

Siuslaw News
P.O. Box 10
Florence, OR 97439

Opinion

Outpouring of support appreciated

I just wanted to thank everyone in the Florence Community for the outpouring of support and kindness shown to the Florence Police Department over the recent weeks. It has been a very difficult time for law enforcement across the country. In my 35 years in this profession, I can tell you that this support is absolutely unparalleled anywhere that I know of.

This past July, I gave the commencement address at the Oregon Police Academy in Salem, Ore., for Basic Police Class No. BP358 — 38 brand new police officers, deputies and troopers from around the state who are entering this very challenging, rewarding and potentially dangerous career, and at one of the most chaotic times.

One of the things that I told them was that they are about to become the guardians of their communities. They defend and protect their communities from within, are an integral part of their community, and a reflection of its values. We, as law enforcement, are here to

GUEST VIEWPOINT

By **THOMAS M. TURNER**
 Chief of Police, Florence Police Department



defend and protect the communities we live in and care about.

Your support of our officers as they serve our community is always welcome. The Florence Police Department has received numerous cards and letters expressing support and condolences since the recent tragedies around the country began. Additionally we have received numerous baked goods, which we have placed in the community areas of our building to be shared by all the employees.

We thank the community for showing their support, but need to request that this particular show of support come to an end. We have no place to keep all these baked goods and, of course, we have to be mindful of how much we eat.

There are a number of groups around the country set up to help the families and loved ones of the police officers that have been directly affected by these recent tragic events, and they will willingly accept donations. We encourage our community members looking to show this level of support to contact one of these organizations to see what they can do to help.

In addition, we have many local charities whose work assists the police department by helping those in need and in keeping our community the beautiful place it is. We encourage citizens to donate or volunteer with those organizations to show your support for our community.

Florence is a wonderful city and a great place to live, work and play. On behalf of the men and women at the Florence Police Department it is our honor to serve and protect you.

Thank you.

YESTERDAY'S NEWS

MOMENTS IN TIME The History Channel

- On Aug. 14, 1784, a Russian fur trader founds Three Saints Bay, the first permanent Russian settlement in Alaska. In 1867, Secretary of State William H. Seward signed a treaty with Russia for the purchase of Alaska for \$7.2 million, a bargain at 2 cents an acre.

- On Aug. 10, 1846, President James Polk signs the Smithsonian Institution Act into law. In 1829, James Smithson died, leaving behind a will giving money to the United States for the creation of the "Smithsonian Institution" and a fortune worth well over \$500,000.

- On Aug. 13, 1899, Alfred Hitchcock, the macabre master of moviemaking, is born in London. His innovative directing techniques made "The Master of Suspense" one of the most influential filmmakers of the 20th century.

- On Aug. 11, 1965, in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles, two white policemen scuffle with a black motorist suspected of drunken driving, sparking a riot. Five days of violence left 34 people dead, 1,032 injured and nearly 4,000 arrested.

- On Aug. 8, 1974, with impeachment proceedings underway, President Richard Nixon announces he will resign as president of the United States.

- On Aug. 9, 1985, Arthur Walker, a retired U.S. Navy officer, is found guilty of espionage for passing top-secret documents to his brother John, who then passed them to Soviet agents. John Walker, also a Navy veteran, had been involved in spying for the Soviets since 1968.

- On Aug. 12, 1990, fossil hunter Susan Hendrickson finds three huge bones jutting out of a cliff near Faith, South Dakota, part of the largest and most complete Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton ever discovered. Nicknamed "Sue," the skeleton is 42 feet long, and its massive 2,000-pound skull has 58 teeth. It can be seen today at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago.

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LETTERS

Letter of apology

On Aug. 2, I conducted a fire flow test at Driftwood Shores. This test created a severe dirty water problem for the entire area. It is with regret that I did not notify the area affected by the dirty water before conducting the test.

I apologize for my actions and will in the future, working in conjunction with Heceta Water PUD, notify all possible affected customers of the flow testing and/or flushing of fire hydrants ahead of time.

Please accept my heartfelt apology.

Sean Barrett
 Fire Marshal, Siuslaw Valley
 Fire and Rescue

Hard to leave

The city of Florence is making it harder for us to leave soon, because of the gorgeous display of the many flower baskets of color throughout Old Town. These spectacular baskets have brightened everyone's mood while driving or walking in the area.

Thank you, David Wiegand and others who were involved in spearheading this major effort to beautify Florence.

We will truly miss this magical city.

Peg and Bob Peters
 Florence

The real culprit

I would like to respectfully respond to the letter Lisa Readell submitted regarding so-called "assault weapons" ("Being Responsible," July 27). In it she condemns our local True Value family-owned store of basically being irresponsible for selling what she called assault weapons and declares she will never shop their store again unless they stop selling such rifles.

I personally own several automatic pistols and a rifle, but not one as she describes. I would have no problem in owning one of which she describes, but as of this date haven't purchased one.

I would remind her and our local citizens that it is not a gun



or rifle that is the culprit, but the person abusing its use, and further that the family-owned True Value store has been in business in Florence for over 30 years, having been started by the father of the present three sons that now run the store. That is 30-years-plus of serving this community faithfully, fulfilling the needs of our citizens.

I hear no cries to remove hammers and knives that statistically cause more fatalities than guns and rifles each year, or letters saying they will not shop a store that sells such "weapons" as knives and hammers.

That certain people, and I am not accusing Lisa of being one, will use any excuse to frown on gun ownership is well known. I would remind those people that had not our forefathers had their pistols and rifles back during the Revolutionary War, we would not be the free country that we are today, thank God.

One last remark regarding the desire of a few to do away with our Second Amendment privileges is that you will never stop the "bad guys" from having weapons of all sorts any more than stopping birds from perching in trees.



I'm sure the owners of our True Value store are sorry to have lost a customer, but they I presume are in the business of serving their public as a whole.

Tony Cavarno
 Florence

Recruit young professionals

My wife and I moved here in 2000, and since then I have had seven primary doctors at PeaceHealth. My first one and now my present one have been in Florence for years.

Over these past 16 years I have had some six other wonderful

doctors, but they were all out of country from places like Pakistan, India and Miramar.

My perception is that they came to Florence to improve their resume and then move on to bigger and better things. One moved for personal problems and another went back to his homeland to practice medicine and grow coffee beans.

Not to say we should not try and recruit doctors out of country, but we should focus on recruiting young professionals who love our area and want to grow a practice here.

Win Jolley
 Florence

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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John Bartlett	Publisher, ext. 327
Jenna Bartlett	General Manager, ext. 318
Ryan Cronk	Editor, ext. 313
Susan Gutierrez	Advertising Director, ext. 326
Cathy Dietz	Office Supervisor, ext. 312
Ron Annis	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	202-224-5244 541-431-0229 www.wyden.senate.gov	FAX: 503-986-1080 Email: Sen.ArnieRoblan@state.or.us
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. Jeff Merkley 313 Hart Senate Office Bldg Washington, DC 20510 202-224-3753/FAX: 202-228-3997 541-465-6750	State Rep. Caddy McKeown (Dist. 9) 900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301 503-986-1409 Email: rep.caddymckeown@state.or.us
U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden 221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg Washington, DC 20510	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	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
	State Sen. Arnie Roblan (Dist. 5) 900 Court St. NE - S-417 Salem, OR 97301 503-986-1705	