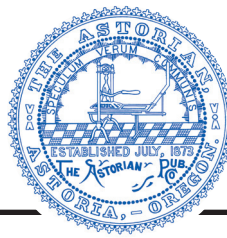


OPINION



the Astorian

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GUEST COLUMN

Opening a door to a new era

Guy Capoeman skippers the Dragonfly, the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes' cedar dugout canoe, at the estuary near the Ne-ah-coxie site with his daughter, Iliia, and tribal members Charlotte and Lorraine Basch.

Turning the page on Clatsop County's complicated history with native peoples, on May 5 the North Coast Land Conservancy transferred ownership of the historic site of Neacoxie village to the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes.

This transfer means so much to so many people: the ongoing preservation of the Necanicum watershed and Seaside estuary, the strengthening of community relationships and partnerships, the formal stewardship of land in Seaside by tribal people for the first time in generations.

Over the past few weeks, I've seen an outpour of support, excitement and curiosity in response to the transfer. As an indigenous woman who grew up in Seaside with family ties to the Clatsop-Nehalem, and as an enrolled member of the Puyallup Tribe, this transfer also signifies the opening of a door to a new era of tribal representation and community healing.

Growing up on the Oregon Coast, I was lucky to have never felt outcast or looked down upon. Never once did I experience overt racism or discrimination for the color of my skin or the lineage of my family. I did, however, feel the constant pressure of ensuring that my family, my ancestors, my individual existence as a native woman were never forgotten or misinterpreted.

I did anxiously sit through "informational" videos or casual conversations prepared to hear variations of the sentence, "There are no Native Americans



Charlotte Basch is Clatsop-Nehalem and an enrolled member of the Puyallup Tribe.

here anymore, they are all extinct."

In a county which takes its name from the very people who once occupied and cared for the land in numbers greater than we can imagine today, my education and communal interactions consisted of surprisingly little information on our community's rich tribal history. But today, things are different.

Today, I hear about Clatsop County youth reaching out to local tribes to conduct school history projects. I read informational signage referencing the historic

and ongoing presence of Clatsop and other tribal people in our community. And, I get to walk the trails at Neacoxie knowing that my ancestors who once called that place home see their people as the primary caretakers of their land once again.

More than that, native and nonnative youth growing up in our community today will never know a Clatsop County without the public representation of tribal people.

Almost one year ago exactly, our rel-

atives to the north, the Chinook Nation, purchased Tansy Point near Warrenton — the site where in 1851 several independent tribal nations of the lower Columbia River signed treaties with the United States government, only to later be unratified. So many promises made at that site were broken and forgotten, but with that land once again in tribal ownership, the shared history of that place will live on.

Our relatives ownership of our shared treaty grounds makes me proud and gives me hope. These feelings are rekindled today with the transfer of Neacoxie, and the outpour of positive response.

One of the promises made on that August day in 1851 was that the Clatsop Tribe would, "be at liberty to occupy, as formerly, the fishing grounds at the mouth of the Neacoxsa Creek, whenever they wish to do so for the purpose of fishing."

Neacoxie was promised to the Clatsop people nearly 170 years ago. Today, indigenous people are regaining some of their most culturally significant lands — Clatsop-Nehalem in Seaside, Chinook at Tansy Point — creating a synergy and support of our tribe's mutual interest to protect and care for the lands that matter most.

Today, I am proud to not only be a Clatsop, Nehalem and Puyallup woman, but I am also proud to be part of our Clatsop County community. Today, we are coming together, no matter our differences, to make things right for both past and future generations.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Something to think about

The following statement was made as part of the description of the movie "Swing Shift": "A time when ordinary citizens bonded to accomplish extraordinary things. There was no other time like it, and it changed our way of life forever."

The message immediately brought to mind the similarity to the current COVID-19 pandemic we now face. I feel it is important to share to those who are taking this virus as seriously as is needed, and following guidelines to help prevent its spread, and also to give those who are not — something to think about.

For those who don't have any connection with family or friends, who went through World War II, this says it all. We have the opportunity now, at this time, to do the same. To work together to keep us all safe, and reconnect with the commonality we all truly share.

