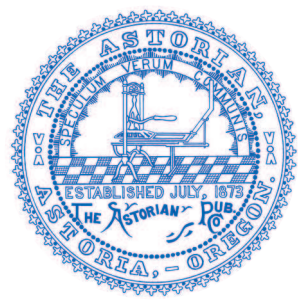


# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Founded in 1873



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## OUR VIEW

Each week we recognize those people and organizations in the community deserving of public praise for the good things they do to make the North Coast a better place to live, and also those who should be called out for their actions.



## SHOUTOUTS

This week's Shoutouts go to:



Barb Roberts

• **Astoria Wishing Tree coordinator Barb Roberts**, who is leaving the charitable program after more than 26 years. During her time with the all-volunteer program, Roberts' efforts helped galvanize community support and aided in make collecting, organizing and distributing Christmas gifts to local children a more efficient, streamlined operation that involved volunteers, businesses and sponsors, as well as the families the program helped.

The Wishing Tree program will continue with volunteers Robyn Koustik and Denise Cleveland stepping up to serve as co-coordinators for the coming year.

• **Clatsop County District Court Judge Phil Nelson**, who retired this week after 23 years on the bench. Nelson was one of the county's longest serving public servants, and among his accomplishments, Nelson started a successful drug court program that has seen 192 graduates since 2001. Court personnel who worked with Nelson and attorneys who practiced in his courtroom all had high praise for the judge, citing his dedication to the law and calling him "extraordinarily fair."



Rinda Shea

• **Rinda Shea**, a real estate broker with Windermere Stellar in Gearhart, who appeared on a New Year's Day episode of HGTV's "Beach Hunters," helping a Portland couple find a home on Oregon's scenic coast. The episode featured the Portland couple, Alisa and Jamie Gaylord, searching for a beachfront home to enjoy time with their two children. In the episode, Shea shows the couple a selection of homes, with the couple deciding on a beach residence in Gearhart, and she called it "a great experience and a whole lot of fun."



Darian Hageman

• **Darian Hageman**, a junior at Astoria High School, and **Jackson Januik**, a senior at Seaside High School, who were chosen as the top Female and Male Athletes of the Year. Hageman helped lead the Astoria girls track team to its second straight state title in May and was honored as the 4A girls High Point Athlete with 32.5 points in the four events she competed in at the state meet. She had wins in the triple jump, long jump and high jump, and a sixth place in the pole vault. Hageman was also selected to the Cowapa All-League Volleyball team in the fall. Beginning last January, Januik helped lead Seaside to its first-ever appearance in the state championship basketball and was named the state's 4A Player of the Year for his efforts; in the spring he won the boys individual state championship in the 800 meter run; in the fall he was one of Seaside's top cross country runners, helping the team to place second in the state, and he was also named to the Cowapa League All-League soccer team; and he currently is one of the leading scorers on the Gulls' basketball team which this week was ranked No. 1 in the state.

• **Teddy Townsend**, an 18-year-old from Cathlamet, Washington, who won first place and also received an honorable mention for photos in the 2016 Annual Coast Weekend Photo Contest. Townsend's winning photo was a stunning silhouetted self portrait under the Milky Way, while the honorable mention was for a photo that depicts a pristine patch of forest growing upward toward the sun's light. The Top 25 photos from the contest are featured on CoastWeekend.com.

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## CALLOUTS

This week's Callouts go to:

• **Thieves responsible for a string of vehicle burglaries** on Christmas Eve in Svensen and Knappa, and in rural parts of Warrenton on New Year's Eve. Police and sheriff's deputies said in nearly all cases the vehicles were unlocked, with many of the vehicles in darkened driveways, and the items stolen included anything of value from fishing rods to firearms and from cash to Christmas presents. Lawmen say they have several leads, and we hope that when the thieves are caught they will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

### Suggestions?

Do you have a Shoutout or Callout you think we should know about? Let us know at [news@dailyastorian.com](mailto:news@dailyastorian.com) and we'll make sure to take a look.



## Reality politics, starring Trump

By GAIL COLLINS

*New York Times News Service*

Two big political events this week. A new Congress started work and "The New Celebrity Apprentice" arrived on TV.



"Celebrity Apprentice" is now hosted by Arnold Schwarzenegger, a former action movie star who became a governor and is now recycling back into entertainment. He is replacing Donald Trump, a former reality TV star now preparing to move into the White House. Trump's Cabinet choices include one former governor who transitioned into "Dancing With the Stars" and is now seeking to become secretary of energy.

On Wednesday we learned that Omarosa Manigault, a former "Apprentice" contestant who's said she's done "20-plus reality shows," is joining the new White House staff.

