

Siuslaw News
P.O. Box 10
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Opinion

DEAR READERS:
New letters policy

Please take a moment and review our revised policy for letters to the editor at the bottom of this page. —Editor

YESTERDAY'S NEWS

MOMENTS IN TIME
The History Channel

- On June 26, 1807, lightning hits a gunpowder factory in Luxembourg, sparking an explosion that kills more than 300 people and levels two entire blocks.

- On June 22, 1944, President Franklin Roosevelt signs the G.I. Bill, designed to compensate returning armed services members for their efforts in World War II. FDR hoped to avoid a relapse of the Great Depression following World War I.

- On June 25, 1950, an American soccer team composed largely of amateurs stuns England 1-0 at the World Cup. The hastily assembled U.S. team included a dishwasher, two mailmen, a teacher and a mill worker.

- On June 28, 1965, in the first major offensive of the Vietnam War, 3,000 troops of the U.S. 173rd Airborne Brigade assault a jungle area near Saigon. The operation was called off after three days when it failed to make contact with the enemy.

- On June 23, 1973, President Richard Nixon's adviser H.R. Haldeman tells the president to pressure the head of the FBI to stay the out of the Watergate burglary investigation — in essence, to obstruct justice. The taped conversation eventually brought down the Nixon administration and led to his resignation.

- On June 27, 1985, after 59 years, officials vote to decertify the iconic Route 66 and to remove all its highway signs. Measuring 2,200 miles, the "Mother Road" stretched from Chicago to Santa Monica, Calif., passing through eight states.

- On June 24, 1997, U.S. Air Force officials release a 231-page report dismissing claims of an alien spacecraft crash in Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947. The document stated that the "bodies" recovered were not aliens but dummies used in parachute tests.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Siuslaw News welcomes letters to the editor concerning issues affecting the Florence area and Lane County.

Emailed letters are preferred. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed. All letters should be limited to about 300 words and must include the writer's full name, address and phone number for verification.

Letters are subject to editing for length, grammar and clarity. Publication of any letter is not guaranteed and depends on space available and the volume of letters received.

Libelous and anonymous letters or poetry will not be published.

All submissions become the property of Siuslaw News and will not be returned.

Write to:
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REMEMBERING LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

Military museum remembers those who fight for peace

We have just finished celebrating one of our nation's most important holidays, a day to remember the people who have died while serving in the United States armed forces.

Memorial Day, which has been observed every year on the last Monday of May since 1971, originally was called Decoration Day after the American Civil War in 1868.

It was established as a time to decorate the graves of those killed during the war, as a way to honor and remember them.

By the 20th Century, Memorial Day had become the day to honor

those who have the ultimate sacrifice in service of their country.

But a day of remembrance seems inadequate when compared with the sacrifice these men and women gave so that we could remain safe, prosperous and free. In fact, I would venture to guess that many people today do not even know what Memorial Day is for.

Because of our relatively peaceful lifestyle, we are in danger of forgetting that the world is a better place because of the millions of selfless Americans who have fought — and are still fighting — for freedom where it needs defending. Politics aside, they are

GUEST VIEWPOINT

By **TIM SAPP**
 PRESIDENT, OREGON COAST MILITARY MUSEUM

on the front line so that we don't have to be.

After seven years of planning and building, the new Oregon Coast Military Museum is finally ready to open its doors.

One of the motivations for building this museum was the realization that as our country grows and changes, it is imperative that the stories of those who so bravely served in the military should not be forgotten.

Many died, but many more came home with wounds in their bodies and in the hearts, forever changed and often unthanked.

With this museum, it is our hope that the stories of our local soldiers

will be kept alive as a tribute to them and as a connecting point with our youth. As people of all ages visit the museum, they will be surrounded by memories and thought-provoking images that will help them remember that freedom isn't free.

