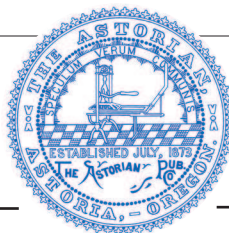


# OPINION

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# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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## Water under the bridge



Compiled by Bob Duke  
From the pages of Astoria's daily newspapers

### 10 years ago this week — 2008

After two deadlocked votes, the Newport City Council delayed its decision on selecting a company to provide air service to Newport and Astoria.

The council, which is one member short, voted 3-3 to reject the two proposals from Cape Air of Massachusetts and Air Azul of Florida and start the bidding process over.

Then it voted 3-3 to collect more information on the two proposals before picking one. Mayor Bill Bain declared an impasse and suggested members revisit the issue Sept. 2.

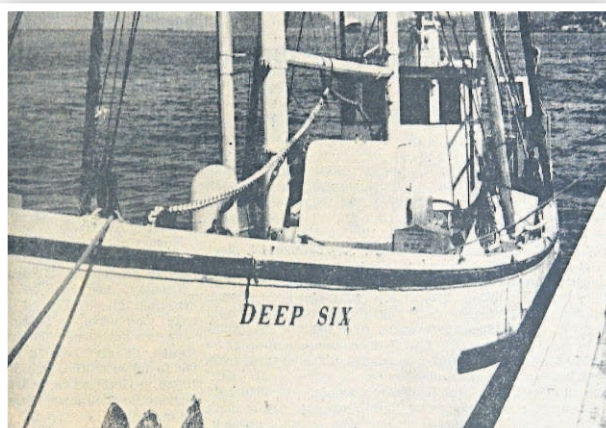
**The only things that seemed out of place amid the fog were the modern cameras.**

Seaside beachgoers this weekend were transported back 202 years in a program called "The Saltmakers Return to Seaside." Actors portraying members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition camped on the beach off Avenue U and tended a bonfire to boil water from the Pacific Ocean into salt.

This living history first-person interpretation allows modern visitors to interact with members of the Corps of Discovery. The actors slept and lived as if it were Jan. 9, 1806. Buckets of seawater boiled over a campfire until just a residue of salt remained. Nearby, a tent provided meager shelter from the elements.

Pvt. William Bratton (Don Laky) cooked a small bird on a large stick over a fire, while Pvt. Rueben Field (Aaron Webster) boiled eggs in the seawater. The menu was neither extensive nor varied, although there was salt available for flavoring.

Four Astoria musicians helped the Oregon Crusaders Drum and Bugle Corps win the respect of the judges and the hearts of the crowd at the 2008 Drum Corps International



**1968 — Fisherman Curt Olsen is not superstitious, he said, having sailed out of San Francisco and Los Angeles for the past five years on a boat named Deep Six by a former owner. He was worried last week, however, when several logs struck the stern while the vessel was tied up at the Astoria dock.**

World Championships. The competition, which began last week in Michigan City, Ind., brought together 23 Open Class corps with members from North America, Europe and Japan, vying for slots in the finals round at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Indiana University.

Masen Bowers, Jessica Nokolby, James Strecker and Jasmine Thomasian brought home finalist medals, an honor earned by only 12 corps in each of two divisions nationwide. The Crusaders placed fourth overall.

### 50 years ago — 1968

**The 46-foot pleasure craft Gladys sank off Clatsop spit after the vessel struck Buoy 12 in the lower harbor in a dense fog.**

Owner J.M. Hardy, Portland, radioed the Coast Guard at Cape Disappointment station that his boat was sinking. Crewmen from a 44-foot rescue boat took nine persons from the vessel.

An expedition from Maryland finished retracing the 1805 Lewis and Clark expedition's route under cloudy skies near Chinook, Wash., where the Columbia River meets the Pacific Ocean.

"My knees are shaking," said Mrs. LeRoy Jensen, head of the biology department at Charles County Community College, La Plata, Md.

Mrs. Jensen, her husband, two daughters, a teacher and three students brought two canoes down the Columbia River

to the sandy beach near Chinook at 9 a.m. The trip began June 18 in St. Louis, 3,400 miles away.

