

Siuslaw News
P.O. Box 10
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Opinion

The First Amendment
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

"I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend." —Thomas Jefferson (1800)



Should Lane County Parks take over the North Jetty?

(Editor's Note: Viewpoint submissions on this and other topics are always welcome as part of our goal to encourage community discussion and exchange of perspectives.)

North Jetty is a gem located close to the heart of Florence. Its 250 acres have something for every visitor: beach access, trails, a dive dock, ponds and pines. Lane County Parks has been maintaining the park for nearly a year and we have reached a crossroads: do we agree to take on the maintenance and operation of North Jetty long-term, or do we let it remain the responsibility of the Department of State Lands? If we took on long-term management of the park it would

mean more consistent ranger presence, regular maintenance of the parking lot and facilities, and possibly investments in improved park infrastructure.

GUEST VIEWPOINT
By Brett Henry
Lane County Parks Manager

It would also likely mean a change in how some experience the park. Typically, Lane County-operated parks are not open 24 hours per day unless they are campgrounds. There is also a \$4 parking fee associated with most of our 70 parks. Fees are critical to maintaining our parks; in fact, fees make

up the bulk of our maintenance budget. We are hosting a community meeting in Florence on Wednesday, March 18, at 6 p.m. at Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (2625 Highway 101). We are asking residents to weigh in on the future of North Jetty Park and talk with Parks staff about what matters to them. For those who are unable to come to the meeting, we have a short online survey where they can offer feedback www.lanecountyor.gov/parks. Florence-area residents have a history of involvement in guiding Lane County Parks. We hope to have their help once again.

LETTERS

NOTHING WRONG WITH COMPROMISE, COMPETENCE

I have voted for people as diverse as Eugene McCarthy, Ronald Reagan and Barrack Obama. I vote for the *person* — not the party. I was disappointed in 2016 because I thought Hilary Clinton was the most qualified and competent to be president, and now I'm similarly disappointed because I thought Elizabeth Warren was the most qualified and competent. They were my choice not because they are women, but because they had practical plans and ideas. I am very disappointed with leadership that we currently have in the state, country and much of the world. Our state leaders take their marbles and leave if they don't get their way and those that don't leave won't budge in their stance either, thus blocking work on all other bills. It has been a stand-off that accomplished very little. How about some compromise? And nationally, we have an administration that I'm sure has done some good, although nothing comes to mind. When I think of the not-so-good, a whole host of issues flood my mind: The wall and immigration, cutting back programs that really help people, appointing

people to lead departments that have been extremely critical of them, firing anyone who isn't "loyal," poo-hooing climate change and more. And then there's the master of stonewalling, Mitch McConnell. It must be so frustrating to be a senator of *either* party. Our current president has narcissistic and authoritarian tendencies that scare me, and his character and choice of words leave a lot to be desired — and not what I would call a role model. Meanwhile, around the world nationalism and authoritarian rulers seem to be in the ascendancy. That scares me and makes me think of the similarities prior to the rise of Fascism that led to World War II. I know I'm an idealist; I think that working with other countries is the way to go rather than isolating our country. If I were a civics teacher, I would have so many examples of how *not* to govern. I know I sound like a doom-sayer, but I'm an eternal optimist. It may not be the best of times as far as governing is concerned, but medically it's not a bad time to be alive. In late January, I had total knee replacement surgery in Florence and couldn't be happier. I am very thankful for the hos-

pital here in Florence and everyone I dealt with before, during and after my surgery. I'm thankful for my sister, neighbors and friends, who transported me and delivered groceries until I could drive again. Sometimes it's worth remembering that, while so much of what's happening in the world can be disappointing, friends, neighbors and family remind us that things are not all bad. —Judy Fleagle
Florence

SELFISHNESS BENEFITS NO ONE

The world system tells us to look out for Number 1. It tells us to acquire as much as possible for ourselves; to live with much gusto. This idea is selfish and self-centered. It is destructive to the person who lives like this and to everyone with whom he or she comes into contact. The Bible in Philippians 2:3-5 says: "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves: do not merely look for your personal interest, but also for the interest of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus ..."

—Horace Dixon
Florence

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