

# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Founded in 1873

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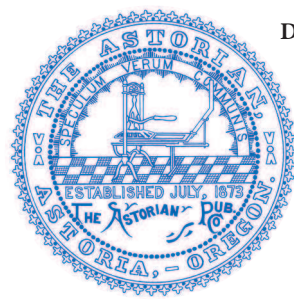
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## OUR VIEW

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

• Winners, participants and organizers of the recent **107th Oregon Coast Invitational** golf tournament at the Astoria Golf & Country Club, which is one of oldest tournaments on the West Coast. **Riley Elmes** successfully defended his Grand Champions trophy, winning for the second consecutive year, while **Lara Tennant** took top honors in the Women's Division. **Elmes son, Matt**, won the Junior Seniors Division. In the Seniors Division, **Bret Stevens** posted the victory, while **Larry Wobbrock** topped the leaderboard in the Super Seniors Division.

• **John Underwood**, a Bainbridge Island, Washington, resident and also a homeowner in Cannon Beach, who donated \$10,000 to help launch the **"Protect our Puffins"** program this summer. The effort, with the help of the **Haystack Rock Awareness Program**, will include the sale of sweatshirts that say "Protect our Puffins" at local businesses. The proceeds will fund informational brochures, research and an event next summer to raise awareness for the puffin bird population which has been in sharp decline in recent years, including the colony at Haystack Rock. Researchers haven't pinpointed the reason for the decline, but are working to determine its cause.

• **Christian Montbrand**, a student in AmeriCorps' Resource Assistance for Rural Environment program, who spent a year in Seaside helping the city develop tsunami education outreach and also updating its parks master plan. Montbrand, who will seek a graduate degree at the University of Oregon in the fall, was supervised by **Public Works Director Dale McDowell** and led a recent open house on the parks master plan at the Seaside Library, sharing a vision for the city's parks and garnering feedback from about 40 attendees. McDowell said the findings will be included in recommendations for updates to the existing parks plan.



Rebecca Sprengeler

Hundreds of corgis and their owners gathered last weekend in Cannon Beach for the fifth annual Oregon Corgi Beach Day. The event started with just a few dozen corgis and their owners and has ballooned in size in recent years.

• **Jennifer Robinson**, who organized the fifth annual **Corgi Beach Day** in Cannon Beach last Saturday, which raised more than \$9,000 for the **Oregon Humane Society**. The event, which has grown in participation and attendance each year, attracted hundreds of the short-legged, smiley dogs with their owners and friends, and the proceeds are used to help the Humane Society finance day-to-day costs along with programs to alleviate overcrowding in shelters and investigate animal cruelty and neglect cases.



## CALLOUTS

• **Internal Revenue Service scammers** who have been targeting residents throughout the North Coast during the past month with waves of "robocalls" from people who claim to be IRS or U.S. Treasury agents. The callers, or sometimes automated recordings, tell the target that their tax records are wrong, or that they owe back taxes or penalties with the goal of getting a worried recipient to provide bank account information or money. The IRS annually lists the fake agent scam as one of the largest it has to combat. According to the IRS, scammers have duped more than 10,000 victims out of \$54 million since 2013. Real federal agents rarely call without sending mail first, and do not call demanding payment or ask for wire transfers or credit card numbers. IRS Commissioner John Koskinen says anyone receiving such a call should "just hang up and don't engage these people." The IRS also advises residents to report suspicious tax callers on the "IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting" webpage, or by calling 800-366-4484.

### 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.

## Meatheads Are Governing America



## Feasting on false and fake

By CHARLES BLOW  
New York Times News Service

Donald Trump continues his savage assault on truth, honesty and candor.



In two weeks time, one of Trump's lawyers has been proven a liar for repeatedly claiming that Trump had not been involved in all in the

drafting of the misleading statement that his son Donald Jr. issued about his now-infamous meeting with Russians in Trump Tower during the presidential campaign.

As The Washington Post reported Monday:

"Flying home from Germany on July 8 aboard Air Force One, Trump personally dictated a statement in which Trump Jr. said that he and the Russian lawyer had 'primarily discussed a program about the adoption of Russian children' when they met in June 2016, according to multiple people with knowledge of the deliberations. The statement, issued to The New York Times as it prepared an article, emphasized that the subject of the meeting was 'not a campaign issue at the time.'" Then Tuesday, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders confirmed that the elder Trump had played a role, saying, "The president weighed in, as any father would, based on the limited information that he had."