**Tuna tonnage coming into Astoria and Warrenton is setting a record pace, a Bumble Bee Seafoods official said.**

"This year, if the season lasts long enough, could beat the record. This remains to be seen," said Lew Wright of Bumble Bee's production department.

"Roughly speaking, we're three times ahead of what we had last year."

Wright said the cannery is operating nine hours a day, six days a week. The facility would be operating longer hours but for the fact that the women workers also have to operate households and can't easily put in the time.

### 75 years ago — 1943

With 93 percent of America's total rubber supply sources in the hands of the enemy, drivers of staff cars, jeeps and trucks at Fort Stevens have been giving the vehicles they drive the infinite care that is normally accorded to a fine watch.

Each driver's name is proudly pasted on the windshield of the vehicle he drives and these men have become finished specialists in the art of check and double check.

With the slogan of "Rubber Speeds Victory," these drivers take a pride in being ever prepared for a "check" by automobile experts especially selected by Col. C.S. Doney, commanding officer, harbor defenses of the Columbia.

The daily tire check is not a matter of simple routine, but these drivers continually examine their rubber for tell-tale signs of irregular wear. Faulty wheel alignments and unequal brakes are especially watched for.

**The kickoff in the local Legion's 40 & 8 organization's free cigarette drive for the boys overseas and on casualty trains is all set, sponsors of the drive said.**

More than 100 money "buckets" have been placed in Astoria and Clatsop County business establishments for the convenience of citizens desiring to help the cause, according to Oswald Gustafson, chairman of the 40 & 8 committee.

Vanport City, the nation's largest single war-housing project, was completed today.

The giant project will shelter 40,000 residents, stepping into fifth place in population among the cities of the Northwest. It is the most extensive mass housing experiment of all time.

## OTHER VIEWS

### Excerpts from Oregon newspaper editorials

#### The Oregonian on an uneasy peace in Portland

Portland was not another Charlottesville. Despite all the ingredients for a violent confrontation between right-wing Patriot Prayer demonstrators and counter-protesters Aug. 4, Portland escaped without the loss of life that occurred in Charlottesville, Virginia, when, officials say, a neo-Nazi deliberately plowed his car into a crowd of protesters. And instead of the brawling that has marked past clashes between right-wing marchers and anti-fascists in Portland, police successfully enforced an uneasy peace by maintaining a no-go zone between the two sides.

But the city hasn't escaped injury.

While Portland Police as a whole did a commendable job of managing a near-impossible situation, reports of serious wounds from police "flash bang grenades" and videos of some officers' use of force deserve prompt and thorough investigation.

Among the disturbing cases reported after police ordered the crowd to disperse: one female counter-protester who appeared to be leaving the area was yanked to the ground by a police officer who grabbed the poster she was carrying. After she got up, other officers piled on. And a male counter-protester sustained a head injury after officers fired a flash-bang grenade that lodged in his helmet, according to the man's friend.

Certainly, police were operating amid chaos. Some of that stems from the subset of counter-protesters who were intent on wreaking havoc, whether it was on Patriot Prayer members or the police. Individuals in the crowd pelted officers and others with projectiles. But some of the chaos resulted from police officers themselves, who, according to reporters' accounts, gave little time for the crowd to disperse before lobbing the disorienting flash-bang grenades and rushing people in the crowd.

But chaos and obnoxious behavior from some protesters don't relieve police officers of the responsibility to act professionally and respect personal rights as they aim to protect public safety. With the bureau's mixed record of handling protests, Chief Danielle Outlaw's promise to investigate allegations of misconduct and suspend use of flash-bang grenades is a welcome and necessary one.

She shouldn't stop there. She should also review other methods for crowd control, favoring tactics that ease compliance with police requests rather than alarm or intimidate people into a panicked reaction.

It's worth noting that Outlaw's conduct in the aftermath of the protests has been an



AP Photo/John Rudolf

**Counter-protesters prepare to clash with Patriot Prayer protesters during a rally in Portland.**

encouraging sign of her leadership style. Despite sharp criticism from the American Civil Liberties Union and others, she has owned responsibility for the police bureau's response. She has defended her officers' overall performance while standing front and center to hear complaints. She has talked publicly and acted decisively. In other words, she's showing what accountability looks like. Her actions send a reassuring message to those concerned about these protests and bode well for relations between police and community members in the future.

