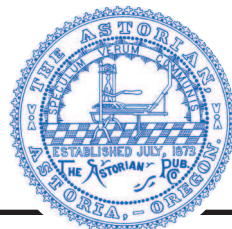


OPINION



THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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GUEST COLUMN

Time to act on cap-and-trade

For well over a decade, Oregon has considered legislation to cap carbon and put a price on pollution. As a business whose survival depends on the natural environment, we at Fishpeople urge policymakers to move beyond consideration — and act.

Adopting cap-and-trade legislation in Oregon's 2019 legislative session would be a significant step towards curbing carbon emissions. It would also send a powerful signal to businesses and governments far beyond our state that investing in clean energy technology is smart for both the economy and the environment.

In 2012, we founded Fishpeople to "re-imagine North America's relationship to the sea." By committing to our fishermen, the oceans, and transparency, we wanted to offer consumers a chance to deepen their understanding of where their seafood comes from and the people who bring it to them.

We believed then and still believe now, that linking the economies of rural coastal communities to today's natural food consumer is essential for pioneering industry change. Our vision includes an industry capable of serving the consumer unparalleled quality while preserving fish stocks and promoting economic prosperity in the communities that rely on seafood for their livelihoods.

Doing right by the ocean, our workers and our customers is a never-ending journey. Being a transformational company means embracing transformational policies and programs that drive the innovation required to sustain economies



Kipp Baratoff working on the Yukon River in Alaska.

for generations to come. Establishing a carbon pricing mechanism for Oregon is one of those policies.

In 2018, the Pacific cod quota in the Gulf of Alaska was cut by 80 percent, and further cut in 2019. The reason: a severe depletion of cod stocks due to warm water, resulting in the worst numbers in decades. While the National Marine Fisheries Service believes that stocks will rebound, that recovery

requires water temperatures to remain normal. The warm water off the Gulf of Alaska, known as "the blob," has made that difficult. Warm water decreases the nutrients required for cod egg populations to survive.

The impacts appear to be lingering, affecting other species and extending all the way down to California. For example, warming-related damages in the prized West Coast Dungeness crab

fishery led the Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Associations to file suit against 30 companies in the fossil-fuel industry. Warming waters cause algae blooms that produce the neurotoxin domoic acid. Domoic acid makes crab and other shellfish unsafe to eat, and requires fisheries be suspended until levels reduce. These suspensions have negatively impacted California, Oregon and Washington fisheries in the last few years.

Water temperature, flow and acidity are crucial to sustaining marine economies and jobs, the lifeblood of many coastal communities in Oregon, Washington and Alaska. Simply put, fewer fish equals fewer jobs.

Oregon may be a small state, but we all know pollution doesn't have borders. Passing cap-and-trade policy during this year's legislative session would link us to similar ongoing efforts in California and Washington.

Too often cap-and-trade opponents try to paint the issue as business versus the environment. As an Oregon-based business reliant on the environment for our survival, Fishpeople rejects that view because we know it to be a false dichotomy. We support cap-and-trade because it will help protect the future of our coastal communities and the people who live and work there — and benefit Oregon as a whole. The time to act is now.

Kipp Baratoff is co-founder of Fishpeople Seafood, which operates facilities in Garibaldi and Ilwaco, Washington.

LETTERS

Miss Daylight is delightful

Our wonderful little library fills so many needs in our community. Speaking as the mom of a toddler, I am so grateful to Suzanne Harold for all of the engaging and entertaining activities she organizes; the library serves a vital function in our weekly routine and socialization. Suzanne relies on amazing volunteers, like Miss Daylight, to make these community events happen, and they all deserve our gratitude and respect.

