

Letters to the Editor:  
Editor@TheSiuslawNews.com

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OPINION  
SATURDAY

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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.

YESTERDAY'S NEWS

MOMENTS IN TIME  
The History Channel

• On March 16, 1751, future President James Madison is born in Virginia. Madison, one of the key drafters of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, became America's fourth president in 1809 and is considered the Father of the Constitution.

• On March 21, 1804, French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte enacts a new legal framework for France, known as the "Napoleonic Code." The Code strengthened the authority of men over their families, deprived women of any individual rights and reduced the rights of illegitimate children.

• On March 20, 1861, President Abraham Lincoln's youngest sons, Willie and Tad, are diagnosed with the measles. The boys recovered, but in 1862, Willie died from typhoid fever. Tad died at age 18 in 1871. Lincoln's second son, Eddie, died before his fourth birthday. Only the first born, Robert, lived to an advanced age; he passed away in 1926 at age 82.

• On March 17, 1905, future president Franklin Delano Roosevelt weds his fifth cousin once-removed, Eleanor Roosevelt. After losing her mother when she was 8 and her father when she was 10, Eleanor was raised by the extended Roosevelt family. She met her future husband when she was 2 years old and he was 4.

• On March 18, 1911, Irving Berlin copyrights the biggest pop song of the early 20th century, "Alexander's Ragtime Band." The song was easier to play than Joplin's "The Entertainer," which encouraged sheet music sales. Those topped 1.5 million copies in the first 18 months.

• On March 19, 1953, the movie world's most prestigious honors, the Academy Awards, are telecast for the first time, on NBC. Previously, audiences at home could only listen on the radio. The sealed envelope system began 12 years earlier after a newspaper printed the results prematurely.

• On March 22, 1983, the Pentagon awards a production contract to develop 55,000 High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV), nicknamed the Humvee. In 1992, a 10,000-pound civilian version, known as the Hummer, went on sale.

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The Siuslaw News welcomes letters to the editor on subjects of general interest to its readership.

Brevity is mandatory, and letters are subject to editing.

Libelous letters and poetry will not be published. Thank-you letters are generally inappropriate.

Publication of any letter is not guaranteed. Handwritten or submitted letters via mail must be signed over the writer's name. All letters must include an address and phone number of the writer for verification.

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VIEW FROM UPRIVER



One mystery solved

WESLEY VOTH  
For the Siuslaw News

rent National Wildlife magazine in their section on backyard habitat about why birds need native trees. Below a photograph of a chickadee with a caterpillar is the astonishing statement that "96 percent of all terrestrial birds rear their young on insects."

So while many birds eat seeds and berries and nectar — some of which can

be provided by backyard feeders — it is the proteins from the animal kingdom that ensure nesting success. Those proteins come primarily from insects and their larvae, which the birds find primarily on native trees and plants, something disappearing from urban areas rapidly being developed. The article says that about 80 percent of North American urban landscaping is done with Asian plants, plants that do not host the insects with which the birds are familiar and on which they are dependent.

Sometimes it takes me a long time to fathom what is causing a particular change or pattern. A small herd of elk has been in and around Brickerville this past winter, and I have been curious what draws them here, especially wondering what they have been eating as it does not appear that they have been grazing lawns much

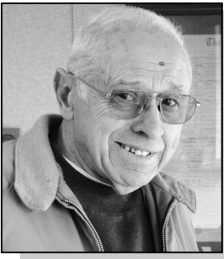
nor damaging shrubbery or trees, at least not yet. The one thing they've eaten from our yard other than grass is sword fern, something I had never noticed elk browsing much before.

At the same time I noticed that someone — I assumed it was a someone — had been trimming the ivy leaves from ground level up their inadvertent host trees to 6 or 8 feet, about the reach of hand tools. Gradually this has continued throughout our area, until every ivy-adorned tree of the hundreds we have here bears the same neat manicure.

A week ago it suddenly clicked for me that these two things were related — elk are browsing the ivy. Much as I hate the invasive ivy, and that it is so established here that I expect it will never be eliminated — especially along the railway corridor that the elk, bear and coyotes use as a favored path or at least bathroom — it is nice when native species can find some benefit.

Over the weekend the name "Siuslaw Valley" was removed from our bank and the banner of the new corporate entity put up. Sad to see the end of the use of the regional name. I guess I should focus on being grateful that banking services in some form are still being provided here, and by a regional (Pacific Northwest) rather than national or bigger bank, one that at least claims to be local community-minded. We will see.

