

OPINION

theAstorian

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Founded in 1873

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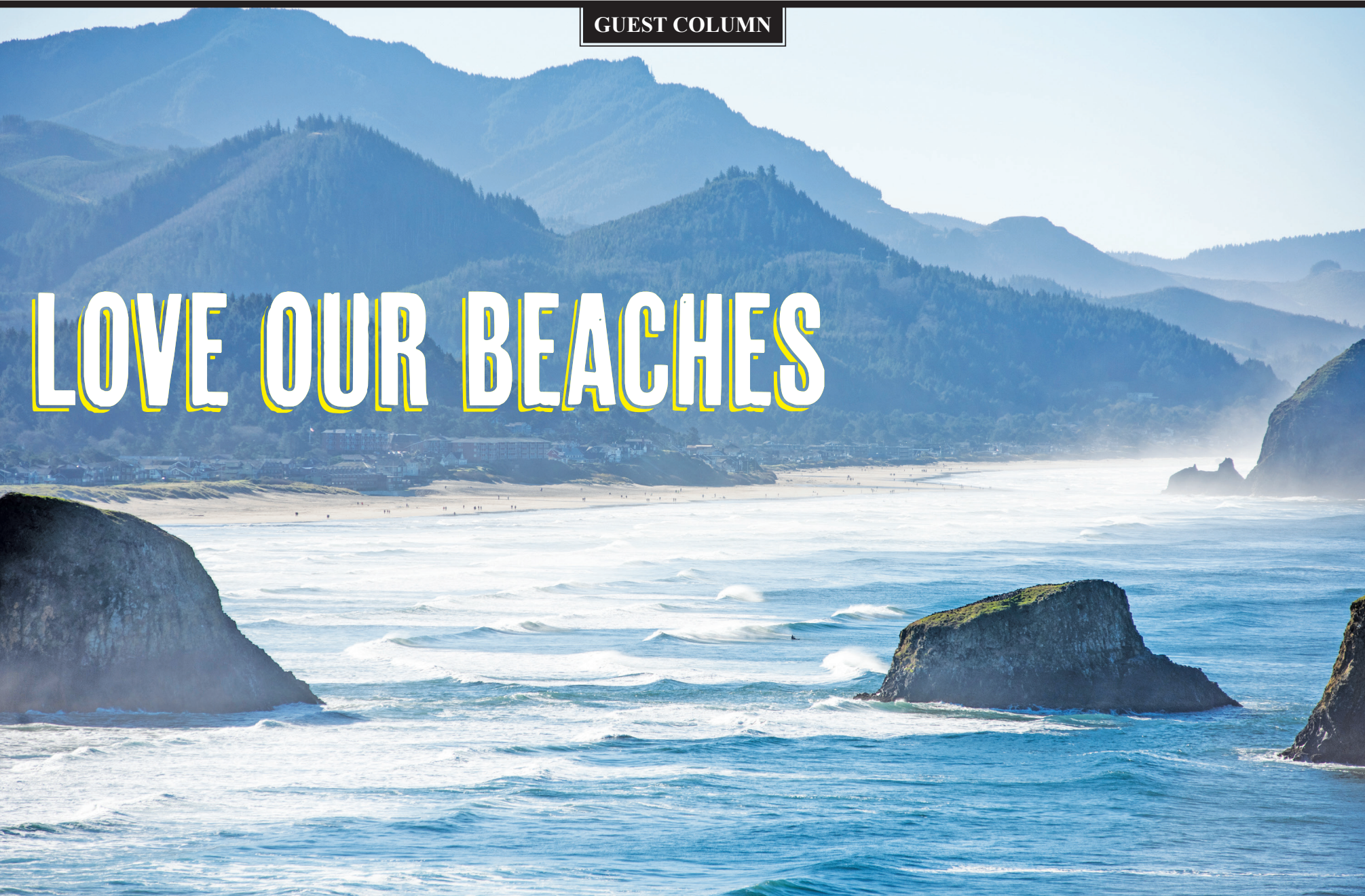
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People flocked to our beaches this summer.

