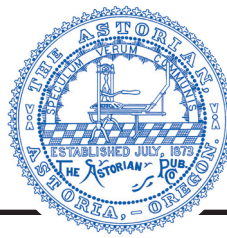


# OPINION



# the Astorian

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Founded in 1873

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## GUEST COLUMN

# Together we have made a difference



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

**A clinic in Seaside dispenses methadone to help treat addiction.**

*AS A RESULT OF THE HARD WORK WE HAVE DONE TOGETHER OVER THE YEARS, OUR REGION NOW HAS A SYSTEM OF CARE TO TREAT SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER, AS WELL AS HARM REDUCTION, AND OVERDOSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS*

As we marked International Overdose Awareness Day on Wednesday and move into the monthlong celebration of Recovery Month this September, I wanted to acknowledge the tremendous community effort that our region has put forth to address this growing crisis in our state.

For many years, the communities of Clatsop, Tillamook and Columbia counties have come together to address substance use disorder and increase access to tools and resources that can help us prevent overdoses in our community.

These amazing partnerships have grown to address stigma, develop harm reduction programs and offer treatment and support for people struggling with substance use disorder. It has been a privilege to partner with all of you in this over the years.

Today, we want to honor all of you who do this work every day, those who have lost loved ones and those living with substance use disorder. Substance use disorder is a chronic condition, and a communitywide concern that impacts us all. Together we have made a difference, and together we can continue to make a difference.

As a result of the hard work we have done together over the years, our region now has a system of care to treat substance use disorder, as well as harm reduction, and overdose prevention programs. We have overdose reversal drugs, such as naloxone, being prescribed and distributed widely.

Since 2016, we have held four

annual regional Substance Use Disorder summits to learn and develop innovative ways to address substance use and prevent overdose in our community — because the best ideas for how to approach this issue for our community will come from our community.

Importantly, together we have expanded access to medication for opioid use disorder options throughout the region, including access within primary care, behavioral health organizations, as well as an opioid treatment program. Now, people seeking treatment don't have to travel several hours round trip to get this lifesaving care. They can get it right here on the coast. In many cases, members can get these services on the same day or next day if they are seeking support for the first time.

Public health agencies, community-based organizations, hospitals, health systems and families who have been impacted by substance use have all played a vital role in helping our region build the infrastructure needed to support and respond to this issue. And together, we will continue to do more to address the growing overdose crisis in our state.

We are confident that together we can continue to raise awareness of this crisis, expand our services, get naloxone to everyone who needs it, and continue to work toward preventing overdose deaths and saving lives.

*Dr. Safina Koreishi is medical director at the Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization.*



**SAFINA KOREISHI**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Why?

My concern and ultimate question is about sand and dune removal on the Seaside beach. When requested to have dune grass and sand dunes regularly plowed, there has been no straight answer. One answer is that it's not the city, but the state, and if not the state, then the environmental agency.

Well, as regular as clockwork, the plows are busy at work for both the volleyball tournament and Hood to Coast. Where are the environmental concerns? If it can be done for hefty commercial revenue, why can it not be done for easy access to all beach areas?

The area between Second and 12th avenues has become increasingly difficult for people to access the beach and walk down to the ocean. The steps that used to be visible on the avenues are now completely covered by sand.

The trench along the Promenade is unsightly, and not maintained for its purpose of water drainage. Ocean view lodging can no longer offer ocean beach views on lower levels.

As a part-time resident in Seaside for over 70 years, I am well aware of the changing ocean and beach. As to my opening question, why can the sand be leveled for commercial events, and not for individual daily use and pleasure?

ANDREA HAGGARD  
Seaside

### High praise

I have high praise for the Astoria Public Works Department. This year they used a camera to check the city sewer pipes on our street. Sure enough, there was a problem with the sewer that runs under the sidewalk in front of our house, which they promptly began fixing.

