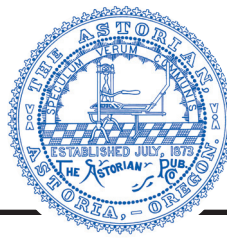


OPINION



the Astorian

editor@dailyastorian.com

Founded in 1873

KARI BORGEN
Publisher

DERRICK DePLEDGE
Editor

SHANNON ARLINT
Circulation Manager

JOHN D. BRUIJN
Production Manager

CARL EARL
Systems Manager

GUEST COLUMN

We need better recreational management

Already robust levels of hiking, camping, boating and every other kind of outdoor recreation in our region has exploded during the COVID-19 pandemic as many try to cure the effects of cabin fever.

Increased outdoor recreation has led to unprecedented crowds in our parks and forests, and extensive environmental damage accompanied by little enforcement of regulations by short-handed local, state and federal authorities.



LORRAINE LOOMIS

This spike in outdoor recreation has drawn attention to the growing impact on tribal treaty rights and resources that is only going to increase as the population of western Washington

state continues to increase dramatically.

The latest evidence confirms what tribes have been seeing across the landscape for years. Outdoor recreation — whether motorized or not — has significant impacts on the environment.

Even the most remote locations are seeing year-round damage. It includes theft of old growth cedar and maple, increased litter and human waste left behind by campers, vandalized cultural and spiritual sites that are sacred to our tribes and human activities that affect the migration and health of fish, wildlife and habitats.

Twenty Indian tribes have treaty-reserved rights to fish, hunt and gather in western Washington. We understand the benefits that outdoor recreation provides to everyone, but our fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats need protection.

We watch with alarm as federal, state and local governments continue to plan, fund and expand recreation without looking at the cumulative impacts, without providing the necessary enforcement, and often without consultation of the treaty tribes.

That's why it's critical that treaty tribes, as sovereign governments and natural resources co-managers, be involved early in the planning, funding and development of any new or



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Outdoor recreation places demands on our environment.

WHAT WE NEED IS COMPREHENSIVE RECREATIONAL MANAGEMENT. WE SHOULD APPROACH IT AS CO-MANAGERS LIKE WE WOULD ANY ISSUE INVOLVING OUR ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND TREATY RIGHTS: RESPONSIBLY, THOUGHTFULLY AND COOPERATIVELY.

expanded recreation opportunities, recreational infrastructure and recreation policy.

Through the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, we have formed a working group to address these issues. We've also made a formal request to

Gov. Jay Inslee to designate a task force to work with us to address concerns and develop solutions.

As co-managers of natural resources with the state, we have the right to a seat at the table when recreation management decisions are made and a voice in

how they are implemented. Our cultures and treaty rights depend on the long-term health of these lands and resources.

A new park and parking lot here. Five miles of new trail there and two more somewhere else. It all adds up to death by a thousand cuts to our environment, fish, wildlife and their habitats.

What we need is comprehensive recreational management. We should approach it as co-managers like we would any issue involving our environment, natural resources and treaty rights: Responsibly, thoughtfully and cooperatively.

Lorraine Loomis is the chairwoman of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Truly a gem

Thank you for writing an interesting and entertaining article in the Feb. 18 Coast Weekend about Mick Alderman, whom we have had the pleasure to know for many years.

Concerning live theater in Clatsop County, Mick and his wife, Rhonda, are at the top of the list for all the volunteer work of acting, directing and lighting that live theater requires. Mick is also the man to call if a show needs to be recorded on camera.

His original material has always impressed us with its creativity and scope, and Mick is truly a gem of a person, as well.

Years ago, I remember watching him and his dad bring a car body in through the front doors of the recently named Charlene Larsen Center for the Performing Arts. We really enjoyed the story that was performed around the vehicle as it sat on stage.

We encourage Coast Weekend to feature more human interest articles like this in The Astorian.

NED and LULU HEAVENRICH
Brownsmead

A contrary man

I am just an old and contrary man. I've lived through a few pandemics, but have never seen anything like this. Yes, the virus is virulent and deadly. But our officials' response is worse. It is killing people.

