

Letters to the Editor:  
Editor@TheSiuslawNews.com

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# OPINION

SATURDAY

FEBRUARY 28 • 2015

## 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.

## LETTERS

### Suspend judgment

In response to the Feb. 21 letter signed by Jimmie L. Moe, titled "Coming to America":

I really have no idea of Mr. Moe's upbringing or background. I can only say that it is sometimes convenient to quote statistics and sources. These points can be used in a myriad of ways taken out of context.

The bottom line is that many white, young, old, educated, non-educated, male, female, privileged or non-privileged Americans wouldn't take the jobs that most foreigners do in our country, the richest in the world. You might take the time to look at the next person that waits on you or does services for you.

It is easy to judge those trying to better their lives and escape many fears that none of us can fathom.

Try and remember, Mr. Moe, that this country was originally built, established and founded, on those escaping religious and political horrors.

Try to suspend judgment.

Sharon Stiles  
Florence

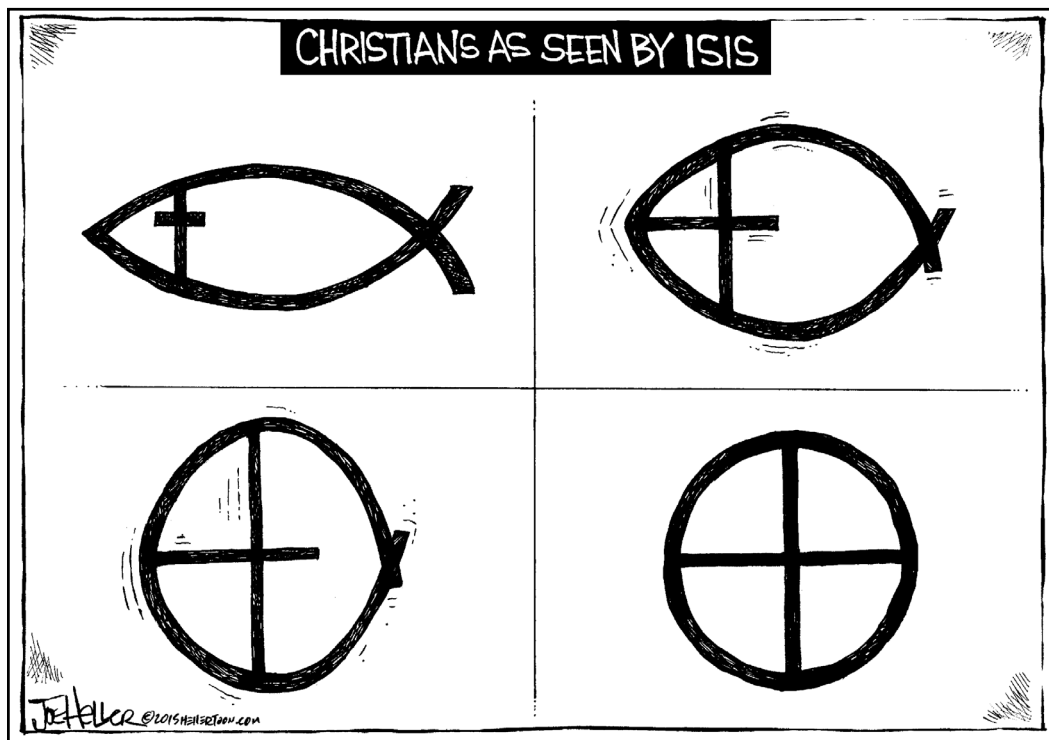
### Homeland un-Security

There's an old saying, "Be careful for what you wish." How the terrorists must be raising their rifles in victory with all the vitriol wasted on "dissing" the President.

It would seem that ISIS/ISIL, terrorists in extremis, must be so pleased that their most consistent ally is the U.S. Republican Congress, which is currently refusing to fund Homeland Security.

Who are the Republicans rooting for? Not America or Americans, it seems.

Barbara Prisbe-Sutton  
Oceanside, Calif.  
Formerly of Florence



## VIEW FROM UPRIVER



### Heartwarming

WESLEY VOTH  
For the Siuslaw News

whom they had already disturbed and perhaps even irritated.

They also happened to be in a place with no cell service. I told them I'd find help, and at the first house up the road where I stopped, kindly folks dropped what they were doing and went and lent a hand, even though they appeared to have little sympathy for the reason the men were in the neighborhood.

Warmer than usual daytimes here during January and February has accelerated the growth of many plants, leading to early blossoms on numerous trees and shrubs. This seems true for native as well as cultivated species. Looking inside my beehives, something I don't usually do until April or May, I find honey production from plum blossoms going full tilt, not just the usual first gathering of early pollens like hazelnut, alder and willow.