NEIGHBORS



BOB JACKSON  
NEIGHBORHOOD CORRESPONDENT  
For the Siuslaw News

Hawaiian adventure — Part VIII

The daily journals continued exulting about the wide variety of entertainment offered on this luxury ocean liner. It was noted that we had gone to something called "casino night." It was like being in Reno, except that the chips were free, courtesy of the ship, with prizes at the end of the evening for the players with the most chips — lots of fun (especially for a cheapskate like myself).

Because of the big ground swells, Peggy was feeling bad again, so she retired early. Thursday, Nov. 4, it had been rough all night. We had our coffee and breakfast buffet on the sheltered deck by the pool as usual. Water was slopping out of the swimming pool again; so it was definitely rough!

However, the sun was shining

and the sea was getting a brighter blue each and every day.

Because of the napkin cartoons I had done at the bar, Kauai, the beautiful Hawaiian cruise director, scheduled me in the daily ship's paper for a session teaching drawing to the children on board while Peggy was taking our dirty clothes to the laundromat. Suddenly I had become Captain Kangaroo! However, I suddenly discovered I was out of my class.

Running out of ideas, I had asked these kids if they would like to learn about simple perspective and the vanishing point. One little girl, perhaps 7 years old, raised her hand and inquired: "Mr. Jackson, would that be one, two or three-point perspective?" This definitely took the wind out of my sails.

The drawing lessons were a near disaster, the sea was getting rougher and the wind blew a lot of

their drawings into the pool. I had a hard time controlling the little rascals, as they were trying to retrieve their pictures from the water that was sloshing violently like an open washing machine!

A large number of passengers were not showing up in the dining room, and drawing lessons had been canceled due to the rough seas. One of the bartenders remarked: "It's not rough," and I was left wondering: Why have they stretched ropes across the foyers and along the passageways if it is not rough? More people were using the elevators instead of braving the stairs.

Incidentally, the bartenders on board were quite taciturn (unusually so for bartenders). They spoke when spoken to, and that was about it. However, they seemed quite pleased with the unflattering napkin cartoons I did of them, vowing to frame them when they got back home.

There were two ladies, perhaps in their late 50s, quite short and quite fluffy, who could be seen at

the bar any time of the day or night, and whose contagious laughter could be heard at any function. They took particular delight in shocking these hapless bartenders.

I overheard one of them say, "John, how would you like to snuggle up with me in a deck chair?" Upon observing his predictable shocked countenance, both ladies indulged in a fit of uncontrollable laughter.

Although outwardly appearing sort of raunchy, we found that both of them were actually nice ladies who were imbued with a wonderful, unrestrained sense of humor that contributed much gaiety, whether they were taking hula lessons or in the plush genteel atmosphere of the dining room.

One night I made a cartoon of laconic John: He was wiping the bar with a disgusted expression, while his thought balloon was thinking "Oh God! Not that broad again." The lady saw it, and liked it so much, she kept it — which in my mind, was being really "broad-minded!" More to come.

LETTER

End of an era

I'm sure that by now most of the good people of Florence and its environs have heard that 3-2-1 Video is closing at the end of March. This is not only the end of an era for the town, but the beginning of an empty space for me.

I enjoyed going to the store because it was always a happy place. A plethora of great movies to choose from, but more importantly, an opportunity to chat with Don or Anna Huntingdon or the sweet young ladies that manned the counter so competently. I've said for years that 3-2-1 Video was the best-run business in Florence.

In an era that is dominated by corporate greed and various scams to perpetrate on the 99 percent, 3-2-1 Video was our neighbor, Don and Anna working hard to please their patrons. If they didn't have a movie that you wanted, they would get it. At least once every month I would get a phone call telling me that this was my "lucky day." A free movie was mine to pick up.

As a testimony to the integrity of the owners, they refused to let their friends and customers replace the defunct popcorn machine. The machine was an icon, and when it went down, I talked to the ladies at the counter and the customers in line, "Hey, if money's a little tight for Don, how about we set up a collection

to buy the store a new popcorn machine?" The girl at the counter said others had mentioned it, but Don had adamantly refused.

That's when I began to suspect that the store might be closing.

You see, Don and Anna wouldn't accept the gift from their friends knowing that the end of the business was near. That would not be honorable.

Say a silent moment of goodbye to the good folks at 3-2-1 Video.

So again, another sad story that is created by the inexorable march of "progress." I'm not sure I like progress so much anymore.

Eric Hauptman  
Florence

WHERE TO WRITE

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John Bartlett  
Jenna Bartlett  
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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	202-224-5244 541-431-0229 www.wyden.senate.gov	FAX: 503-986-1080 Email: Sen.ArnieRoblan@state.or.us
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