

A commitment to the people of Clatsop County

We Clatsop County commissioners are here as community leaders, elected by the voters in our district, with an intention to do good. How we develop our definitions of that good is our individual effort. However we choose to use our voice, our vote, and our actions is up to us. We collaborate with our colleagues to define and accomplish the work of our collective body, the board. We act to further our work by our liaison assignments. That much, I think, we can agree on.



GUEST COLUMN
LIANNE THOMPSON

After that, we have differences. How we resolve those differences arising as our intentions are translated into words and actions determines our effectiveness and results. My commitment is to do good for the benefit of Clatsop County, the people and the place. When I succeed, let us rejoice together. When I fail,

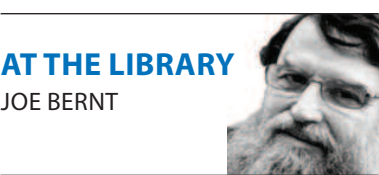
forgive me, and let’s try to do better. I’ll do the same for you. That is the heart of good teamwork, and we are a team. I thank my predecessors for their service and hope to honor them and our common cause, good representation and good value to the people and the place, Clatsop County. Several of them are in the audience tonight. Thanks to them for letting me stand on their shoulders. I am humbly grateful to the voters in District 5 for making me their elected county commissioner again. Looking at the history of elections since the Home

Rule Charter was enacted, I see that I am the only commissioner so far to be elected to more than one successive term. Only one other commissioner has had two terms, but there was a break in service, so those terms weren’t successive. I thank the voters for trusting me to continue serving them so we can all benefit from continuity of leadership, here in Clatsop County and beyond. I thank everyone I serve with and for, treasuring the opportunity to make a positive difference. Let us now join together to do good by completing the work

begun in 2011 to define the mission of county government and the related “ends policies,” so that we can evaluate ourselves and our new county manager. Let us also perform liaisons assignments to best inform our actions by including the impact on our larger world. Most of all, let us perpetuate our own excellence, fearlessly examining our strengths and weaknesses so that we can improve our efforts and effectiveness. I pledge to do all that, on behalf of the voters in District 5, and for everyone in Clatsop County and beyond.

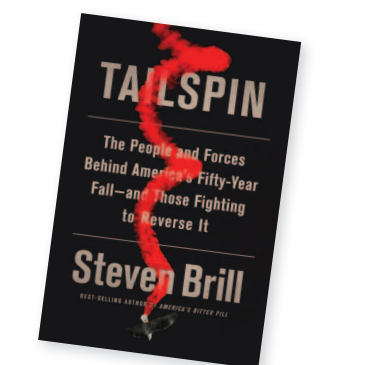
Try to remember when you could buy a car for under \$2,000

Try to remember the kind of September when the median price for a new home rose more than 1,200 percent from \$25,600 in 1968 to \$309,700 in 2018 as median household income rose only 800 percent — from \$7,700 to \$62,175 during those same 50 years. Try to remember when annual per-capita health expenditures exploded more than 3,000 percent, from \$355 in 1968 to \$10,759 in 2018. Try to remember when in 1968 tuition, fees, and room and board for a year at a private four-year university skyrocketed from \$2,673 to \$48,510 in 2018 — an 1,800 percent jump in 50 years. Those happy with a four-year public university saw a year of public higher education grew more than 1,700 percent from \$1,245 in 1968 to \$21,370 in 2018. Try to remember when a Volkswagen Bug cost \$1,699 in 1968 and between \$21,115 and \$27,685 in 2018, a 1,600 percent increase. Try to remember when a gallon of regular gas that cost 34 cents in 1968 plateaued in 2018 at \$3.29, more than a 960 percent increase. Try to remember when sending a first-class letter was a bargain, rising only 1,000 percent — from 5 to 50 cents — as targets of protest shifted from the war in Southeast Asia, to the crude behaviors of our current president.



AT THE LIBRARY
JOE BERNT

Try to remember when a McDonald’s Big Mac was introduced for 49 cents in 1968 and rose in price to \$3.99 in 2018, an increase of more than 800 percent — stalking median household income in the United States. Try to remember when the top marginal income tax rate was 75.25 percent in 1968 — when the top 1 percent held 34 percent of U.S. wealth and received 9 percent of U.S. income — and then dropped to 37 percent in 2018 — when the top 1 percent held 38 percent of U.S. wealth and 24 percent of the nation’s income. These statistics show that the chunks of the U.S. economy have grown for the wealthiest and shrunk for the poorest Americans both in terms of actual dollars and also in terms of what those dollars can purchase. The Occupy movement is right; the rich get richer and the poor poorer with assistance from D.C lobbyists, swamp critters and policy makers. Steven Brill, a meticulous investigative and business magazine writer, offers context in “Tailspin: The People and Forces Behind America’s 50-Year Fall



— and Those Fighting to Reverse It” that, at least in part, explains how Vietnam and an international Cold War waged distracted policy makers from growing economic distress as weakened labor unions unleashed corporate greed and a drive toward globalism that increasingly sent mills, factories and their middle-class jobs abroad. Shoved into service economy jobs, dislocated workers were whacked by hyper-inflation, lower earnings, corporate raiders and something called the information economy. As prices accelerated and wages stagnated, workers, ill-prepared for the information economy, felt abandoned by Democratic politicians who ignored workers’ economic plight, while drafting civil rights, poverty and environmental legislation and drafting young men into an expensive, divisive war ten thousand miles away. Dick Nixon rolled out a Southern strategy to split off traditional Southern