I think we are seeing a pattern here. Two major questions:

One is whether we're going to wind up getting the next generation of political leaders out of these shows. If there were two tracks to becoming a future presidential candidate, would you rather collect thousands of signatures to run for the state assembly or just spend a month locked in a house with a dozen strangers and 100 cameras?

OK, you are a serious citizen and I do believe you would go for the signatures. But trust me, the future is not on your side.

The other question is whether the actual workings of government are coming to resemble a long-running reality TV series.

### Health care

Senate Republicans began their year with health care. Their plan requires brave lawmakers to vote that Obamacare be replaced by Something Different. Nobody knows exactly what Something Different looks like. The Republicans are just sure it's out there — sort of like the hidden immunity idol on "Survivor."

"The answer here is bold action," said House Speaker Paul Ryan. Think of it this way: Repeal is Season 1. To find out what really happens, you're going to have to tune in for Season 2, when Paul and the gang go off to a Pacific island, where they will compete to find the health care plan concealed under a rock in the forest.

But about the first week of Congress. The House Republicans started things off by voting to castrate the office that oversees legislators' ethics. This was such a terrible beginning that you can't help wondering if it was staged to gin up a little excitement and make Trump, who tweeted his opposition, look



AP Photo/Andrew Harnik

Omarosa Manigault arrives at Trump Tower, in New York on Monday. A memorable contestant in the first season of "The Apprentice," Manigault is joining President-elect Donald Trump's White House staff.

**If there were two tracks to becoming a future presidential candidate, would you rather collect thousands of signatures to run for the state assembly or just spend a month locked in a house with a dozen strangers and 100 cameras?**

... bold. It's like one of those "Real Housewives" shows where people walk into the room and instantly start telling X what Y just said about her downstairs.

The important thing was that Trump expressed his displeasure via Twitter, which is most certainly going to be the prime method of communication in reality politics.

How can you beat it? If the North Koreans say they're building a weapon that could nuke America, you tweet "won't happen." Mission accomplished. If there's deep confusion about Russian hacking in the last election, you announce that you'll clear everything up by Tuesday. When Tuesday arrives you can tweet that a critical intelligence briefing had been delayed until Friday. And just to be clear what you think of folks like the CIA, you put "Intelligence" in quotes and add

"Very strange!"

This is the future, people. Little tiny messages that end with a teeny-weeny sentence with an exclamation point. Soon we'll look on email as an incredibly laborious method of communication, like our parents regarded 20-page letters written with quill pens. Trump saw the future a long time ago. "Half of my friends are under indictment right now because they sent emails to each other about how they're screwing people," he confided to Howard Stern back in 2005. "They'll write you a message that they're having sex with 15 different married women. It's unbelievable. Email is unbelievable."

So unbelievable.

### GoTrump.com

Trump actually did once have an email address, MrTrump@GoTrump.com, which was advertised as a place where you could both do your travel booking and get "travel tips and advice" from the man himself. That business is no more, like the Trump steaks.

However, the president-elect does still have a connection to "Celebrity Apprentice," where he is listed as an executive producer. Of course, anybody can be an executive producer — you're reading this, so you can call yourself executive producer of reading. Yet why would the future president of the United States want credit for making a cheesy reality show, currently starring a guy who supported John Kasich in the primaries?

If you think of an answer, tweet it.

Trump's alleged oversight has not stopped "Celebrity Apprentice" from being a pretty pathetic effort at entertainment. This week it lost in the ratings to "The Bachelor." The new candidate there is a guy named Nick who has already been on three reality dating shows before. He has not found love, so it does seem as if his life requires a new direction. I am thinking the next stop is the Iowa caucuses.

## LETTERS WELCOME

Letters should be exclusive to The Daily Astorian. We do not publish open letters or third-party letters.

Letters should be fewer than 350 words and must include the writer's name, address and phone numbers. You will be contacted to confirm authorship.

All letters are subject to editing for space, grammar and, on occasion, factual accuracy and verbal verification of authorship. Only two letters per writer are printed each month.

Letters written in response to

other letter writers should address the issue at hand and, rather than mentioning the writer by name, should refer to the headline and date the letter was published. Discourse should be civil and people should be referred to in a respectful manner. Letters referring to news stories should also mention the headline and date of publication.

The Daily Astorian welcomes short "in gratitude" notes from readers for publication. They should keep to a 200-word maximum and writers are asked to avoid simply listing event sponsors. They

must be signed, include the writer's address, phone number and are subject to condensation and editing for style, grammar, etc.

Submissions may be sent in any of these ways:

E-mail to [editor@dailyastorian.com](mailto:editor@dailyastorian.com);

Online form at [www.dailyastorian.com](http://www.dailyastorian.com);

Delivered to the Astorian offices at 949 Exchange St. and 1555 N. Roosevelt in Seaside.

Or by mail to Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103