We celebrate not war, but peace. In the 1960s, a common mantra was, "make love, not war." We at the Oregon Coast Military Museum hope that it is love that visitors feel from the moment they enter. And this love — love of country and love of fellow man — is part of what we enjoy as a result of being thankful for all that has been done to preserve our liberty.

Let us all resolve to remember, be thankful and not let their sacrifice be wasted. Let us rise up in their stead and continue to fight for liberty and justice for all.

LETTERS

Life's purpose

My husband and I had the privilege and honor of being in the Reedsport Memorial Day parade. After watching the Memorial Day program on PBS, I could not help but think of the extreme sacrifices our service men and women make for our country.

I feel we all have a greater purpose in life. There are many service organizations in Florence that we can participate in.

We need to reach out in love and support to family, friends and, yes, strangers.

Linda Brown
 Florence

Honor our veterans

At recent veteran events on Memorial Day, I was saddened by the small numbers that attended. I was even more saddened by the lack of people under the age of 50 in attendance.

Our young people are not learning much about American history and the great sacrifice by many in obtaining the freedoms they enjoy. Many parents who used to fill the void left by teachers, no longer do so.

Most young people cannot answer the simplest of questions about our current leaders or our history. Many of the things happening now mirror the pre-war years of the 1930s. The slaughtering of innocents is happening all over the Middle East and Africa.

History is repeating itself. The draft was good in one way. It took young men, made them aware of the world around them, and grew them up.

Now only 3 percent serve in the military. Not enough people have a dog in the fight, and so they take their freedoms for granted.

ISIS is an evil enemy and one who will bring war to our shores if our eyes are not open to that danger. Many young people are oblivious to that threat.

They need to visit places like Arlington Cemetery or a local VA hospital or, if nothing else, show up at these events to honor those men and women who have sacrificed so that they can enjoy the freedoms that this great country offers.

The Memorial Day event lasted about 45 minutes and was over by 11:45 a.m., plenty of time to go home and barbecue or whatever.

Don't just say, "Thank you for your service" to the next vet you encounter. The words are meaningless if you cannot take



a few minutes out of your day a couple of times a year to honor those vets in person.

Vicki Martin
 Florence

Rates rise in next round

This is my third and final letter regarding the ACA and the state of Oregon ("Hidden health costs" on March 25 and "Common sense" on May 2). Has anyone noticed the lack of coverage from the media regarding the new proposed health insurance rates from the providers in Oregon for 2016? Are these rates something that they don't want to bring attention to?

The public hearings start June 23 and end June 25, in which all of the carrier rates will be reviewed and our opportunity for input is requested.

In my previous letter I mentioned that some states would see increase rates by 31 to 80 percent, because of a cut-off of federal dollars for Medicaid expansion.

Many states simply cannot afford to stand alone, and most recent news is that some states are considering joining together to try to offer a larger pool to the carriers, ultimately to lower costs. Good luck.

Welcome to Oregon: the proposed rates are reflecting increases from 7 to 48 percent. If I have to succumb under these proposed rates by retiring early, my PacificSource costs for two of us will be just north of \$2,400 per month.

If you are paying attention, it is time to respond by getting involved and

sharing in the hearing process.

For those of us who might be paying health premium dollars, the system has broken. These plans for many allow you to have insurance, with little or no reimbursement for the year, due to the structures of the policies.

Oregon cannot afford this proposed increase. I do not believe that the rising costs will stop as Oregon expands service to so many. This is layered over the recent PERS ruling and creation of another \$4-billion liability.

Put on your tax seatbelts, citizens: the next round is about to hit.

Thomas Payn
 Florence

Control guns

I am extremely disappointed that the elected representatives of Lane County could not find the funds to implement a state gun control law.

My husband and I live on Mercer Lake, and we have virtually no law enforcement protection.

We had a next door neighbor who was 100 percent disabled with PTSD. He should never been allowed to have weapons, but he did and he shot them frequently, endangering children who hiked in the Enchanted Valley with local schools and nature groups.

How could you vote to endanger children?

Jeanne E Olwin
 Florence

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