WE KNOW WE LOVE THE COAST.
HOW CAN WE MAKE SURE THAT
ITS BEAUTY AND PRISTINE NATURE
CONTINUE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS?

2020 has been beyond challenging for all of us. Soothing, calming and resilient, the Pacific Ocean reminds us that tomorrow is a new day, offering hope for the future.

This summer, people flocked to Oregon’s beaches and ocean for respite. Our North Coast communities, parks and beaches experienced unprecedented crowds and associated problems.



NADIA GARDNER

Crowds, litter, traffic, parking and dangerous behaviors were frustrating for all of us. We want to thank each of you for doing your part. Most people protected themselves and those around them while on the coast. They wore face coverings, washed their hands and avoided crowded places. Many individuals and groups hauled

out their garbage and recyclables as well as picked up litter on our trails and beaches.

People called and emailed city, county and state parks staff when things needed attention. They helped educate visitors and contacted the sheriff, police and fire departments when dangerous situations arose.

A huge “Thank you!” to our state parks staff. The monthslong shutdown meant that the user fees and lottery sales

that Oregon State Parks depend on were greatly diminished. They had to lay off numerous full-time staff and not hire most of their seasonal workers. Those who were left had to manage much more than they should have.

Also, much appreciation for Oregon Department of Transportation staff and state and local law enforcement, who stepped in to try to make sure that parking and access was safe at Oswald West State Park, as well as Hug Point and

Arcadia state recreation areas. This summer was an opportunity for us to determine what is important and how we can affect change. We know we love the coast. How can we make sure that its beauty and pristine nature continue for future generations? Make your voices heard in the upcoming election and day-to-day government. Volunteer. Donate to non-profit organizations that align with your values.

Here, in this place — Oregon and in our coastal communities — we can make a difference. We can learn more about our beaches and ocean and focus on effective solutions locally. We can do good and show others how they can act also. We can make progress, when national and international efforts stall. And that’s what gives us hope. Nadia Gardner is the chairwoman of Friends of Cape Falcon Marine Reserve.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Autonomy

The decision whether or not to bear a child is central to a woman’s life, to her well-being and dignity. It is a decision she must make for herself. When the government controls that decision for her, she is being treated as less than a full adult human responsible for her own choices.” — Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. It’s hard not to feel defeated by her death, but for the sake of our community, I urge you to look at threats happening locally, as well as nationally. Suzanne Weber, one of the candidates running in our district, is backed by Oregon Right to Life, a far-right, anti-abortion lobby group that wants to ban abortions, even in cases of rape and incest. As a woman, the thought of having my right to health care taken away, especially in tragic circumstances, is terrifying. Health care decisions need to be made between a woman/person who is pregnant and their doctor, not politicians. We have the chance to support a local candidate who will be the voice we need, and who will stand for the rights of women and nonbinary people of all classes, colors and sexual orientations. Debbie Boothe-Schmidt will ensure that we have autonomy over our own bodies. Please join me in supporting and voting for Boothe-Schmidt to ensure our district is not in the hands of an anti-choice candidate like Weber.

AUTUMN HURD
Astoria

Bombarded

Voters have been bombarded with highly deceptive advertising paid for by two out of state billionaires, Mark Zuckerberg and George Soros, advocating the passage of Measure 110. The false claim is that 110 will simply offer treatment to people suffering with drug addiction, rather than hurling them into prison. The ads are lies on several fronts. In Oregon, nobody has gone to prison

for simple possession of a day or two supply of even heroin or methamphetamine for over 20 years. The maximum sentence was 30 days, and that hasn’t happened for years. Three years ago, the Legislature turned possession of user amounts of the most dangerous drugs — meth and heroin — into misdemeanors. This measure wants to go farther, and essentially legalize them. The big lie in the fancy ads we are all receiving is that 110 “does not legalize drugs.” It makes possession of 35 tablets of Oxycontin like a parking ticket. A fine no greater than \$100, no ability to require treatment and nothing happens if the addict blows off the ticket. Even worse, no new money is allocated, meaning the only funds are those cannibalized from existing programs. I was your district attorney for 25 years, and I suspect we spent less than 5% of our time on drug possession cases. There is no county drug team left. This measure is a lie.