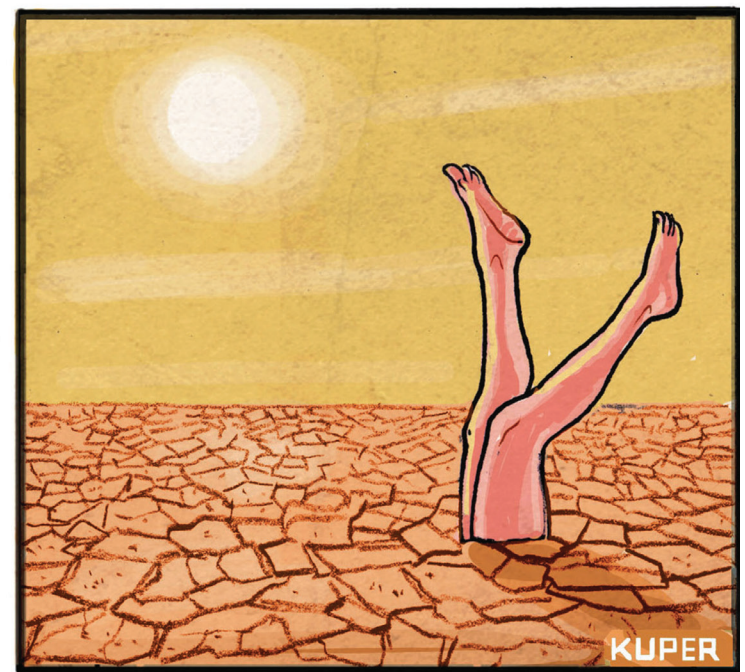
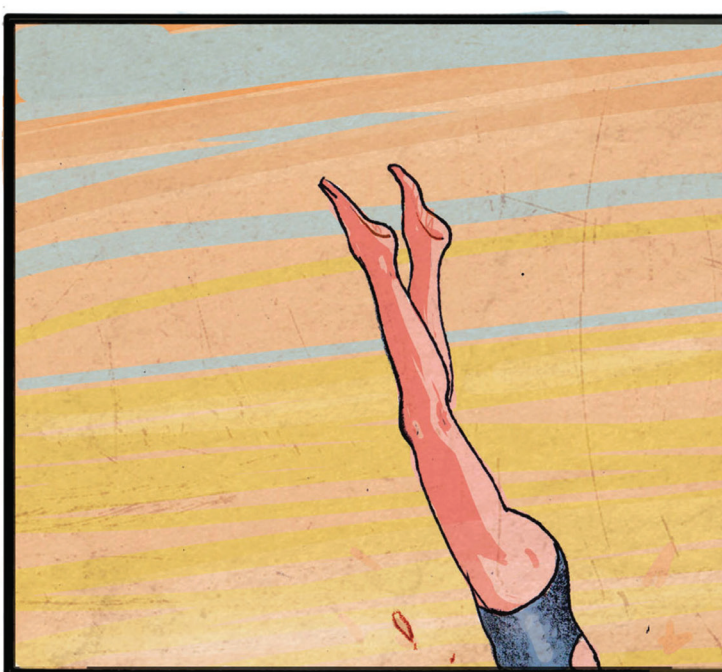
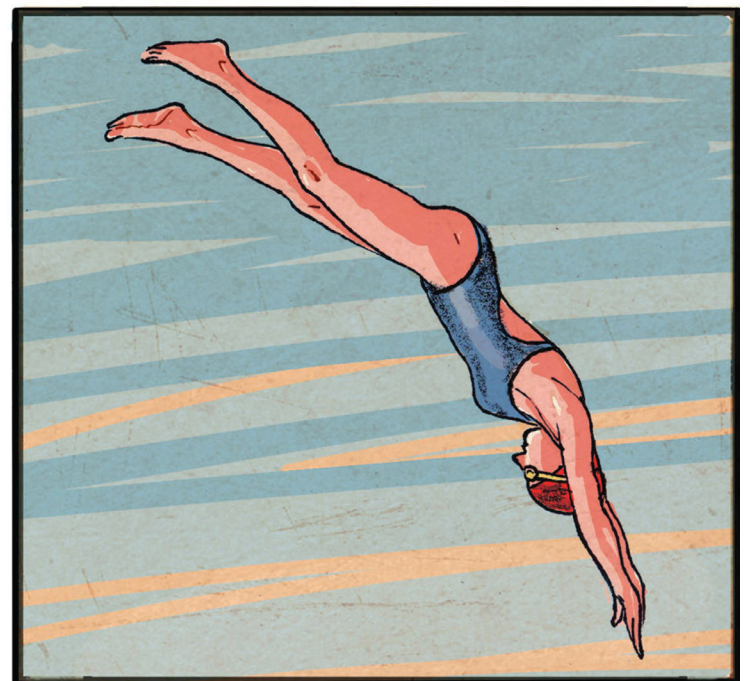
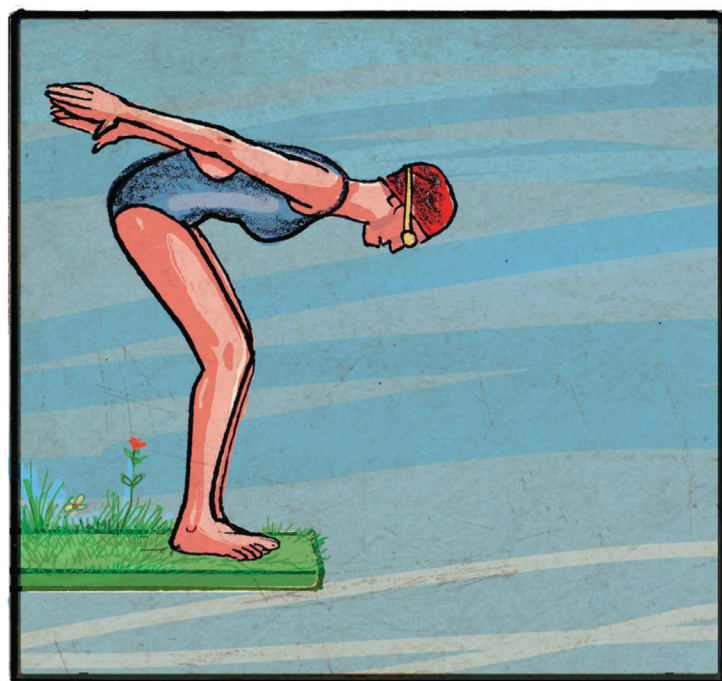
We hired Elements Environmental Services to also check the pipe from our house to the street. As expected, like a lot of our older homes, it also needed to be replaced. So Elements used trenchless technology to run the pipe under the yard, and the Public Works Department worked closely with them to ensure efficient hookup to the new section of city sewer pipe, which they did all in one day.

