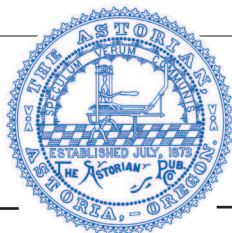


# OPINION

editor@dailyastorian.com



# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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KARI BORGEN  
Publisher

JIM VAN NOSTRAND  
Editor

JEREMY FELDMAN  
Circulation Manager

DEBRA BLOOM  
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## OUR VIEW

# Russia forces Trump retreat on breastfeeding

**B**reastfeeding has been the acknowledged best practice for infant nutrition for five decades. In an apparent rebuke to that standard, the Trump administration in the World Health Organization rebuked breastfeeding in favor of infant formula.

The New York Times on July 8 reported this outcome, which occurred at a WHO meeting in Geneva in the spring.

Reported the Times: "American officials sought to water down the resolution by removing language that called on governments to 'protect, promote and support breastfeeding' and another passage that called on policymakers to restrict the promotion of food products that many experts say can have deleterious effects on young children."

When that failed, the U.S. delegation went after the resolution's sponsor, Ecuador. When Ecuador backed down, other small and poor nations would not take the risk of opposing the U.S. on the breastfeeding issue. Surprisingly, Russia became the resolution's sponsor. And that caused the U.S. to back down.

The reasons for breastfeeding are multiple. Among them are a mother's bonding with the infant, sharing immunity to disease between mother and infant and avoiding preparation of formula with drinking water that could be impure. It also tends to lead to better odds for survival during the baby's first year — including a lower risk of



A mother breastfeeds her baby boy.

Blend Images

**'The Trump administration sows so much chaos that it would be easy to ignore this mischief at the World Health Organization.'**

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

Infant formula has a role to play in situations when women cannot breast-

feed. But it is not the primary recommendation for mothers of infants.

The WHO recommends that infants

be breastfed for the first six months to achieve optimal growth development and health. It was in the face of that the U.S. delegate to the WHO conference pitched for formula feeding and against breastfeeding.

The Washington Post has noted that this is not the first time an administration has promoted infant formula makers to the detriment of breastfeeding. The Post noted that in 1981, the Reagan administration took that stance.

The Trump administration sows so much chaos within America and around the world on a daily basis that it would be easy to forget or disregard this brief foray at WHO. But the gaping hole between decades of research and the Trump attempt to subvert that knowledge demonstrates a level of phenomenal ignorance, as well as a strategy based on craven work for a financial benefactor.

Like President Trump's aversion to admitting the reality of climate change and global warming, this incident in Geneva reflects the administration's trashing of science. It also denigrates the welfare of women and infants.

We could write this off as one more aberration of a presidency that is curious at best and enormously destructive at worst. But as we saw in Helsinki this week, when the president utters nonsense, he is speaking to the world as the face of America. We cannot go along with that.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Please ban stacking boulders on Riverwalk

I recently moved to this beautiful and industrious city from farther inland, and very much enjoy the quality of life that Astoria has to offer.

I have, however, in the course of my grocery store commute stroll on the famed Astoria Riverwalk, noticed boulders stacked purposely in precariously erected towers, some reaching an excess of seven feet tall.

I used to enjoy the sight of these towers until I observed boulders strewn about, due to an obvious failure, and I began to wonder when those examples failed, and why. It then occurred to me that these art installations could potentially hurt someone or something (a pet) if these stacks were stressed and allowed to fall. I imagine a small child pushing a center stone and collapsing top stones on top of themselves, or a dog leash wrapping around a column and toppling it over.

It is because of this, and other hazards that may arise, that I have been personally demolishing these unstable and easily undermined structures (at risk to myself), and resent the comments directed at me when this initiative is taken. Who would be legally responsible for damages caused by these unauthorized and unlicensed structures, the city? The parties most responsible would not. Please post signs banning such activity.

JAMES FICEK  
Astoria

### Remembering the rich history of our parents

This month we celebrated the Fourth of July across the U.S. and its territories. There were flags everywhere, including mine. America means different things to its people, but we have commonalities, especially freedom to live without oppression.