My thanks to those on the front lines, working around the clock to help those who have become ill, and also to those taking the precautions needed to help keep us all safe.

NANCY GLARUM
Warrenton

Get over it

I have heard various Trumpians utter the insensitive mantra: "Get over it!"

The sad thing about it is, the more they dismiss the real concerns others have about how this administration is affecting our country, the more they will double down on bringing out the facts.

I doubt if they really stop to objectively examine why so many have resisted President Donald Trump from the start. I have lived through many Republican presidents, and have never felt this way. Why?

Because they all acted in a reasonable manner.

Never before in our history has a president been more reviled by people both inside and outside our borders. Trumpians have mistaken this as a consequence for draining the swamp, when it's quite the opposite. The swamp President Trump created is the worst in American history.

Do you think I get pleasure from any of it? I have never felt such a sense of shame and dread about being an American. He has alienated us from allies, and even worse, each other. Trump churlishly lashes out at anyone who disagrees with him. He stupidly mused about using disinfectants, when scientists know it's impossible.

He ignored the warnings of our intelligence agencies about the virus, and continues to delay developing more tests, while lying about the availability of them. Mixed messages and misinformation permeate his methods.

We're all stuck at home, and people are dying unnecessarily as a result of his inaction, and you say, "Get over it?" No way.

BRENTON KAHLE
Astoria

Discouraged

While I'm glad that things are going back to normal (more or less), I am discouraged that some things are doing not so fine. Like for instance, I've heard the Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival has been canceled, even though it's not due until June ("Scandinavian festival canceled over virus concerns," The Astorian, April 16).

With the supposed plan to end the lockdown, I was so hoping for at least some baby steps for things to go back to normal. If the coronavirus does slow down with summer coming, and with plenty of

time for a vaccine to be ready, I was hoping everything could just go back the way it was, and that includes events, for if the lockdown ends, I would expect everything being the way it was by June.

I'm just saying it isn't fair for the lockdown to end with not everything opened up again.

DYLAN MILLIREN
Seaside

Wellness

So, in the middle of the pandemic, The Astorian chose to do a profile on a "wellness provider" ("Wellness provider responds to coronavirus," April 21).

Now, I'm sure that Paula Crossfield is a lovely person. The article details how she practices Ayurveda, which is, at the very best, a physically ineffective therapeutic placebo.

She also specialized in "essential oils." A few minutes on Google, and I discovered her relationship with doTerra, a predatory multilevel marketing (MLM) company that has frequent negative interactions with the Food and Drug Administration for misleading claims.

It gets even better. Apparently, astrology — another superstition based on an absolute lack of science — can be used for "astrological remedies." The only thing people like about this remedy is your money into their pocket.

Just ask Steve Jobs.

In an age where newspapers are struggling to survive, I would hope that this snake-oil salesperson at least paid you for the ink you put to paper for her.

Next time, when looking to write a "pandemic medical piece," please profile a true medical professional. We have real doctors, nurses, physician's assistants and others here on the North Coast.

Avoid the charlatans, MLM "huns" and their magical thinking.

THOMAS ANK
Astoria

Forestry is essential

As our communities remain at a standstill, it is becoming increasingly clear that some operations must push forward to help provide the vital services and products we all will need in the days and months ahead.

As people shelter in their homes, and do what they can to continue working (from home or elsewhere), take care of their families and pay their bills, some local residents seem to be trying to stir up fear that forestry activities are jeopardizing life and lungs of those at home in Clatsop County.

Concluding that a haze in the air is from forest activities such as burning or herbicides is concerning ("Smoky haze," The Astorian, April 18). If these activities are occurring, they are occurring under strict regulation from the Department of Environmental Quality and the Oregon Department of Forestry.

We are grateful to our farmers for growing the food on our grocery store shelves and kitchen tables, as well as the foresters growing and harvesting trees in order to keep the vitally important wood and paper products flowing during this time of crisis.

I appeal to the governor to not respond to these opportunistic scare tactics during this time. Forestry professionals are trying to ensure forestry has wood and paper products now, and for future generations. Furthermore, in times of need, it is best not to shut off critical care for our forests or jeopardize an industry that employs thousands on the North Coast.

JENNY JOHNSON
Astoria