JOSHUA MARQUIS
Astoria

Crunch time

If you have already voted you don’t need to read any further. Stop here, and go check out another letter. If you haven’t voted yet, I invite you to continue. It really doesn’t matter what your favorite expression is, “on your marks, get set,” “drivers, start your engines,” “showtime,” “now or never,” “gut check,” etc. Right now they all mean the same thing. It’s time to exercise/defend our democracy the American way, by voting. Oregon makes it easy as apple pie. Mail it in, or better yet, by this late date, drop it in one of Clatsop County’s seven drop boxes. Call the county elections division at 503-325-8605 to find out their locations. I believe the Founding Fathers had faith in the people when they set up this democracy — of the people, by the people and for the people — to be determined by the people voting. One person, one vote. It was a radical idea then, it’s still

unique today, and while fragile, it’s sure worth defending. Thomas Jefferson defined its fragility when he said that democracy will last as long as enough citizens care to defend it. True then, true today. Since 1787, Americans have repeatedly stepped up to protect, defend and preserve our democracy. Now it’s our turn. Oh, all right, if you’ve already voted, and are still reading this letter, let’s all say one more expression together, “talkin’s done, time to answer the bell,” by voting. The deadline is Nov. 3.

CARL DOMINEY
Astoria

A gift

Victorian painted lady houses are sometimes called a gift to the neighbors. So are the small businesses on Main Street. Sure, Floyd Holcom’s Pier 39 is a business, but it’s also a gift to the neighbors like none other in Astoria. It’s the public waterfront access, Coffee Girl, the Hanthorn Cannery Museum, the gillnet fishing boats, Tom Hilton’s Hanthorn Crab Co., the cannery workers’ signature walls, the Salmon for All offices, the Rogue Pubic House and all the other small-business tenants. Floyd’s Pier 39 reflects the heritage and best values of Astoria, a gift to the community, and that’s why I support Holcom for City Council.

DAVE BARBER
Astoria

Disappointed

During the 2020 election year, I have been very disappointed with The Astorian’s coverage of the local campaigns. There has been no insightful reporting of the differences among candidates. Most important, there has been no exploration of the issues that communities should be addressing, such as the need for

broadband for our rural folks, fresh water for people outside of municipal systems and the chronic need for child care. I am most disappointed in The Astorian’s silence about the recent dominating presence of #TimberUnity in our local elections. During the spring primary, after Mother Jones published a scathing article about #TimberUnity’s support from right-wing ideologues and Wall Street timber companies, The Astorian was silent. Some have lamented support from Portland-based unions and environmental groups; remember that members of those groups are well represented on the North Coast. #TimberUnity has never been mentioned. In the paper’s endorsement of Suzanne Weber, you were not happy that she did not support the cap-and-trade bill in the Oregon Legislature. Do you believe that her #TimberUnity backers will allow her to do anything else in the future? Although the ORESTAR system in the Oregon Secretary of State’s Office gives details of contributions to and expenditures by candidates, local news sources should be examining this database closely, and telling the story of to whom the candidates will be beholden if elected.

PAMELA WEV
Astoria

Four more years

Now that we have heard all the lies by both sides of this coming election, let’s hear the truth. We should elect a person who will do the most good for us as a nation. I cannot vote for a person who wants to raise taxes, change the Supreme Court and let more illegals into the country. As far as I can see, we need four more years of President Donald Trump, since Joe Biden isn’t very good at anything but bloviating. Locally, I see Suzanne Weber, a much more qualified person, to lead our district at state.

DALE E. ANDERSON
Nehalem