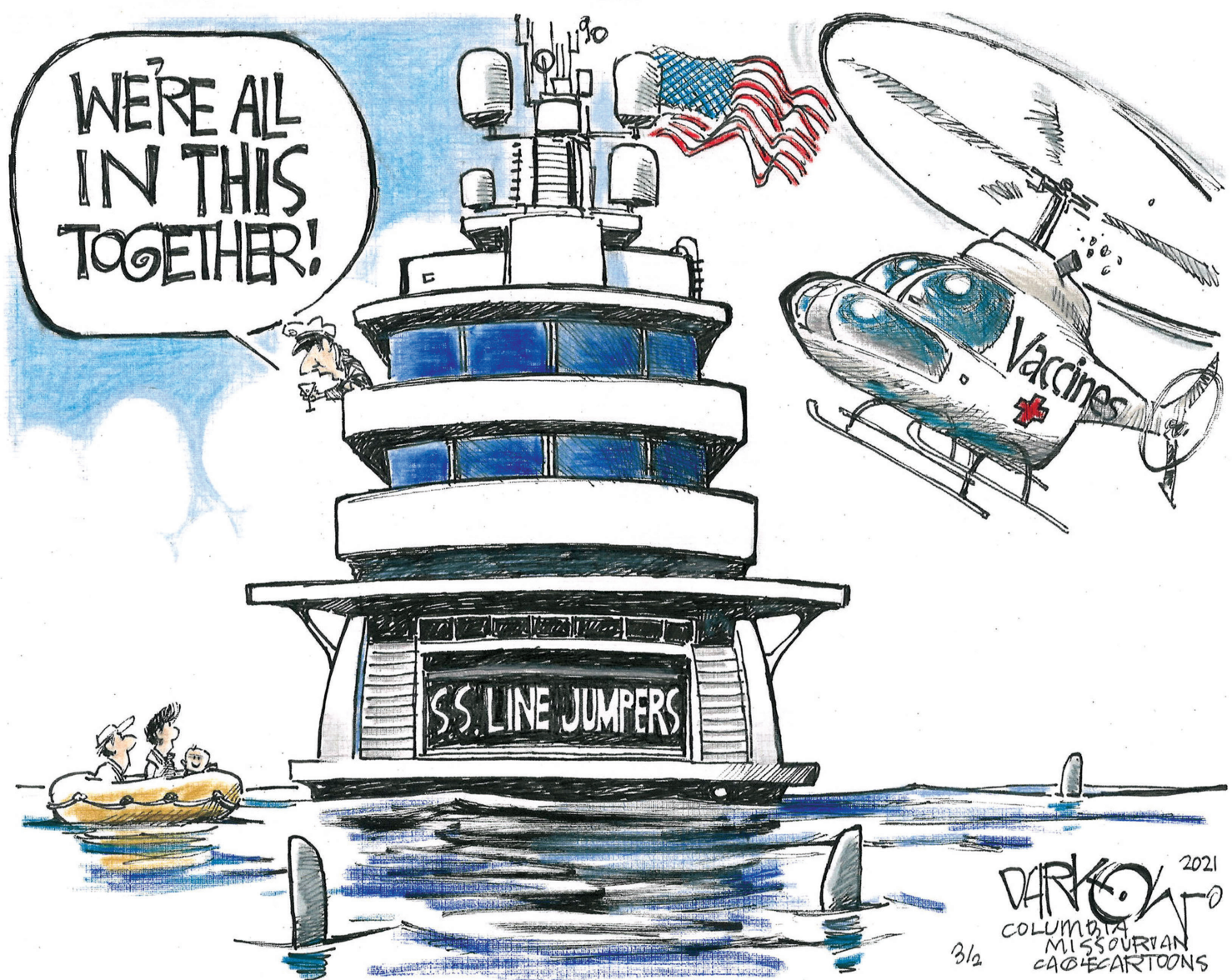
Ask yourself this, if you are presented with the facts and allowed to question the "scientists," would you alter your behavior to protect yourself? That would be your choice based on your own risk level.

But, you see, you do not have a choice. Our leaders know better than you, and must treat you like children. They must punish you, if you disobey them, with fines and possible jail time. You could be killing people. You could be a murderer. They must control you, for your own good, of course.

I am sorry for the illness and death. Yet it continues, despite the parental-type edicts and threats of punishment that have ruined our economy and made people paranoid. Be afraid, be very afraid, is the message.

This is the United States of America, a place of individual freedoms. Give us information, not paranoia. Those at risk, and those who are fearful, will take the recommended precautions. Mask up, stay home, order out. Let the rest of us alone.

ROBERT LIDDYCOAT
Seaside



LETTERS WELCOME

Letters should be exclusive to The Astorian. Letters should be fewer than 250 words and must include the writer's name, address and phone number. You will be contacted to confirm authorship. All letters are subject to editing for space, grammar and factual accuracy. Only two letters per writer are allowed each month. Letters written in response

to other letter writers should address the issue at hand and should refer to the headline and date the letter was published. Discourse should be civil. Send via email to editor@dailyastorian.com, online at bit.ly/astorianletters, in person at 949 Exchange St. in Astoria or mail to Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 210, Astoria, OR., 97103.

Dismayed

I am writing with reference to the Publisher's Notebook piece by Kari Borgen, "Print or digital — local news isn't free" (The Astorian, Jan. 2). In particular, I was dismayed by the decision to no

longer allow subscriber comments on the website.

While Borgen spoke optimistically about the future of the newspaper, and her hope for its ongoing role in the life of the community, the elimination of an essentially cost-less feature that promoted pub-

lic discussion of news and issues seems undemocratic and counterproductive.

The op-ed mentions staff cutbacks and other resource-saving issues, but then she recommends that readers write directly to the reporting staff, which must be already greatly overburdened. Furthermore, that option always existed, but it does nothing to encourage public discussion.

I would hope that other subscribers would join me in asking the publisher to reconsider this action, which reflects, in my opinion, both a disdain for the readership and a disregard for one of the principal roles of a proper newspaper in its home community.

Not every subscriber may find it comfortable to express his or her views on the issues of the day, but I imagine that most subscribers value hearing from those who do write in and comment.

BARRY PLOTKIN
Astoria