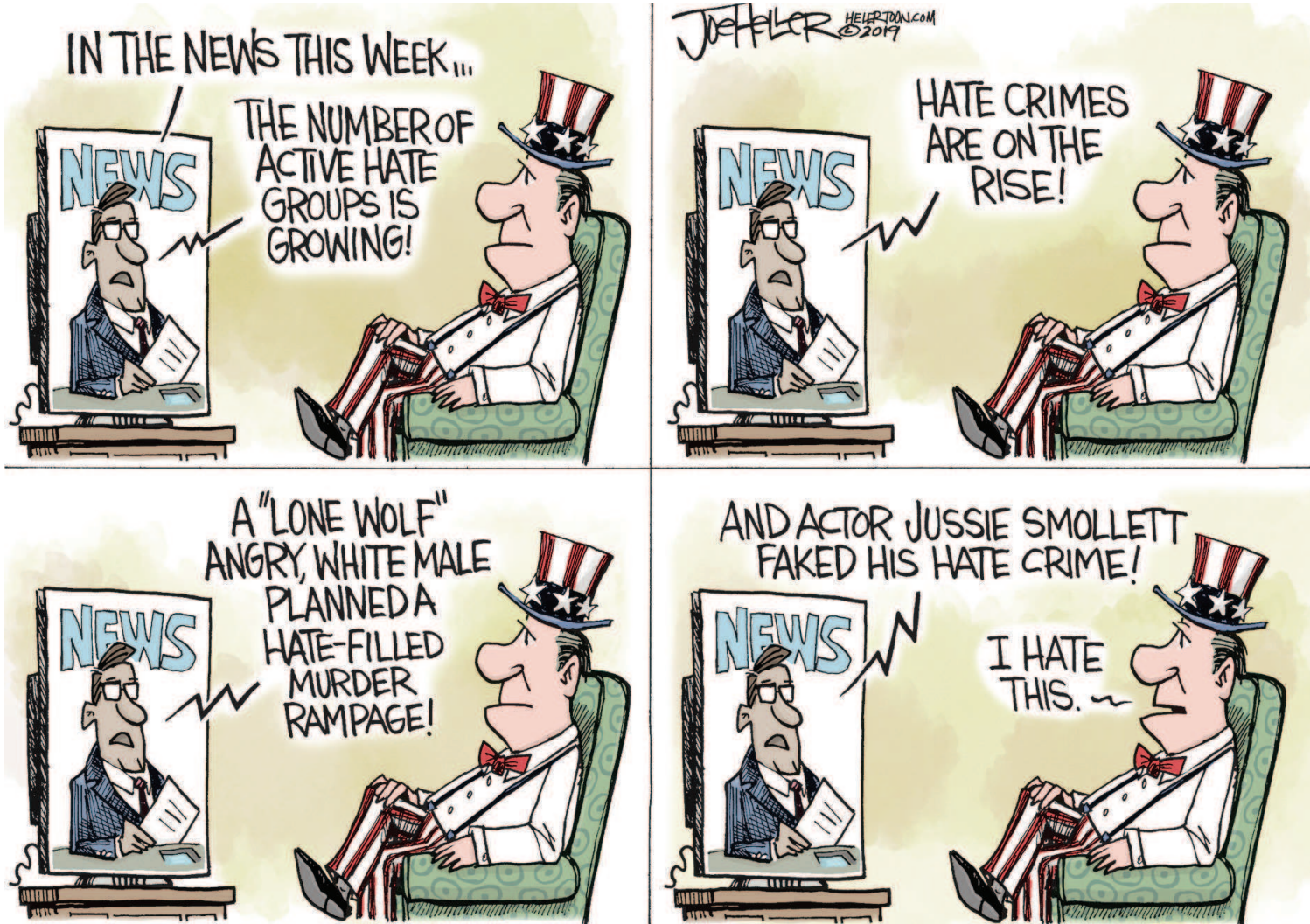
Miss Daylight is an absolutely delightful character, and the children have so much fun at this special event. If you're somehow confused by a person in character or offended that a man is wearing a dress, then by all means, don't attend this event; it's really that simple. This story hour does not represent anything nefarious or immoral, it's simply fun.

This town (and state) is incredibly homogenous and I, for one, welcome with open arms every little shred of cultural and social diversity we can scrounge up. When we contemplated moving here, I took heart that because of the Gay Pride parade and rainbow posters in shops, that this small town was different, more accepting.

I still believe that about Astoria, and hope that our LGBTQ community feels welcome, respected, and appreciated; they are an asset to our community.

I apologize to Miss Daylight for the negative, close-minded opinions expressed by some of our residents. I sincerely hope they do not dissuade you, or the library, from putting on this event many, many more times.

LAURA JACKSON
Astoria



local Medicare for All organizing party (medicare4all.org/actions).

