

OPINION

the Astorian

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sense of duty

As someone who grew up in Astoria, I understand Floyd Holcom’s impulse to speak to those of us who have watched the shifts that have happened here, and feel a desire to give back to the community.

However, I do not agree with touting the fact that you were born somewhere as if it’s your own accomplishment, as if you had any choice in the matter. I find it interesting when someone decides to step into a leadership position, when they’ve rarely chosen to engage themselves in the process previously, unless it had some benefit to them personally or financially.

This is not what public service is about. Tom Brownson has a sense of duty to serve his community. I believe it is inherent to the nature of his character. He has an incredible ability to listen to others whose opinions may differ from his, and allow himself to digest that new information based on perspectives he didn’t previously have access to.

I’ve watched in a multitude of instances where Tom has stood up for working class Astorians, he has stood up for women, he has supported those struggling with mental health issues.

I believe that he comes to this work from a place of compassion and a desire to be of service. Not forwarding his own agenda, nor financial gain to his holdings ... he does it because it’s the right thing to do.

Please vote early, and vote to reelect Brownson for Astoria City Council, Ward 2.

ANDREA MAZZARELLA
Astoria

Obvious

My husband and I moved to Astoria in 1978, and we love living here. We have watched Astoria as it evolves to meet the changing times, without losing its unique character and beauty.

We care about the direction that our city leaders choose in order to meet the needs of the city. We feel that Tom Brownson feels the same way. Brownson is up for reelection to the Astoria City Council.

My husband and I don’t know him personally, but we know that he has served the community well during his first term. Some of the words that are used to describe him by those who do know him are: thoughtful, analytical, professional, compassionate, respectful and fair.

It is obvious he is able to listen to the ideas of others, consider all the facts and make decisions that will benefit the entire community.

Brownson is running for reelection because he loves our city, and he wants to dedicate more of his time and energy to serving it. We urge you vote to reelect Brownson, Astoria city councilor representing Ward 2.

DEBBIE and TOM WILSON
Astoria

You’re the boss

You have two candidates for a key position in your company. In her interview, Candidate One tells you what she’d do to address the important issues affecting the lives of your customers, your employees and the conditions in your community that affect how your company can succeed or even exist. You’re impressed.

Candidate Two waves those issues aside. She startles you with boogeyman threats. “Outside forces are coming. They’re going to violently attack,” she says. What?

Candidate Two says these outside forces gave Candidate One money to buy a new dress to look good in her interview. She, however, doesn’t tell you that she has a whole closet full of clothing paid for by your competitors — Wall Street corporations whose primary interest is to ensure that threats listed by Candidate One come true.

When asked about issues raised by Candidate One, Candidate Two shows you a picture of a recent fire that threatened communities around your state and says, “See!” You’re confused. Candidate Two then proudly says, “If the job gets hard, I might not show up for work.”

Tough choice? Who will you choose?

By the way, Candidate One is Debbie Boothe-Schmidt. Candidate Two, the one who, through fearmongering, lies and the potential to walk out when the going gets tough, and has proven herself totally unworthy of the job, is Suzanne Weber.

You are the boss. Who will you hire?

FRED BASSETT
Cloverdale

Vote red

There is no question we are living in unprecedented times. Our state faces so many issues that could be rectified if our elected legislators and officials would do the right thing.

Our governor and her Democrat leaders have refused to protect citizens and businesses by allowing violence, destruction and crime to run rampant. They are not supporting law enforcement, but instead turning their backs on the very people who elected them to protect us.

Black Lives Matter and antifa, who I believe are Marxists and terrorists masquerading as “protesters,” have occupied the

streets of Portland to loot and burn businesses, then attack anyone who attempts to stop them, including the police. Simply put, it is un-American. Portland’s mayor is an embarrassment.

Taxes: We are already taxed to our eyeballs in this state. Our tax money is funding free abortions every single day. The governor’s cap-and-regulate bill would be devastating to so many businesses and families, piling on more taxes. Oregon is the fourth biggest tax-and-spend state in the nation. Check out the Taxpayer Association of Oregon.

The list goes on and on. State legislators need to remember: You work for us, not the other way around.

If you care about your state and your freedoms, no way radical. They mostly write letters or postcards to other voters, encouraging them to vote for their candidates.

We have occasionally, before the pandemic, taken our homemade signs and stood peacefully on a corner in support of some threatened constitutional right.

The first time I heard INCO called an extreme group was in a letter to the editor in The Astorian. I was fascinated. I immediately emailed one of the leaders of the group, and thanked them for letting me join INCO. I had never before belonged to an extremist group, and was captivated with the idea.

The reality is INCO is actually rather boring. Too bad it can’t be all the lies the Weber campaign accuses it of.

