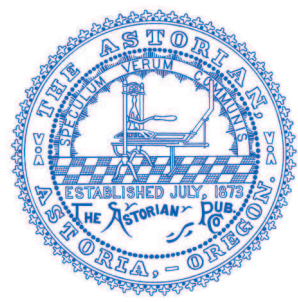


# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Founded in 1873



DAVID F. PERO, *Publisher & Editor*  
 LAURA SELLERS, *Managing Editor*  
 BETTY SMITH, *Advertising Manager*  
 CARL EARL, *Systems Manager*  
 JOHN D. BRUIJN, *Production Manager*  
 DEBRA BLOOM, *Business Manager*

## 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

FisherPoets organizers Jay Speakman, left, and Jon Broderick perform at the Astoria Event Center during the 20th annual FisherPoets Gathering last week.

This week's Shoutouts go to:

- **Jon Broderick, Jay Speakman** and other organizers of the 20th annual FisherPoets Gathering in Astoria last weekend. About 100 people with connections to the fishing industry presented songs, stories and poems at venues around town throughout the weekend. Each of the venues, the Voodoo Room bar, Wet Dog Cafe, Liberty Theater, Columbian Theater, Fort George Lovell Showroom and Kala art center were packed during the fisher-themed events.

- Longtime Seaside Jazz Festival directors **Ruth Johnson** and **Judy Shook**, along with volunteers, sponsors and music venue hosts of the 34th annual event last weekend. Sponsored by the Lighthouse Jazz Society, the Jazz Festival provided concerts at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center, the Elks Lodge and the Best Western Ocean View Resort. Convention center officials said the festival attracted about 2,000 visitors and musicians to Seaside to hear what they call "OKOM" — "Our kind of music" — with a distinct New Orleans Dixieland flavor.

- **Julie Yuill** and **Sherri Williams**, two longtime Astoria employees who retired this week. Yuill, executive assistant to City Manager Brett Estes, joined the city more than 31 years ago, which spans a period of three mayors and six city managers. Williams, administrative assistant to the Community Development Department, has served the city for more than 24 years and has worked under four community development directors.

- The **Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival**, which has received an Oregon Heritage Tradition designation by the Oregon Heritage Commission as it prepares to mark its 50th anniversary. Other Oregon Heritage Traditions include the Oregon State Fair, the Pendleton Round-Up, the Woodburn Fiesta Mexicana, and the Portland Greek Festival. The all-volunteer, three-day festival started in 1968 as a celebration of the summer solstice and all things Scandinavian on Oregon's North Coast. It is organized by the Astoria Scandinavian Heritage Association and according to Eric Martin, chairman of the Oregon Heritage Commission, "The designation recognizes those traditions that have helped define the state."

- Seaside High School seniors **Jackson Januik** and **Maddi Utti**, who were each named Cowapa League Player of the Year in boys and girls basketball. Seaside's boy's and girl's coaches, Bill Westerholm and Mike Hawes, also shared honors as co-Coaches of the Year with their counterparts at Valley Catholic and Banks high schools. Both the boys and girls teams are in action this weekend in the state playoffs.



## CALLOUTS

This week's Callouts go to:

- **Skipanon Water Control District** board members who decided this week not to pursue mediation with Warrenton in a dispute over control of the Eighth Street Dam. The water district and city have been squabbling about the jurisdiction of the dam for months and the two sides had discussed the possibility of negotiations to help settle the conflict. Mediation, even if conducted informally, could help avoid a costly legal battle.

### 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.



## Revolt of the attorneys general

By CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON — Among the many unintended legacies of Barack Obama, one has gone largely unnoticed: the emergence of a novel form of resistance to executive overreach, a check-and-balance improvised in reaction to his various presidential power grabs.



It's the revolt of the state attorneys general, banding together to sue and curb the executive. And it has outlived Obama.

Normally one would expect Congress to be the instrument of resistance to presidential trespass. But Congress has been supine. The Democrats in particular, approving of Obama's policy preferences, allowed him free rein over Congress' constitutional prerogatives.

Into that vacuum stepped the states. Florida and 12 others filed suit against Obamacare the day it was signed. They were later joined by 13 others, making their challenge the first in which a majority of states banded together to try to stop anything.

They did not always succeed, but they succeeded a lot. They got Obamacare's forced Medicaid expansion struck down, though Obamacare as a whole was upheld. Later, a majority of states secured stays for two egregious Environmental Protection Agency measures. One had given the feds sovereignty over the generation and distribution of electricity (the Clean Power Plan), the other over practically every ditch and pond in America (the Waters of the United States rule).

