

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:

- **The Columbia Memorial Hospital Foundation**, which has raised \$3 million in its largest ever fundraising campaign that will support the CMH-OHSU Knight Cancer Center. Columbia Memorial Hospital President and CEO Erik Thorsen said the campaign is helping strengthen the community by "bringing focus and unity to a shared vision." The campaign was launched in May 2015 with an announcement of a collaboration between the hospital and the Knight Cancer Institute at Oregon Health & Science University to build a new comprehensive cancer treatment center and specialty clinic in Astoria. The center will provide coastal residents with medical care they previously had to travel to Portland to receive.

- **Seaside Fire and Rescue** personnel who received a number of awards at their annual banquet earlier this month. In addition to those who received service awards, Doug Roberts was honored as the EMS Provider of the Year; Div. Chief Chris Dugan was recognized as the Fire Officer of the Year; and Cesar Alcala was named Firefighter of the Year. Seaside Mayor Jay Barber lauded the firefighters at the event for their level of commitment to their profession and the community.

- **Columbia Bank** and **US Bank** for donation and grant programs that aid local nonprofit groups. Columbia Bank recently conducted its second annual Warm Hearts Winter Drive that raised \$209,333 and 8,140 items for homeless shelters across the Northwest. In Clatsop County, the program brought in \$4,120 in donations that benefited the Astoria Warming Center and the Helping Hands Re-Entry Outreach Centers. US Bank provided the Friends of the Astoria Armory with a \$5,000 grant that will help support the Armory's anti-bullying program along with other programs for youth and adults.

- **Warrenton High School** students who are participating in the Harold and Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation's "Community Care" program, which introduces young people to the importance of community service. Warrenton High School students have raised and donated \$33,000 to area nonprofit organizations during the past three years, and will be making additional grants to nonprofit organizations totaling \$11,000 later this year.



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Seaside High School's Maddi Utti was nominated to play in the McDonald's All-American game.

- **Seaside High School girls basketball player Maddi Utti**, who has been nominated to play in the annual McDonald's All-American game. The game features the best high school seniors in the country. Utti has accepted a scholarship offer to play at Fresno State after she graduates from Seaside.



CALLOUTS

This week's Callouts go to:

- **Oregon legislators** who are spending their time on unnecessary, symbolic resolutions on items that won't make any real difference in the state's future. Instead of determining whether we need a state dog or a state tartan, we would hope that they would be devoting more of the time to trying to solve the serious financial problems the state faces. The state has enough symbols and emblems, and legislators have enough to do without spending time on any more of them.

Suggestions?

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

Editorials that appear on this page are written by Publisher David Pero and Matt Winters, editor of the *Chinook Observer* and *Coast River Business Journal*, or staff members from the *EO Media Group's* sister newspapers.



Missing Obama already

By NICHOLAS KRISTOF
New York Times News Service

Barack Obama's legacy is being systematically unraveled even before he leaves office, with *The Wall Street Journal* scoffing that he "has been a historic president but perhaps not a consequential one."

Historians will also note that the Democratic Party is in far worse shape today than when Obama took office: It has lost its House and Senate majorities, as well as 13 governorships and more than 900 state legislative seats.

More broadly, the sunny Obama optimism of "Yes, we can" has faded into a rancorous miasma of distrust and dysfunction. One example of that rancor is unfolding at the Woodmont Country Club outside Washington, D.C., where hawkish pro-Israeli members are campaigning to deny Obama membership — even though there's no official indication he will even apply.

Yet here's my prediction: America and the world will soon be craving that Obama Cool again.

Voters are fickle and promiscuous, suffering an eight-year itch for a fling with someone who is the opposite of their last infatuation. Sick of Bill Clinton, we turned to a Texas governor who was utterly different. Eight years later, weary of George W. Bush, we elected his polar opposite, a liberal black law professor. And now we've elected Obama's antipode.

Polls suggest that voters are already souring on Donald Trump, in ways that may soon create nostalgia for Obama. Newly elected presidents usually enjoy a honeymoon, but Gallup says Trump's approval is at the lowest level the pollster has recorded in a presidential transition.

Mostly, I think we journalists overdo the personal and pay insufficient attention to policies — such as those that led Obama's presidency to enjoy the longest streak of consecutive private-sector job creation in the 78 years the statistic has been recorded. But while Obama's policy legacy is being whittled away, he also has an important personal legacy that Trump inadvertently burnishes.

A president inevitably is not just commander in chief but also a role model, a symbol of American values around the world. We won the Cold War not only with American missiles but also with American "soft power," and one element of our soft power arsenal is a president who commands respect and admiration at home and abroad. We want our children and the world's to admire our president — and that



AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais

Photos of President Barack Obama and his family, that for years have lined the walls of corridors in the West Wing of the White House in Washington, D.C., are now blank and empty. Only a skeleton staff remained at the White House on Thursday, creating an eerily quiet feeling in the normally bustling West Wing.

is where Obama is strongest and Trump weakest.

Trump spews emotional tweets impetuously and vindictively, lacing his venom with misspellings or grammatical mistakes. We'll be craving Obama's prudence, intellect and reserve.

Trump may dismantle Obamacare and pull out of the Paris climate accord. But he cannot undo Obama's legacy of dignity and old-fashioned virtue, and the impression he made on all of us.

The personal differences between them aren't just that Obama was an African-American son of a single mom, while Trump was the scion of a real estate tycoon. It's more the behaviors they model. Trump has had five children by three wives, has boasted of his infidelities, has shrugged at conflicts of interest and is a walking scandal.

"He will never, ever, let you down. ... Donald is intensely loyal," we were told at the Republican convention — by his third wife. In contrast, Obama has the most boring personal life imaginable and is the rare president who got through a second term without

significant scandals.

That seems to be because of extreme caution. When Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize, he solicited a 13-page memo from Justice Department lawyers verifying that there was absolutely no conflict in accepting it. And then he donated the money to charities.

Whatever our views of Obama's politics, we should be able to agree that he is a superlative family man. For eight years, this family has made us proud. The graciousness that the Obamas displayed toward the Trumps, even as in private they must have been beating their heads against the wall, exemplified class.

When Obama gave his farewell address in Chicago this month, he was accompanied by Michelle and his older daughter, Malia, but 15-year-old Sasha was missing. Twitter was abuzz, and #WheresSasha was soon trending. It turned out that she wasn't in a drunken stupor or staying away in an angry teenage sulk. Rather, it seemed that the Obamas had Sasha stay home to study for an exam the next morning.

If I were Sasha, I'd be annoyed: "C'mon, Dad! You coulda written me a note!" But I'm proud of a first family that so values education and is so averse to asserting privilege.

We can argue about Obama's policies. For my part, I deplored his passivity on Syria. But even on issues that I disagreed with him on, I never doubted his integrity or intelligence, his decency or honor.

Trump may dismantle Obamacare and pull out of the Paris climate accord. But he cannot undo Obama's legacy of dignity and old-fashioned virtue, and the impression he made on all of us.

And if, as I fear, we see the White House transformed into a bog of scandals flowing from an unprincipled narcissist, we as a nation will be more appreciative of a first family that set an impeccable example for all the world.

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;

Online form at 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