JUDY HIXSON
Seaside

Extremists

Suzanne Weber’s campaign is calling Invisible North Coast Oregon an extremist organization, lying that we want to defund the police, among other things.

I belong to INCO. It is made up of mostly nice middle-aged ladies and a few men. They are in no way radical. They mostly write letters or postcards to other voters, encouraging them to vote for their candidates.

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JEAN HOOGE
Astoria

Value of education

I am a teacher, and I am voting for Debbie Boothe-Schmidt.

I have taught in House District 32 for nine years, where I helped students build skills so they can be successful wherever life takes them. I know the value of education, and I want legislators in Salem who will continue to strengthen education. Debbie Boothe-Schmidt is that person.

The first thing I noticed about Debbie is that she is endorsed by the union I belong to, the Oregon Education Association. More than 48,000 Oregon educators belong to OEA. Her challenger, Suzanne Weber, despite being a former teacher, was unable to earn an endorsement from OEA.

Why did this large group of educators choose Boothe-Schmidt over Weber? Debbie pledges to ensure that Oregon education is fully funded. Weber is part of a group that is trying to take over \$1 billion a year away from education.

Another reason the OEA endorsed Debbie is because she has solid plans for education. She will work to get more apprenticeships and technical training in schools, take on the child care crisis and increase funding for early childhood education. In Salem, Debbie will push for health care for families and livable working wages.

The OEA recognized that Debbie has personal qualities we teach our children every day. She is honest and transparent. Her challenger, Weber, lacks transparency. She makes false, negative attack ads about Debbie. Those are not the values educators want children to see as a role model. Join me in voting for Debbie.

MARY MCGINNIS
Rockaway Beach

Deep ties

I hope the voters in Ward 2 will support Floyd Holcom, and those in Ward 4, Tom Hilton. Both of these candidates come from multigenerational Astoria families with deep ties to the fishing and labor communities.

Both have established successful local businesses, giving them the necessary insight into modern day challenges in that realm. Growing up here, they understand what makes, and will keep, Astoria attractive.

I personally observed Floyd at scores of Port of Astoria meetings. Almost never have I seen someone so well prepared. I know he personally read back through the entire meeting minutes of the Port’s 100-year history, just to gain perspective and examine what did and didn’t work. Please vote early if possible.

CHRIS CONNAWAY
Astoria

Not beholden

Clatsop County depends on natural resources to drive our economy by providing jobs in forestry, fishing and tourism. Small woodland landowners own and manage about 15% of our county’s land; I’m one of them, with just 28 acres.

But I know the value of forests, and how

much our economy depends on them. My land is not owned by distant urban investors, the way the huge corporate forests are. I willingly pay my property taxes, unlike corporate investors who hire fancy accountants to avoid paying a fair share of taxes to fund our schools and other county services.

We need a representative for our House District 32 who is local, and locally supported. Someone who will listen to all of us, and find solutions that address our diverse opinions and needs.

We need a representative who will stay at the table and fight for us, not just walk out when things don’t go her way. That is why I am voting for Debbie Boothe-Schmidt for state representative, and recommend you do the same.

She is a local small-business owner, dedicated, experienced and not beholden to large corporations, the way her opponent is.

CHRISTOPHER FARRAR
Astoria

Socialism anyone?

We are a capitalist country, and hopefully will remain one. Socialism is basically communism. All your freedoms will be removed, and the state will have control of every area of your life.

Do you want to live under the “sickle and hammer” of countries like Russia, North Korea, China and Cuba, to name a few? Have you ever heard of anyone leaving America to live in one of these countries, thinking their lives will be enriched?

Do you think the socialist Democrats are offering you free college tuition, a guaranteed minimum monthly income, a high minimum starting wage for an entry-level job because they are really concerned about your welfare?

Of course not. They want you to vote for them and their policies, which will make you a slave to them; the elite ruling class will become very rich and powerful, and you will never be able to break out of your slave class.

Think about this when you vote over the next few days. Your future and your children’s future depends on how we vote in the most important election ever in our cherished republic.

GREG KENNEY
Astoria

No credibility

Clatsop County’s Resiliency Project has no credibility with constituents who have been studying this project extensively.

By the time we learned of the plan for our area, the county already had two purchase agreements on the table. One was to buy Warrenton Fiber’s sort yard of 37 acres on Fort Clatsop Road. This property lies within a tsunami inundation zone and a slide zone.

It has an existing stormwater catchment system, indicating the possibility of requiring costly cleanup — a fail in fulfilling goals to relocate out of a tsunami or slide zone, with complications on the side.

The other property is 5 miles of logging road paralleling Lewis and Clark Road. Owned by GreenWood Resources, it is zoned forest. Both properties need zoning exceptions from the state for this project to proceed.