This was also a time for relaxing and having fun. For me, it was a time to think about family history and memories. Born in the Depression, I don't remember suffering from anything. My young parents were farm people. My father, the son of a Belgian immigrant, worked hard in the soil. My mother canned, butchered, made ingredients such as butter for cooking, and did many farm tasks, designed then as man's work. We were lucky.

Now I try to remember, as I think many do. I am the last of my generation. My kids are off on their own history. My brother and parents are gone — and that's life. What I am sad about is I was too busy trying to achieve and, with my wife, raising our family, to record and remember the rich history of my parents.

While I remember a lot, it's sketchy. What I don't have now is someone to ask. What I will do is difficult — that is, to try and research for bits and pieces. For example, when my wife and I visited Ellis Island we found entries of my grandfather, already a citizen, returning

from Belgium with his bride. What a family discovery. So much missed.

NORM HOOGE  
Astoria

### Trump is fixing the immigration mess

**O**ver 56 million Latinos live in America. Most came here legally, have assimilated into society and are good citizens. But in recent years, Washington's elite establishment pushed a globalist agenda by not enforcing immigration laws worth a damn. And millions more Latinos illegally crashed the border.

The floods of illegal immigrants aren't assimilating into American society like Latino-Americans' ancestors did. Too many aren't learning and speaking English. They're adversely affecting America's culture and crime rate. Their welfare and other costs to taxpayers are skyrocketing. And, drugs pour across the border. These things alarm American citizens, including Latino Americans.

Democratic politicians give the impression millions more Latinos mean millions more Democrats. That would explain their obstructionism on immigration. But when Latinos become citizens, and fully understand the opportunities America gives them, they'll think for themselves who to vote for.

Illegal immigrants who don't learn English and become part of American society will likely be deported. Efforts of illegal immigrants to assimilate are essential. Latino leaders

need to motivate and help them, and thereby better their chances of becoming citizens.

Simply protesting noisily and holding up signs isn't doing that. Otherwise, illegal immigrants will just be foreigners living on American soil, subject to deportation. And that's no way for Latinos to live happy lives.

Washington's globalists and establishment politicians screwed up America's immigration system big time. And worried Americans with their votes in 2016 shouted: Enough!

President Trump's now fixing the mess. And America will be the stronger for it.

DON HASKELL  
Astoria

### Code enforcement should be uniformly applied

**O**n July 11, The Daily Astorian reported that the city manager was perturbed that the proposed developer of a new hotel in the area around Stephanie's Cabin had overgrown weeds around the property, and if this is not addressed the city will proceed with code enforcement ("Hotel developer dinged for overgrown Astoria lot").

Huh? In this city we have residences that have weeds and brush blocking sidewalks partially or completely; sidewalks broken and sloped, where only a mountain goat is comfortable; and derelict vehicles in yards and on the street that have not moved in months, and plates that expired months or years ago.

It has taken years to do something about

the rundown buildings in downtown, but this effort has not been made with regard to residences, that in some cases are far worse than the blight that existed on Commercial Street.

Code enforcement should be uniformly applied, not just selectively when city hall wants to badger a waterfront property owner.

MIKE GREEN  
Astoria

### Vote 'no' on gun classes in schools

**R**ecently it was reported that Initiative 6 seeks to place on the ballot a requirement for all sixth graders to attend gun safety class. Clearly this is an overreach and infringement on the rights of parents and students.

The National Rifle Association has been the go-to source (or at least they used to be) for firearm safety. My father sent me, and I sent my son to this course, as well. Requiring this as part of grade school curriculum disregards common sense and respect for citizens, as well as appearing to be a political move under the guise of safety. Safety courses can be easily attained through numerous other sources.

Added costs for instructors are not discussed. Will already-strapped school districts now have to delete some course material? Longer school day(s) for this? Vote 'no' on Initiative Petition 6.

RICHARD McINTOSH  
Astoria

