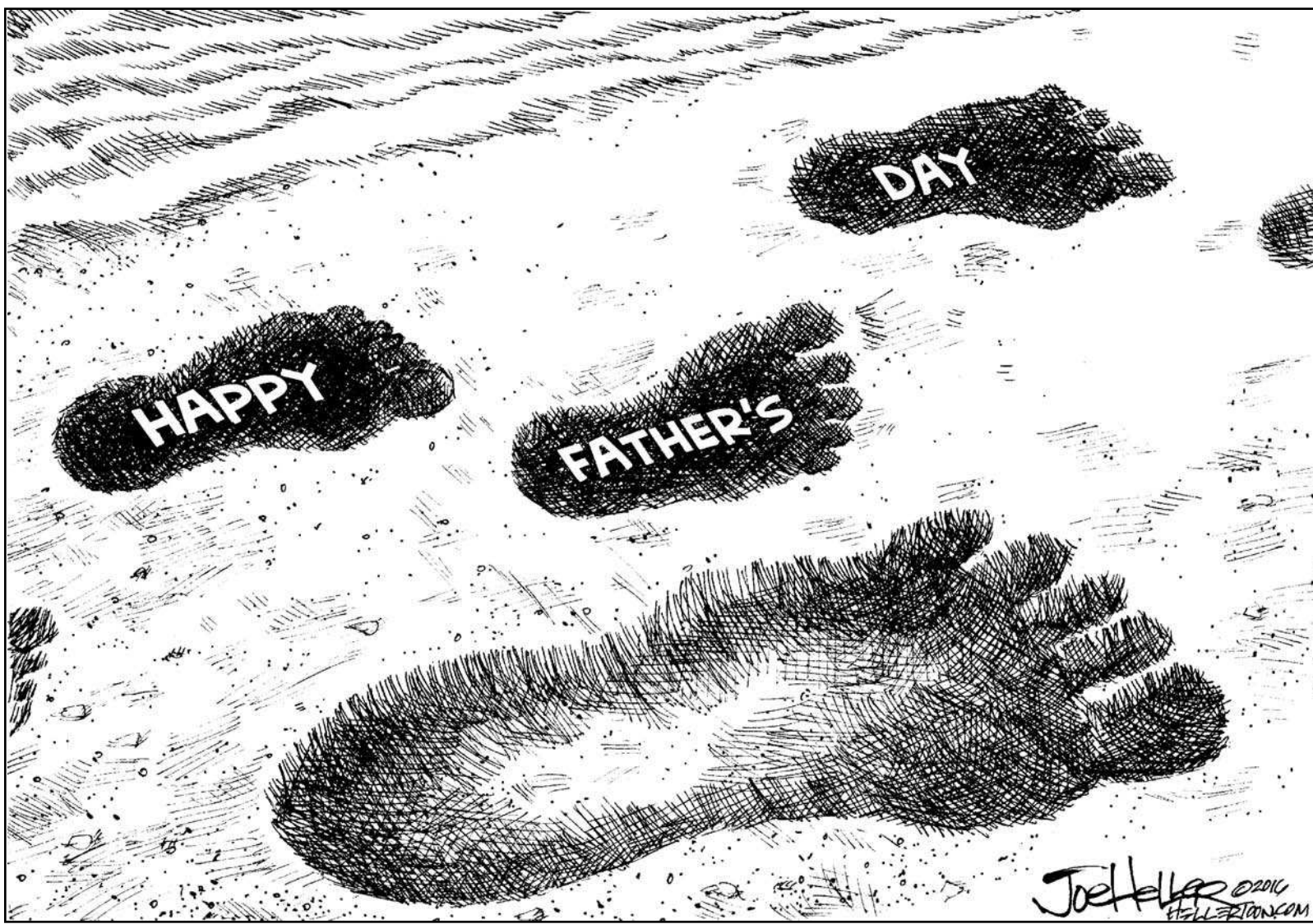


**Siuslaw News**  
 P.O. Box 10  
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# Opinion



## LETTERS

### Thank you, Florence

I would like to express a very deep and heartfelt thank you to everyone who came out to support the 109th Rhododendron Grand Floral Parade on Sunday, May 22. Being a part of the parade was made even more special by the positive comments and cheers we received from so many of you.

I have the honor of being not only the director of bands at Oregon City High School, but I am also a 2001 graduate of Siuslaw High School. Having the opportunity to bring my students back to enjoy the splendor and beauty of Florence is even more special for me because I get to see all of the changes that have happened to my hometown.

The students were impressed by the positive support from everyone on the parade route. I was grateful for seeing so many of you I remember from growing up in Florence; teachers, friends, community leaders and children of former classmates lined the parade route, and many of you even came out to say hello. I know I missed some of you, but please know I was grateful to get the opportunity to see so many of you.

Thank you from the Oregon City High School Pioneer Scarlet Brigade, thank you from our students, school and community of Oregon City for the gracious hospitality, well-organized parade, and "hometown welcome" we received. We look forward to coming back and being a part of the Rhody Festival.

Dana M. Henson  
 Oregon City

### Lessons learned

I am heartened that the voting populace did not give into the tremendous effort mounted by the Siuslaw School Board to ratify the latest bond proposal. Any education levy that seeks to exempt itself from 11 and 11b of the Oregon Constitution should be immediately rejected by the tax-paying public.

