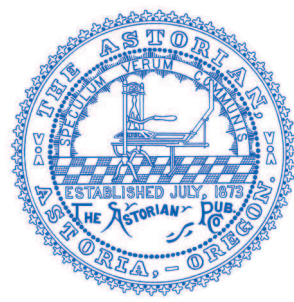


THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian
 Dave and Kerry Strickland hold a photograph of their son Jordan in their home in Knappa. Jordan died in July 2015 from a heroin overdose.

This week's Shoutouts go to:

- **Kerry Strickland** of Knappa and others for forming and launching Jordan's Hope for Recovery, a nonprofit outreach organization that hopes to act as a reference point and connect those with addictions with resources to help them fight the battle to recovery. With the help of family and friends, Strickland founded the organization in the wake of her son Jordan's death in 2015 from a heroin overdose. The organization is an affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, and it conducted a launch party earlier this week where it debuted its new website, jordanshope.org, that provides information about recovery and accepts donations.

- The **Talent Search** program at Clatsop Community College, which recently helped two Knappa High School seniors, **Devin Vandergriff** and **Angeleen Somoza**, to each win the prestigious Oregon state Horatio Alger Scholarship, which is worth \$10,000 through four years of college. The Talent Search program serves more than 650 students from sixth through 12th grades in cooperation with the Astoria, Warrenton-Hammond, Seaside and Knappa school districts. The program's mission is to help students succeed in school and develop a clear vision of their educational choices beyond high school.

- Long Beach Mayor **Jerry Phillips**, who is spearheading his city's beautification efforts by working to clean up ramshackle lots and bedraggled buildings. Phillips says the properties with the most pressing health and safety risks are the city's top priorities, and he's prodding property owners to do the work on their own to avoid having to use the city's tax dollars "to pay for things people should be taking care of themselves."

- The **Northwest Coast Trails Coalition**, which recently conducted a weekend work party to complete a project to connect two walking trails at Clatsop Community College. The two trails were combined into a new single trail that skirts the edge of the north side of the college's parking lot, rounds the northeast corner and now connects with the upper trail.

- Astoria's **Astor Lodge No. 215, Vasa Order of America**, which is celebrating its 105th year. The Swedish-American fraternal organization's members recently conducted their annual meeting and recognized longtime members as well new members who have joined the lodge. The organization seeks to benefit its members by sharing Swedish and Scandinavian culture and heritage.



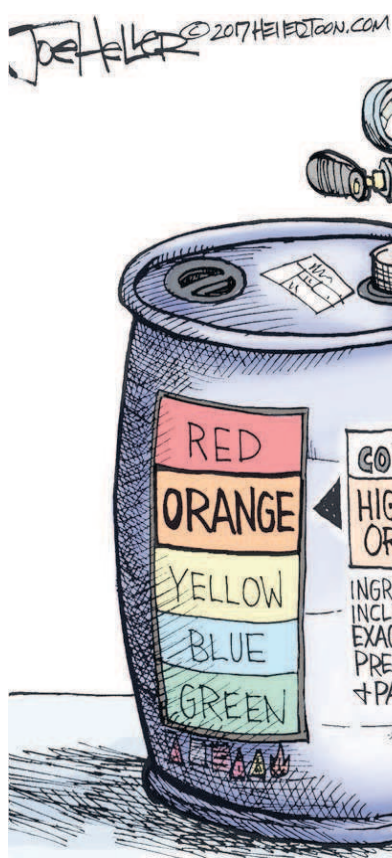
CALLOUTS

This week's Callouts go to:

- The **Oregon Housing and Community Services** state agency, which won't finish a statewide affordable housing inventory before the end of the legislative session. Lawmakers may be asked to consider allotting millions of dollars for affordable housing, and the inventory would give legislators, agencies and nonprofit housing investors a more accurate picture of what affordable housing exists and what federally backed projects are at risk because of expiring contracts with homeowners. The agency was singled out in a state audit in December on the subject, and while the audit was underway, Gov. Kate Brown hired Margaret Salazar to head the agency and direct improvements. A spokeswoman for Salazar said the agency is making progress on finishing the inventory.

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.



The travel moratorium: A hopeless disaster

By CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON — Stupid but legal. Such is the Trump administration's travel ban for people from seven Muslim countries. Of course, as with almost everything in American life, what should be a policy or even a moral issue

becomes a legal one. The judicial challenge should have been given short shrift, since the presidential grant of authority to exclude the entry of aliens is extremely wide and statutorily clear. The judge who issued the temporary restraining order never even made a case for its illegality.

But even if the immigration ban is ultimately vindicated in the courts, that doesn't change the fact that it makes for lousy policy. It began life as a barstool eruption after the San Bernardino massacre when Donald Trump proposed a total ban on Muslims entering the country "until our country's representatives can figure out what the hell is going on."