Democrats, George Wallace made inroads in Northern cities, Ronald Reagan built on their efforts and began to undermine both the New Deal and Great Society programs to make America great again. The metaphor of a moat that protects denizens of Wall Street, corporate management, lawyers and information workers trained at elite universities for the new meritocracy from unprotected citizens with average incomes is central to Brill’s analysis of the fifty-year decline of the American Dream. Those who excelled in the meritocracy rewarded themselves by undermining restrictive regulations, re-engineering the political landscape, creating new legal rights and exploiting digital technology to create a nation of moats to protect themselves from politicians and reformers. These over-achievers ran circles around politicians and eroded institutions that provide government services to average citizens. The protected do not depend on government to provide good public schools, health care, disaster relief, safe workplaces, functioning Social Security and IRS offices and call centers and fair labor laws and elections. They hire lawyers. And the number of lawyers coming into corporate law firms bloomed. They saw opportunities to enter corporate banking, where they assisted in raiding, merging

and piecing out companies, always emphasizing short term profits. They developed new financial instruments that would later crash the housing mortgage industry. They also created bigness as a new protective moat for bank management. Bank CEOs were not jailed following the 2008 recession because their lawyers argued they could not be held personally responsible for corporate actions. The bank was too large and complex for a single person to manage. Banks were fined because it was more efficient than prosecuting. So, this moat of “too-big-to-manage” was added to the “too-big-to-fail” and “too-big-to-jail” moats. Brill basically argues that the reason government no longer functions can be blamed on the unintended consequences of merit-based hiring, providing inadequate training for government employees, developing the concept of corporate free speech, instituting fair treatment of government employees and insisting on scrupulous due process in developing regulations. The result: government agencies become overwhelmed by lobbyists, corporate lawyers and government employee unions. The library has a copy of “Tailspin” awaiting anyone questioning why so many politicians are leaving their offices, as well as what drives partisan deadlock in Washington.

MUNICIPAL MEMO

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION
MAYOR: Sam Steidel
COUNCILORS: Mike Benefield, Nancy McCarthy, Brandon Ogilvie and Robin Risley
CITY MANAGER: Bruce St. Denis

MEETINGS FEBRUARY 2019

5	City Council Regular Meeting	7:00 p.m.
12	City Council Special Work Session	5:30 p.m.
13	Preliminary Budget Committee Meeting	5:30 p.m.
21	Design Review Board	6:00 p.m.
28	Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, December 8, 2019

- Cannon Beach Municipal Court Judge Ron Woltjer swore in the City’s newly elected officials: Sam Steidel, Mayor, Mike Benefield, City Councilor, and Robin Risley, City Councilor;
- Elected Mike Benefield to serve as the City Council President; this position presides when the Mayor is absent;
- Appointed Bob Lundy to serve on the Parks & Community Services Committee and appointed Clay Newton and Barb Knop to serve on the Planning Commission;
- Adopted the FY 2017-18 Audit Report, as presented by Paul Nielson, Isler CPA; City Auditor;

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - CITY HALL/POLICE STATION, December 9, 2019

Lisa Petterson of SRG Partners, Inc, and Bruce St. Denis, City Manager presented an update of the research and costs associated with building a new City Hall/Police Station. Council discussion ensued. Council will discuss this again at a special work session on January 16, 2019.

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL WORK SESSION & SPECIAL MEETING, December 15, 2019

- Cannon Beach Code Enforcement Officer, Jenny Thompson-Kiefer was introduced to Council;
- Cannon Beach Farmers Market (CBFM) Manager, Philomena Lloyd presented the 2018 CBFM annual report;
- Clatsop County Public Health Director, Mike McNickle gave a presentation and led a discussion of the new county ordinance regarding licensing retail sales of tobacco products;
- Discussed lighting in the City Parks;
- Discussed the 12 Days of Earth event and its relationship to the City;
- Discussed the funding agreement for the Promotions Program between the City and the Chamber of Commerce. The contract will be presented for consideration at the February 5, 2019 meeting.

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION, January 16, 2019

Bruce St. Denis presented an update of the research and costs associated with building a new City Hall/Police Station. Lisa Petterson of SRG Partnership, Inc. participated by phone. Council will hold a question and answer meeting Wednesday, January 23rd at 5:30pm in lieu of another work session.

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AND SPECIAL MEETING, January 23, 2019

Lisa Petterson of SRG Partners, Inc, and Bruce St. Denis, City Manager were available to answer questions in this public Q&A meeting.

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

The Design Review Board met JAN. 17, 2019 & discussed:
DRB 18-08, SR Lodging, request for modifications to the exterior of an existing commercial building at 632 S. Hemlock. **Roof replacement approved as minor. Continued to February 21, 2019 meeting.**

DRB 18-09, Vito Cerelli request for major modifications to the exterior of a commercial building at 3115 S. Hemlock. **Tentatively Denied for architectural reasons. Findings for denial will be presented at the February 21, 2019 meeting.**
PLANNING COMMISSION -
The Planning Commission met December 27, 2018 and discussed:
ZO 18-03, City of Cannon Beach request for Zoning Ordinance text amendments to Chapter 17.70 Tree Removal. The proposed amendments address the protection of trees from unintended damage during construction. **Continued to January 24th meeting.**

Of Interest...

City Hall will be Closed:

Monday February 18, 2019 in observance of Presidents’ Day

Beach Volunteers Wanted!

Do you enjoy being outside and sharing your love of Haystack Rock? No experience necessary - we train! Families welcome.

Please contact:
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Education & Volunteer Coordinator
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