immigrants. Despite migrating legally, over 200,000 Indians are no longer “legal.”

As for Bergin, his support of Measure 105 — at a time when the president, the GOP, and far-right media are spewing hate towards minorities, when Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is committing crimes against migrants, wounding children and families — is at best heartless.

The law, and law officers, often fail to be true standard-bearers for justice. From slavery to ripping children from their parents, they just have often had to look elsewhere.

MICHAEL A. “SASHA” MILLER
Astoria

Editorial on lodging tax is wrong

The editorial pursuant to last week’s Clatsop County commissioners’ approval of a new lodging tax is wrong (“Who should pay to operate new jail?” The Daily Astorian, July 31).

I am a witness to the exchange between the commissioners and the sheriff. Our District 5 commissioner, Lianne Thompson, was simply asking that the motion be paused; let the lodging community have more time to discuss the proposal and the intended use of the taxes.

She was barely allowed to finish asking this of the sheriff, and the city manager, and the rest of the commissioners when the chairman called for a motion, a second and a vote. Given the situation, anyone would have voted no. It is unfair to caste her as negligent, when in truth she was the one voice of reason.

As many hoteliers testified at this meeting: We don’t have a budget as to what the money would be spent for relevant to the operation of the proposed jail (30 percent of the lodging tax). We don’t have a budget for the use of the majority of the money, i.e. 70 percent of the taxes will be used in relation to marketing the area for tourism.

The taxpayers have yet to vote yea or nay on the bonds to build a new jail. Why would any reasonable person say yes to a lodging tax at this time?

We don’t have sufficient information to make a good deci-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

sion ... neither did the county commissioners.

CHRISTINE COCHRAN
Seaside

Please reconsider vehicle entrance to new co-op

Most everyone wants the Astoria Co-op to expand, but the setting they have come up with is just not going to work.

Steam Whistle Way is a narrow street that is just wide enough for two cars to pass each other. Also, there are six houses with garages that back out onto this road. And, there are several motorized wheelchairs that use Steam Whistle Way to get around, and this could be quite dangerous.

At the City Council meeting, there was talk about 1,200 people using the co-op each day (“Astoria City Council backs new Astoria Co-op Grocery design,” The Daily Astorian, July 31). Getting back on Marine Drive is going to be rough if you use Steam Whistle Way. There are two ways for turning right onto Marine Drive — at 23rd Street and by City Lumber.

If you want to turn left onto Marine Drive, the safest way is to drive through Mill Pond, and the narrow road to the stop light by the Fire Department and Police Department. Say that just 400 want to turn left. It could be hard for the police or fire department to get out. Please reconsider the entrance to 23rd Street, and not Steam Whistle Way.

SYLVIA DAVIS
Astoria

Restaurant review was harsh and mean-spirited

I am writing in response to a review in Coast Weekend (“The Mouth: Galletti’s Spaghetti House misses some Italian pillars,” Aug. 2). If I had never eaten there, I would have found the review to be way off-balance in terms of its negativity. Having eaten there weekly for several months, I found it inaccurate and unnecessarily harsh and mean-spirited.

Galletti’s has been growing for several years, and I have seen an abundance of return customers. There was no Italian restaurant on the Peninsula, and it has been a delight to now be able to find delicious lasagna with gobs of mozzarella cheese, and to enjoy yummy unusual chicken marsala.

From the first time I ate at Galletti’s, I have appreciated that a salad comes with the meal rather than costing an extra \$5, and that it is made from fresh leafy greens and unusual peppers.

The reviewer suggested that he/she wanted an extra slice of garlic bread, understandably since it is quite delicious, but one slice is plenty for a person.

The meal is rounded out with spumoni ice cream, and most people, including myself, and leave with carryout boxes, as the portions are quite ample.

We are a small community here, Astoria, and along the coast. Restaurants struggle for sufficient business and for responsible staff. It was unnecessary for this reviewer to

be so unkind and unrelenting in this review. I am quite certain he/she stands alone in his critique, and I urge people to disregard this review.

JUDY ERON
Ocean Park, Washington

Please vote ‘no’ on Measure 105

The rally in Astoria on Saturday, July 28, to oppose Measure 105 was a significant event for the entire North Coast community. We saw an outpouring of support for Oregon’s 31-year-old sanctuary law. Indivisible North Coast Oregon (INCO) was delighted to partner with La Voz de la Comunidad to organize the rally, one of many such events around the state that day.

Oregonians value our immigrant friends and neighbors. We don’t want — or need — laws based on fear or hate. The campaign coalition to defeat Measure 105, Oregonians United Against Profiling, already includes more than 100 members from law enforcement, business, social justice groups, and other organizations, including INCO. More information is at united.org

We urge everyone to join forces to defeat Measure 105 on the Nov. 6 ballot. Diversity makes our democracy stronger.

CAROLYN EADY
JEAN HOOGE
JOAN HERMAN
LAURIE CAPLAN
SUE ZERANGUE
Indivisible North Coast Oregon
Astoria