#### Corvallis Gazette-Times on getting ready for waves of attack ads

Oregon voters, if you like political attack ads and negative campaigns, this fall's election campaign could be a little slice of heaven.

State politicians and interest groups have been racing to form political action committees — the sort of entities that claim independence from candidates they support but which often bankroll ads attacking opposing candidates or statewide initiatives. It's an arrangement that lets candidates themselves appear to be taking the high road, secure in the knowledge that other entities are taking care of the mudslinging.

In July, for example, Gov. Kate Brown formed two separate political action committees. One of these committees, dubbed Team Oregon, initially financed with \$100,000 from the governor's re-election campaign, seeks to re-elect the governor and to maintain Democratic majorities in the Legislature. The other political action committee Brown formed in July is called Defend Oregon's Values; this committee apparently will bankroll attack

ads against her Republican opponent, Knute Buehler.

To be fair, Brown already has been the target of attack ads this campaign season. In January, for example, a business-backed group called Priority Oregon launched a negative ad campaign against the governor. Earlier this summer, a nonprofit organization called Oregon Foster Families First paid for a television ad calling for Brown to "start putting our families first." The director of the group declined to say who had paid for the ads — and, in this case, is not legally required to do so.

For their part, Oregon Republicans have formed a political action committee called No Supermajorities PAC, which seeks to prevent Democrats from gaining the three-fifths supermajority they need to raise taxes without any Republican support. (Democrats need to win just one additional seat in each chamber to get the supermajority.)

It's a good bet that Brown's supporters will spend some PAC money creating attack ads targeting Buehler, and you can expect the same from political action committees for Planned Parenthood and NARAL Pro-Choice, which already have targeting the Republican candidate. Public employee unions are also supporting Brown, including through the political nonprofit Our Oregon. (Independent Party candidate Patrick Starnes must be wondering what he has to do to become the target of a negative ad campaign; such a campaign could boost his name recognition.)

And we've just scratched the surface of the political action committees that aim to make noise during the fall elections.

It's all going to add up to a considerable amount of electoral clamor this fall, which could drown out reasoned conversation and

reflection about the strengths and weaknesses of each candidate and the five statewide measures on the ballot.

#### Eugene Register-Guard on PERS mortgage weighing heavily

For a taxpayer, the obligation to fund Oregon's public employee pension shortfall — the gap between what governments are paying into the pension system and the system's projected needs — can seem abstract. The Public Employee Retirement System's so-called unfunded liability is \$22 billion, a staggering figure that is hard to grasp on a personal level.

But what if you calculated that liability as a mortgage that each property owner owes on her or his house, and cannot escape paying off? And what if you compared Oregon's so-called "public pension stealth mortgage" to those of other states?

That's what a New York City researcher and a Claremont McKenna College finance professor have done, for all 50 states, providing a unique and frightening set of data that, not surprisingly, highlights the severity of Oregon's problem.

The PERS unfunded liability amounts to a mortgage of \$106,952 on every Oregon home, found researcher Rob Arnott and professor Lisa Meulbroek.

That's the 9th highest per-home amount among all the states. The highest is Alaska, with a \$182,756 pension stealth mortgage, the study found.

The lowest was Tennessee, with \$30,404. The average was \$74,639.

Arnott and Meulbroek contend that these debts amount to a government mortgage on your home.

Their presence ultimately is reflected in real estate prices, they argue, and in the case of Detroit, was a factor in pushing the city into bankruptcy, which was devastating for home prices.

"On average nationwide, unfunded state and local pension burdens represent 20 percent of real-estate values.

This ratio can rival or exceed an owner's home equity," they wrote in a recent Wall Street Journal opinion piece. "Future pension obligations simply must be paid, either through higher taxes or cuts to public service."

State and local elected officials in Oregon have professed much anxiety over the PERS unfunded liability. But at the end of each discussion they throw up their hands and declare there's little they can do to curb escalating pension costs, or for that matter to reduce pay increases and health care costs.

And then they ask taxpayers to cough up more, in higher property taxes, fees and the like, under the warning that absent the increases, services will suffer.

In the drawn-out train wreck that is Oregon's public pension system, the work by Arnott and Meulbroek is a snapshot.

The spreadsheet containing the pension data is at: rgne.ws/2ORXvhw