In short, this whole line of defense that White House had maintained for weeks was a complete fairy tale, another blatant lie from the perpetual fountain of lies.

During a July 25 interview with the Wall Street Journal editor-in-chief Gerard Baker, Trump said of his debased speech at the Boy Scouts' Jamboree: "I got a call from the head of the Boy Scouts saying it was the greatest speech that was ever made to them." The only problem is that, as Politico reported this week: "The Boy Scouts of America, however, apologized to its members after the speech and then said Wednesday that the organization was not aware of any calls between its leaders and Trump."

Monday, Trump said: "As you know, the border was a tremendous problem and they're close to 80 percent stoppage. Even the president of Mexico called me — they said their southern border, very few people are coming because they know they're not going to get through our border, which is the ultimate compliment."

The problem: As ABC News reports, "The Mexican government says President Enrique Peña Nieto did not call U.S. President Donald Trump to compliment his immigration policies, as Trump had claimed" and "An American official confirmed that no telephone conversation recently occurred between Trump and Peña Nieto."



AP Photo/Susan Walsh

President Donald Trump walks up the steps of Air Force One at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Thursday. Trump was heading to West Virginia for a campaign-style rally in Huntington, W.Va.

But perhaps most disturbing and despicable is an allegation in a lawsuit filed by Rod Wheeler, a private detective who was hired by the family of Seth Rich, an aide for the Democratic National Committee who was fatally shot last summer in Washington, to investigate his death.

The claim is that the White House and a wealthy friend of Trump used Fox News to manufacture and promote a fake news story — using this dead man's body, and ignoring his family's agony — to "shift the blame from Russia and help put to bed speculation that President Trump colluded with Russia in an attempt to influence the outcome of the presidential election." Wheeler is also a Fox News contributor.

**The presidency is being used as a tool of degradation rather than uplift.**

Fox published the article but was forced to retract it. According to The New York Times, "The retracted article, citing law enforcement sources, said Rich had shared thousands of DNC emails with WikiLeaks — a theory that would undercut the assertions that Russia had interfered in the election on behalf of Trump."

If this is true, it is the lowest of the low. It would implicate the White House in a most callous lie and it would further make laughable the "News" in "Fox News."

All politicians try to manage news coverage and messages. They all try to put the most positive spin on things. They all are prone to hyperbole.

But this is another thing altogether. It is separate, distinct and unique. We have never seen an occupant of the Oval Office who is actually allergic to the truth. We have never had an

enemy of honesty.

I keep coming back to the lying because I believe everything else flows from it.

If Trump had been upfront and candid about his and his cohorts' dealings with Russia, had not lied about President Barack Obama supposedly wiretapping phones in Trump Tower, had released his tax returns and not tried to make James Comey commit to some sort of oath of allegiance, maybe we wouldn't need a special counsel to investigate his campaign's Russia connections.

If Trump hadn't lied about 3 million people voting illegally, we wouldn't be diverting resources to a ridiculous voter integrity commission. Maybe we could focus on the real problems: voter suppression and partisan gerrymandering. As Nate Cohn pointed out Wednesday on the Upshot: "Heading into the 2018 midterms, data and conventional wisdom agree: Gerrymandering is a big reason the GOP has a real chance to retain control of the House, even if the Democrats score a clear win" in the overall popular vote.

If Trump had been honest in his fake outreach to black voters during the campaign — "What the hell do you have to lose?" — the attack on civil rights by this Justice Department would make sense. The reversal on private prisons, the review of consent decrees, the return to the failed drug policies of the '90s would make sense. If Trump had been honest, the absolutely outrageous news reported by The Times this week would make sense:

"The Trump administration is preparing to redirect resources of the Justice Department's civil rights division toward investigating and suing universities over affirmative action admissions policies deemed to discriminate against white applicants, according to a document obtained by The New York Times."

The lies are the root of all this evil. It not only impedes normal functioning and normal processes, it has destroyed a common basis on which to operate. The presidency is being used as a tool of degradation rather than uplift.

## 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. Discussion 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