If you aren't familiar with these sections, take a quick look online — these are the only protections in place that keep our education taxes at a maximum of 45 percent of our total taxes paid. We should never forfeit them, and frankly, we should never have been asked to forfeit them.

This school bond had a PAC (Political Action Committee) funding media messages in favor of the bond. I've never seen that done before, anywhere, and I hope to never again.

We are a small community trying to make a big decision — this was overkill.

School issues, and their funding, need to be approached through community dialogue so that consensus can be reached on the best path forward, prior to placing a measure on a ballot. That takes time, and now we have that time.

Mary Jo Leach  
 Dunes City

### Initiative process protected

On June 3, Circuit Court Judge Charles Carlson agreed that the Lane County Clerk's determination that Community Rights Lane County's initiative petition, the Right of Local Community Self-Government Charter Amendment, meets pre-election requirements and that "Bringing this ballot initiative into a hearing before any signatures have even been gathered is an attack on our rights and an obstacle to the democratic process."

The judge ruled in our favor and against corporate interests when he found that initiative measures are meant to be addressed quickly at a county level and not subject to appeal processes, which can take years to come before the courts and significantly delay the actual voting on the measure.

Community Rights Lane County successfully defended the people's right of protection and access to the initiative process in Lane County. This authorizes all citizens to assert our rights to write and pass laws to protect our communities from corporate interference, influence and harms.

CRLC can now proceed to circulate our petition, the Right of Local Community Self-Government, for the 2017 ballot.

Please join us. We need volunteers to step up and gather signatures or participate in any other grassroots activities that you are comfortable with. Contact: connect@CommunityRightsLaneCounty.org.

Laura M. Ohanian & Robin Bloomgarden  
 Chief Petitioners, Eugene

### Who's to blame?

OK. I give up. We are all very distraught over the tragedy in Orlando. While there is only a little portion of the blame pointing toward ISIS, there is a vast majority of the problem centered right here in our country.

We are enjoying the clashing of two politi-

cal parties, who thrive on calling each other by nasty names, use snotty little comments about the heritage of their opponents, seriously question the value of their opponent's spouse, the ability of their opponent to tell the truth about anything, and at the same time, maintain the policy that if you tell the same lie five times, it immediately becomes law.

At no point in any of these "debates" have I heard anybody resort to using tolerance in reference to their opponent's position. Instead we see our leaders identify protesters as "bums," direct that they be beaten up and thrown out. Is it any wonder that a person who may be offended by a particular group feels that he has the right to protect his own beliefs? After all, he is authorized to own a gun, and use it when he feels threatened.

We really must stop this screaming and yelling form of debate and try to have some intelligent discussions about how we can resolve our problems here without trying to change the rest of the world. That by itself is a pretty tall order.

In the meantime, let's make absolutely certain that everyone gets all of the guns they want. They don't have to keep them safe, and if they are used to kill many, many innocent people, well that is the right of the shooter, not a problem for the gun owner. It all makes sense to me.

Charles Pennington  
 Florence

### No coordination

This is a follow-up to Carl Slusser's Letter to the Editor on May 18 ("Give Me a Break").

I questioned a few months ago after ODOT resurfaced Rhody Drive and why the resurfacing was subpar with cracks and fissures already occurring. I then asked why the city was installing wastewater pipes at the junction of 35th Street and Rhody.

There was no way that the city did not know when ODOT was going to pave the road and when they would start what is now an extensive wastewater pipe installation on Rhody Drive. What we now have are slow delays, but more importantly in the areas that the pipes have been installed the asphalt is above the surface of the resurfacing and it is like driving on a washboard.

Why was there no coordination and who is going to fix this mess?

Win Jolley  
 Florence

## YESTERDAY'S NEWS

### MOMENTS IN TIME The History Channel

- On June 25, 1876, near Montana's Little Bighorn River, Indians led by Sioux chiefs Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull wipe out Lt. Col. George Custer and much of his 7th Cavalry. Within an hour, Custer and all 215 of his soldiers were dead. Although the Sioux and Cheyenne fought to maintain their traditional ways, within five years almost all would be confined to reservations.

- On June 22, 1906, writer and pilot Anne Morrow Lindbergh (wife of aviator Charles Lindbergh) is born in New Jersey. She later published several books about her experiences, including "North to the Orient" (1935).

- On June 26, 1948, the Berlin Airlift begins as U.S. and British aircraft deliver food and supplies after the city is isolated by a Soviet blockade. By July 15, an average 2,500 tons of supplies were being flown in each day, with planes landing every 4 minutes.

- On June 21, 1956, playwright Arthur Miller defies the House Committee on Un-American Activities and refuses to name suspected communists. Miller's defiance of McCarthyism won him a conviction for contempt of court.

- On June 20, 1963, the United States and the Soviet Union agree to establish a "hot line" communication system, a step toward reducing tensions between the two countries following the Cuban Missile Crisis.

- On June 23, 1987, Tiffany launches a career-making tour with a live performance in a mall in New Jersey. The 16-year-old singer's debut album gathered dust until she began her tour of shopping malls, turning the album into a smash hit.

- On June 24, 1997, the Walt Disney Corp. orders the recall of 100,000 already shipped copies of an album by Insane Clown Posse — on the day of its planned release. The Southern Baptist Convention had threatened to boycott Disney over the rap duo's lyrics.

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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 as well as poetry will not be published.

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

Write to:  
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