



# Congress get recess, kids get spring break — what about US???

**Ned Hickson**

If you're a student or educator, you are probably getting excited about the approach of spring break in a few weeks! Wee-HOO! For students of all ages it means a week of crazy fun with little or no responsibility, whether

you're a fifth-grader planning a Spongebob Squarepants marathon to Bikini Bottom, or a college student planning a bikini bottom marathon of a different kind.

If you're an educator, it means a student-free week away from grading papers with so much red ink your desk resembles a sacrificial altar. Seriously, are they learning nothing between Tweets in class???

Even Congress is already enjoying what is referred to as "recess." Let's be honest: If I performed as poorly at my job as they have, I would get what is referred to as "fired."

That being said, for the rest of us, spring break holds about as much anticipation as trash day or a release date for "Frozen 3."

This is particularly true for those of us with teenagers at home, many of whom will openly mock us each day by selfishly sleeping in. Then, in an added display of thoughtlessness, they will still be in their pajamas and deciding on

breakfast when we come home for lunch! The audacity! Especially since they misspelled "audacity" on their last quiz!

No, the time has come to expand spring break to include EVERYONE so we can all enjoy a week of unfettered fun. And naturally, when I say "everyone," I realize there are certain positions that are so important to our infrastructure they can't shut down without causing the nation to crumble.

So I'm sorry: Cooks and bartenders, you'll have to draw straws for Arbor Day.

For the rest of us, however,

a week of relaxation during the nicest time of year is going to be fantastic! No longer will Cancun, Panama City and South Padre Island be the exclusive destinations for drunken college students and creepy professors offering extra credit assignments.

No way! From now on, they'll have to share those warm beaches with parents inflating 8-foot plastic sea mammals for their young children or, in some cases, their horrified teenagers.

"We're too old to ride a plastic Shamu!" they'll protest.

But Dad will continue undeterred, blowing into an air nodule located in a highly questionable area of plastic whale anatomy. This will of course be embarrassing to his teens, who are already mortified by the fact that Dad wore his swim fins to the beach and sand-whipped 30 sunbathers en route to a relatively quiet spot near a keg draped with bikini tops.

That's when Mom and Dad will begin spreading suntan lotion on themselves as if cre-

ating a protective layer against the Ebola virus, slathering every crevice before putting on matching Panama Jack sun hats.

They will then hand the lotion to their sobbing teens, assuming they haven't already run off to drown themselves in the surf.

What if your kids are already in college with spring break plans of their own? No problem! Surprise them at the beach! Chances are they used your credit card to secure their travel plans anyway; how hard can it be to get a room at the same hotel?

Imagine the laughs you'll share when they realize the person yelling at everyone to stop staring at his daughter in the bikini contest is DAD!

Yes, I think the need to implement a National Spring Break Week is something we can all agree is long overdue.

For those who don't?

I have two words for you: *Summer school.*

*Ned is a syndicated columnist with News Media Corporation. Write to him at nedhickson@icloud.com*

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## Siuslaw bands warm up for the spring season

The Siuslaw Middle School Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced Bands, Jazz Band and the Siuslaw High School Symphonic Band are launching their spring schedules with a concert on March 20.

The concert will be starting at 7 p.m. at the Florence Events Center.

In addition to the new music presented there will be a raffle for a night at a luxury European-style bed and breakfast near Monroe, Ore.

Funds that are raised will be

used to pay for the rental of the Florence Events Center and to purchase new sheet music.

The community is invited to come and hear what Florence's young musicians have been learning in the new year.

The Florence Events Center is at 715 Quince Street behind Safeway. Theater doors open at 6:30 and admission to the event is free.

For more information, contact the Department of Bands at 541-997-8241.

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