The resulting development that could follow this zone change is one we are not ready for. We do not have roads in and out of the county to support more traffic. Until we do, this is irresponsible development. Access to the Lewis and Clark Mainline is now available as is for utility work and emergencies.

The master plan for the North Coast Business Park included an industrial zone for public works and supporting agencies. What’s changed? This site fulfills both relocation criteria, and is a fiscally prudent investment, since the taxpayers own it.

Response to 28 letters to the county commission by our representing commissioner: “Change is coming.” Sounds a lot more like development than public safety to me.

LINDA BRIM
Astoria

Demonstrated integrity

We are writing to endorse Paulina Cockrum for Gearhart city mayor, and Dan Jesse and Reita Fackerell for Gearhart City Council.

Several letters have been written endorsing these three candidates, stating their knowledge, experience and dedication to Gearhart. We could not agree more with these endorsement letters, and want to support these three candidates as well.

Paulina, Dan and Reita understand Gearhart, and have always demonstrated integrity plus open-minded attitudes as they work hard to keep our town special.

Leadership via integrity has always been a key factor, and very instrumental over the years in keeping Gearhart an amazing place to live. For the sake of maintaining the livability and our special quality of life here, let’s continue in this vein.

Please join us in voting for Cockrum, Jesse and Fackerell. These are votes for leadership with integrity.

WILSON and JEANNE MARK
Gearhart

Vigilant

We on the North Coast must be very vigilant as to who is funding our local candidates: Is it in our interests, or those of large out-of-state companies, that will be represented?

Suzanne Weber, according to public campaign finance records, is being funded by big oil, big timber and big business, including Chevron in California, Tesoro and 7-Eleven in Texas, to name a few.

There are also the political action committees, such as the beverage industry, anti-abortion and firearms groups adding to Weber’s fund. She will answer to her funding sources.

Debbie Boothe-Schmidt will go to Salem and join with her colleagues and constituents to work out solutions to the big issues regarding health care, jobs, education and climate change. She has been reaching out to environmentalists, fishermen and loggers and everyday people who are worried about our watersheds.

She is already thinking of how she can bridge the divide between the multiple interests, and address climate change without hurting our living wage jobs. From her days bargaining contracts for her union, she knows how to create solutions with many stakeholders at the table.

We probably have less than 10 years to reverse climate change. Vote for your children’s and grandchildren’s future, and join me in voting for Boothe-Schmidt.

CARMEN HAMMERSMITH
Warrenton

Strongly encourage

This letter is to strongly encourage your votes for Dan Jesse and Reita Fackerell. Both of these candidates have served on the Gearhart City Council for several years. They both have shown the qualities needed for thoughtful discussion and decision-making.

Together with the other councilors and mayor, they have come together to solve difficult problems our city has experienced in the past years. This does not mean they have always agreed on solutions to these problems. But they have developed good working relationships, not as part of a clique, but as civic minded residents of Gearhart.

They work together, having constructive discussions to reach decisions that will be beneficial to all Gearhart residents. A combative council is an obstruction to accomplishing these goals.

JUDITH REDEKOP
Gearhart

Why?

Why must Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District purchase the money pit Broadway Middle School? As other letter-writers have stated, all of the sports facilities will be available in our new schools out of the tsunami zone.

Why is the Head Start program still at SEPRD? Seaside’s most vulnerable children should be located where they will be safe — out of the tsunami zone.

Why are the “selected” members of the SEPRD board not doing their fiduciary responsibility looking out for the taxpayers of Seaside?

Why are people just now receiving information on the survey for their opinions, if the purchase is already in the works?

Why are the Seaside taxpayers not enraged by this deceit?

LINDSEY MORRISON
Seaside

Heartbroken

Hey, you anti-democratic Republican leaders, and those who follow your guidance: You must be looking forward to a civil rights war again.

For my whole life, I have heard our leaders say how great America is, while ignoring the white elephant in their laps. Racism and sexism.

Less than 20 years ago I, and thousands of Americans, were called to action. We were tasked by the same leaders to implement a way for the Iraqi people to vote.

Having an older man — who educated himself to learn American democracy and English — break down into your arms with complete gratitude while holding up his purple thumb, has graced me with the true meaning of the privilege to vote.

Millions of human beings have died for this American constitutional fundamental right all around the world. Yet, and still, there seems to be this fear of losing control to someone whom they feel is not worthy or capable.

For 45 years, it has been made more and more difficult for people to vote under your control. Why?

I know I speak for many others when this veteran says I am truly heartbroken. The divisiveness and “do what I say, not as I do” leadership. The finger-pointing from the haves at the have-nots is appalling. Hypocrites.

TROY J. HASKELL
Astoria