I can't say enough about how professional, thorough and well done the job was completed. We feel lucky with such a great city Public Works Department and a company like Elements Environmental Services.

KITTY PAINO  
Astoria

### Why not?

Public libraries are among the last safe places that truly serve all members of the community. In addition to books, libraries provide access to computers, the internet and printing for those who do not own a computer or printer. Many libraries offer



## LETTERS WELCOME

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reading events for children, provide classes for immigrants, activities for the elderly and operate as county cooling centers when temperatures are dangerously high.

When I think about libraries as safe public spaces, I can't help but think about the upcoming camping ordinance, which is directly related to the nationwide housing crisis. At a recent Astoria City Council meeting, I was touched to hear some of the very humane concerns voiced by the

council. I share being disheartened regarding lost opportunities to increase affordable housing, and recognize the limitations in space and funding we face.

Should Astoria approve the Astoria Library bond, why not consider remodeling the basement of the library to be available for showers, laundry and a warm place to sleep on the coldest nights? If it truly is to be a community space serving our city, why not include the needs of our most vul-

nerable population? Why not do our best to make use of mixed public space to truly serve all?

TIFFANY SANFORD  
Astoria

### Matter of time

For two years, I have been trying to get Clatsop County to repair the public beach accesses at Cove Beach/Falcon Cove, as required by law, the Oregon Beach Bill of 1967. It requires the county to keep the accesses open, repaired or replaced.

I am not asking for expensive erosion control, only help keeping those existing pathways open. The public, fire and rescue personnel need a safe way to access the beach. Luckily there weren't 16 rescues needed at Cove Beach like in Seaside recently.

Our population and use there have dramatically increased. It is just a matter of time.

REBA OWEN  
Warrenton