Rudy Giuliani says he was tasked with cleaning up this idea. Hence the executive order suspending entry of citizens from the seven countries while the vetting process is reviewed and tightened.

The core idea makes sense. These are failed, essentially ungovernable states (except for Iran) where reliable data is hard to find. But the moratorium was unnecessary and damaging. Its only purpose was to fulfill an ill-considered campaign promise.

It caused enormous disruption without making us any safer. What was the emergency that compelled us to turn away people already in the air with already approved visas for entry to the U.S.?

President Donald Trump said he didn't want to give any warning. Otherwise, he tweeted, "the 'bad' would rush into our country. ... A lot of bad 'dudes' out there!"

Rush? Not a single American has ever been killed in a terror attack in this country by a citizen from the notorious seven. The killers have come from precisely those countries not listed — Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Lebanon, Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan (the Tsarnaev brothers). The notion that we had to act immediately because hordes of jihadists in these seven countries were about to board airplanes to blow up Americans is absurd.

Vetting standards could easily have been revised and tightened without the moratorium and its



Gary Cosby Jr./The Tuscaloosa News

Assistant Professor Sarah Steinbock-Pratt holds a sign as she listens to speakers at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Ala., who gathered Thursday to support an open campus and oppose the travel ban imposed by President Donald Trump. *notforsale*

attendant disruptions, stupidities, random cruelties and well-deserved bad press.

In the end, what was meant to be a piece of promise-keeping, tough-on-terror symbolism has become an oxygen-consuming distraction.

The moratorium turned into a distillation of the worst aspects of our current airport-security system, which everyone knows to be 95 percent pantomime. The pat-down of the 80-year-old grandmother does nothing to make us safer. Its purpose is to give the illusion of doing something. Similarly, during the brief Trump moratorium, a cavalcade of innocent and indeed sympathetic characters — graduate students, separated family members, returning doctors and scientists — were denied entry. You saw this and said to yourself: We are protecting ourselves from *these*?

If anything, the spectacle served to undermine Trump's case for extreme vigilance and wariness of foreigners entering the United States. There is already empirical evidence. A Nov. 23 Quinnipiac poll

found a 6-point majority in favor of "suspending immigration from 'terror prone' regions"; a Feb. 7 poll found a 6-point majority *against*. The same poll found a whopping 44-point majority opposed to "suspending all immigration of Syrian refugees to the U.S. indefinitely."

Then there is the opportunity cost of the whole debacle. It risks alienating the leaders of even non-affected Muslim countries — the 57-member Organization of Islamic Cooperation expressed "grave concern" — which may deter us from taking far more real and effective anti-terror measures. The administration was intent on declaring the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organization, a concrete measure that would hamper the operations of a global Islamist force. In the current atmosphere, however, that declaration is reportedly being delayed and rethought.

Add to that the costs of the ill-prepared, unvetted, sloppy roll-out. Consider the discordant, hostile message sent to loyal law-abiding Muslim-Americans by the initial denial of entry to green card holders. And the ripple effect of the initial denial of entry to those Iraqis who risked everything to help us in our war effort. In future conflicts, this will inevitably weigh upon local Muslims deciding whether to join and help our side. Actions have consequences.

In the end, what was meant to be a piece of promise-keeping, tough-on-terror symbolism has become an oxygen-consuming distraction. This is a young administration with a transformative agenda to enact. At a time when it should be pushing and promoting deregulation, tax reform and health care transformation, it has steered itself into a pointless cul-de-sac — where even winning is losing.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

On visas and vetting

You hear people say — even the president's appointees — that his first responsibility is to protect the people of the U.S. But you have to wonder how seriously he takes this matter.

There is an archipelago at the tip of South America called Tierra del Fuego. It has about 130,000 people, and has lots of farms and mines. President Trump's recent restriction on entrance visas, and his program of extreme vetting to the U.S., ignores Tierra del Fuego.

No terrorist, as far as I know, has ever come from Tierra del Fuego, but that doesn't matter because you don't know when someone will come from that place and try to blow up New York City (including the Trump Tower). As his spokesmen have said, you never know who might be hatching a plot against the U.S.

On the other hand, there is Texas. One of the citizens of that state got into Washington, D.C., and spent eight years there. He was even extremely vetted by the U.S. Supreme Court, but that guy came

close to bankrupting the country. He also sent many thousands of American soldiers to die in the Middle East to protect the citizens of our great country. Yet no visa, nor any vetting of any citizen of that state, is required to get into the rest of the U.S. Why? Well, there is a lot of oil Texas.

I'm not a politician, but it seems to me the least one could require of the leader of the free world is to have some follow through in his immigration plans.

J. LAMBERT
 Hammond