Their most notable success was blocking Obama's executive order that essentially would have legalized 4 million illegal immigrants. "If Congress will not do their job, at least we can do ours," said Obama. Not your job, said the courts.

Democrats noticed. And now with a Republican in the White House, they've adopted the technique. Having lost control of Congress, they realize that one way to curb presidential power is to go through the states. They just did on Trump's immigration ban. Taking advantage of the courts' increased willingness to grant "standing" to the states, Washington state and Minnesota got a district court to issue an injunction against Trump's execu-



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson speaks at a news conference in Seattle in February. Washington state's top lawyer stopped President Donald Trump's immigration executive order by filing a lawsuit.

utive order and got it upheld by the 9th Circuit. Where the ban died.

A singular victory. Democratic-run states will be emboldened to join together in opposing Trump

and Washington standing to represent the due process rights of Yemeni nationals who've never set foot in the United States — an imaginary harm to states that presupposes imaginary rights for Yemenis.

And not because it's necessarily good for the judicial system to acquire, through this process, yet more power. This really should be adjudicated by the elected branches. Problem is: Congress has abdicated.

Nonetheless, the revolt of the AGs is to be celebrated. It is a reassuring sign of the creativity and suppleness of the American Constitution, of its amphibian capacity to grow a new limb when an old one atrophies.

This is, of course, not the first time the states have asserted themselves against federal power. There was Fort Sumter, 1861, when the instruments employed were rather more blunt than the multistate lawsuit. All the more reason to celebrate this modern device.

I'm sure conservatives won't like many of the outcomes over the next four years, just as many liberals deeply disapproved of the Obama-blocking outcomes of the recent past.

The point, however, is not outcome but process. Remarkably, we have spontaneously developed a new one — to counter executive willfulness. There's a reason that after two and a half centuries the French are on their Fifth Republic and we are still on our first.

**It is a reassuring sign of the creativity and suppleness of the American Constitution, of its amphibian capacity to grow a new limb when an old one atrophies.**

administration measures issuing from both the agency rulings (especially EPA and the Department of Education) and presidential executive orders.

Is this a good thing? Regardless of your party or policy preferences, you must admit we are witnessing a remarkable phenomenon: the organic response of a constitutional system in which the traditional barriers to overreach have atrophied and a new check-and-balance emerges almost ex nihilo.

Congress has allowed itself to become an increasingly subordinate branch. Look at how reluctant Congress has been to even consider a new authorization for the use of force abroad, an area in which, constitutionally, it should be dominant. Look at today's GOP Congress, having had years to prepare to govern, now appearing so tentative, almost paralyzed. "Many Republican members," reports the Washington Post, "are eager for Trump to provide clear marching orders." The president orders, Congress marches — that is not how the Founders drew it up.

Hence the state attorneys general rise to check the president and his functionaries. This is good.

Not because it necessarily pro-

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Means the world

Don't stone me for saying what goes unsaid in the usual off-the-rack church sermon. For example: whether or not you believe in God, you are ... (drum roll please) right. In plain speak, there is no God, if that's what you believe, believe being the operative word. And, by the same token, God is alive and working overtime for those who do believe in him.

Go figure. Or, better yet, since God's logic is illegible to the peabrains of humankind, save time and trouble by suspending your intellect.

"If you want what only I can do for you, you've first got to believe that I'm already on it." This is how God might put it to his curiosity seekers today.

Who would think it? Seemingly, the very idea is irrational. Ostensi-

bly, it's too preschool. Irrefutably, it stands the adult intellect on its head, confounding the wise and favoring the fool.

I know. Yet, belief in God, in the absence of flashing signs, is the single element that demystifies, i.e. throws light on God's proof of life.

Belief is acquired by default, when there's nothing left to try; out of desperation, when you want out of your misery at all costs, and God won't grant your wish to die; by faith, i.e. all are given a measure; or via a decision — a mind-set one adopts on purpose. However belief comes about, you are blessed. And, specific to those who don't believe in God: you, too, are right; and your opinion means the world.

ANNA RYAN  
Seaside

### Stirring quotes

Two quotes are stirring me. One quote is "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." by Martin Luther King Jr. February was Black History Month.

The other quote is by Edmund Burke: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men (and women) to do nothing." Ah, complacency and denial.

Also, Edward Snowden's clarity about our U.S. Constitution in a Jan. 28 interview is inspiring to me ("Everything about Donald Trump").

It gives me hope to hear from his heart.

MONICA TAYLOR  
Astoria