Because of clear and freezing nighttime temperatures a few times this week, many have turned brown and some of these may not set seed or fruit. I have been seeing the first trilliums and salmonberry blossoms, and even stinging nettle shoots already, and

grass that needs to be cut or it will soon be too high for the mower.

The river has continued a this-winter-pattern of one week of higher than normal levels followed by two weeks of below average, reflecting the rainfall for the watershed.

Another pattern of this winter has been the heaviest rainfall on the weekends.

New life is being breathed into the Mapleton Grange, an entity that had been about to dissolve due to aging and dwindling membership. This would have meant the building and assets would have gone to the state level organization and the building with its meeting space lost to the community. The building has been a neutral public space for several local groups and hosted dances and other community events for many years.

Learning of this, several interested people joined over the past few months and others contributed money or stepped forward to help in other ways. It remains to be seen if new energy and old ways of doing things can work together, but rumors that there are any changes or limitations in who might be welcome to rent or utilize the space are untrue. The more use the building gets the more likely the organization can survive.

I wish it well — we need it.

## YESTERDAY'S NEWS

### MOMENTS IN TIME The History Channel

- On March 5, 1839, Charlotte Bronte writes to the Rev. Henry Nussey, declining marriage. The 23-year-old Bronte told him that he would find her "romantic and eccentric," and not practical enough to be a clergyman's wife. Her novel "Jane Eyre" was published eight years later.

- On March 3, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln signs a bill creating the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands. Known as the Freedmen's Bureau, this federal agency oversaw the transition of blacks from slavery to freedom.

- On March 4, 1888, Knute Rockne is born in Voss, Norway. He would go on to become one of the most successful coaches in the history of college football, leading Notre Dame during its golden era in the 1920s. Rockne won three undisputed national championships with the Fighting Irish.

- On March 7, 1938, Janet Guthrie, the first woman to compete in the Indianapolis 500 and Daytona 500 races, is born in Iowa. In 1976, she was the first woman to compete in a NASCAR Winston Cup superspeedway race.

- On March 6, 1945, members of the Dutch resistance attempting to hijack a food truck unwittingly ambush German Lt. Gen. Hanns Rauter, head of the Nazi SS in Holland. In retaliation, the SS put to death 263 Dutch. Rauter later was executed for war crimes.

- On March 2, 1978, in a famous case of body-snatching, two men steal the corpse of film actor Sir Charles Chaplin from a cemetery in Switzerland. After a five-week investigation, police arrested two auto mechanics, who led them to Chaplin's body.

- On March 8, 1982, the United States issues a public statement accusing the Soviet Union of using poison gas and chemical weapons against rebel forces in Afghanistan. Evidence to support these charges was largely anecdotal. Some critics charged that the accusations were a smokescreen behind which the United States could go forward in upgrading its own chemical weapons arsenal.

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**Editor**

**@TheSiuslawNews.com**

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John Bartlett  
Jenna Bartlett  
Ryan Cronk  
Susan Gutierrez  
Cathy Dietz  
Ron Annis  
Jeremy Gentry

Publisher, ext. 327  
General Manager, ext. 318  
Editor, ext. 313  
Advertising Director, ext. 326  
Office Supervisor, ext. 312  
Production Supervisor  
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WHERE TO WRITE

Pres. Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500  
Comments: 202-456-1111  
Switchboard: 202-456-1414  
FAX: 202-456-2461  
TTY/TDD Comments: 202-456-6213  
www.whitehouse.gov

Gov. Kate Brown  
160 State Capitol  
900 Court St.  
Salem, OR 97301-4047  
Governor's Citizens' Rep.  
Message Line 503-378-4582  
www.oregon.gov/gov

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden  
221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg  
Washington, DC 20510

202-224-5244  
541-431-0229  
www.wyden.senate.gov

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley  
313 Hart Senate Office Bldg  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-3753/FAX: 202-228-3997  
541-465-6750

U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio (4th Dist.)  
2134 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
202-225-6416/ 800-944-9603  
541-269-2609/ 541-465-6732  
www.defazio.house.gov

State Sen. Arnie Roblan (Dist. 5)  
900 Court St. NE - S-417  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-986-1705

FAX: 503-986-1080  
Email:

Sen.ArnieRoblan@state.or.us

State Rep. Caddy McKeown  
(Dist. 9)  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-986-1409  
Email:

rep.caddymckeown@state.or.us

West Lane County Commissioner  
Jay Bozievich  
125 E. Eighth St.  
Eugene, OR 97401  
541-682-4203  
FAX: 541-682-4616  
Email:  
Jay.Bozievich@co.lane.or.us