Now is the time to act. Do it for the health of yourself, your family, and everybody.

SHERRI McDONALD
Raymond, Washington

When the big one comes, and you sail off in your Titanic Lifeboat over the edge of the earth, I'll be here, cheering on the Salvage Chief as we clean up the mess you are leaving behind.

JOHN GINDER
Astoria

Planning Commission and City Council to urge them to approve the 28-foot maximum in the final version of the development code.

PAMELA ALEGRIA
Friends of the Astoria Waterfront

Medicare for All

People are waking to the possibility of Medicare for All, a transformative health care reform that would provide quality care to all people, regardless of wealth, age or employment.

U.S. Rep. Pramila Jayapal will soon introduce the Medicare for All Act of 2019, legislation that is coming at a time when upwards of 70 percent of Americans support expanding this loved and proven program.

The movement for Medicare for All is snowballing, and no wonder. Millions of people in America are not receiving health care because they simply can't afford it. We've heard enough stories: delaying a test because of high copays and deductibles; skipping doses because prescriptions are too expensive; or turning to bankruptcy and GoFundMe to deal with outrageous medical bills. People are dying unnecessarily.

To realize Medicare for All, health care activists like myself are organizing our communities to build our grassroots movement and persuade legislators to pass this lifesaving reform.

Join us. Call your Congressional representatives and demand that they cosponsor the Medicare for All Act. Show up at your

Our heads won't explode

Smart meters and 5G madness are all the rage these days. I went to a local screening of "Retake Your Power," and was surprised to see a rabid following. If you haven't seen it, I wouldn't recommend it, unless you like the pseudo-science Area 51 conspiracy theory alien abduction genre.

The simple act of starting to bring the electric grid into the 21st century by installing smart meters meets with a backlash fueled by Google searches and social media.

I did a search for Titanic Lifeboat Academy, and I found the epiphany. They are the same people who presented the video. The video hammered home the idea that 5G is going to entrap us in a web of electro-magnetic radiation. What you didn't see in the video was a picture of the electromagnetic spectrum. Google it.

Since the advent of radio, we seem to be able to survive and flourish in a world that added more and more electromagnetic waves. They go through us. Our heads don't explode.

I, for one can, remember growing up with my head two feet away from a cathode ray tube, watching "The Flintstones." Do you really think that I'm going to be scared by a little 5G?

Thanks for listening

A fabulous conversation about Astoria's future occurred at the City Council meeting on Feb. 18. The topic was Astoria's development code: what we want Astoria to look like in the future, what views we want to save, what the right scale is for future development, how we honor our historic heritage, and how we best welcome businesses that prosper as well as benefit Astoria.

In just a week, Friends of the Astoria Waterfront gathered more than 400 signatures on their petition asking the City Council to protect Astoria's waterfront. To our delight, we learned that Mayor Bruce Jones had read all the online petitioners' comments.

Councilor Roger Rocka proposed changing the code from 45 feet (4 stories) to 28 feet (two stories) in the Bridge Vista area. When this idea was then embraced by the rest of the council, the audience applauded. We praise the City Council for listening to the public.

Now there's a real possibility of a code that will preserve the views of the Columbia River for residents, maintain views for tourist to continue visiting and provide an attractive location for businesses.

Changing the development code is a step-by-step process. Please contact the

Share your thoughts

Fellow Gearhart citizens and property owners, the city of Gearhart needs your input. This is a reminder that we all have the opportunity to give valuable input on the city's consideration of a new Emergency Response and Resiliency Station.

If you were unable to attend the town hall presentation regarding the need for a new fire station on Jan. 29, you can view it online at cityofgearhart.com. Click on "Community," then "New Fire Station." The video will share facts about the need for a new fire station to insure the resiliency of our community. You will also see a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that may answer questions you have, as well as the questionnaire the city is asking you to fill out and return by April 29.

It is vital for the city to have your input to help make an informed decision. This is an opportunity for you to affect the course of our survivability in the case of a cataclysmic event, as well as the ability of our 34 volunteer first responders to effectively respond to all other calls.

Please take the time to share your thoughts with the city. Our safety as a community depends on it. Thank you for your help.

JEANNE R. MARK
Gearhart