

Siuslaw News
 P.O. Box 10
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Opinion



YESTERDAY'S NEWS

MOMENTS IN TIME The History Channel

- On Sept. 18, 1793, George Washington lays the cornerstone to the United States Capitol. The building would take nearly a century to complete, as architects came and went, the British set fire to it, and it was called into use during the Civil War.

- On Sept. 16, 1908, Buick Motor Company head William Durant spends \$2,000 to incorporate General Motors. Durant made his fortune building horse-drawn carriages, and in fact he hated cars — he thought they were noisy, smelly and dangerous.

- On Sept. 14, 1927, dancer Isadora Duncan is strangled in France when the enormous silk scarf she is wearing gets tangled in the rear hubcaps of her open car. The scarf wound around the axle, tightening around Duncan's neck and dragging her from the car. She died instantly.

- On Sept. 17, 1965, four adventurous Englishmen arrive at the Frankfurt Motor Show in Germany after crossing the English Channel by Amphicar, an amphibious passenger car powered by a 43-horsepower Triumph Herald engine. Despite choppy waters and a flooded engine, the two vehicles made the crossing in about seven hours.

- On Sept. 15, 1978, boxer Muhammad Ali (born Cassius Marcellus Clay) defeats Leon Spinks to regain the world heavyweight boxing title. Ali had first won the title in 1964 at age 22, defeating Sonny Liston.

- On Sept. 12, 1993, the rebuilt Lacey V. Murrow Bridge over Lake Washington opens in Seattle. The old bridge was almost 2 miles long and floated on more than 20 hollow concrete pontoons. During repairs in 1990, the bridge broke apart and sank.

- On Sept. 13, 2004, TV talk-show host Oprah Winfrey gives a brand-new Pontiac G-6 sedan, worth \$28,500, to all 276 members of her studio audience. However, the winners were left with a large bill: up to \$6,000 in federal and state income taxes.

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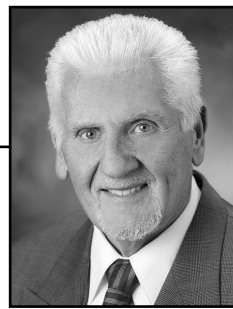
Voters to decide city tax on marijuana

The Florence City Council has approved placing a proposed tax on the sale of recreational marijuana and related items on the Nov. 8, 2016, ballot. The measure will give voters the opportunity to approve or disapprove a proposed city tax on the sale of recreational marijuana and related items in the City of Florence.

Recreational marijuana was legalized by Measure 91, passed by the voters in November 2014, so this ballot measure is not about legalizing sales of marijuana in the city. Recreational marijuana sales have been allowed in the city since October 2015 but are

GUEST VIEWPOINT

By JOE HENRY
 Florence Mayor



limited to certain areas of the city.

If adopted by the voters, this measure will allow the City Council to set the amount of the city tax not to exceed the amount allowed by state law, which is currently capped at 3 percent of the retail price of the marijuana item.

The tax would be on recreational items

only, and no tax will be imposed on medical marijuana.

If the measure is adopted by voters, the city would impose a 3 percent city tax on top of the already existing 17 percent state tax, making the total tax 20 percent within Florence city limits. Revenue collected from the tax would be available for the city to use for any purpose, including public safety.

The Florence City Council has reached consensus that this is an appropriate measure given the uncertainty of how the marijuana industry will affect the City of Florence.

LETTERS

Generous Florence

We recently hosted our annual Community Coat and Hoodie Giveaway. It was a success, partly due to the generosity of local residents' donations of new or slightly used items.

They were needed and appreciated by us, as well as the many folks that stopped by to "shop." The remaining items were donated to Siuslaw Outreach Services.

We're excited as we begin to stock up for next year's giveaway. Thanks again to all who blessed us as we, hopefully, blessed others. See you next year!

Janet Lewis
 Florence Foursquare Church

A sabotaged economy

We have been hearing a lot recently about politicians lying. One lie dwarfs all.

"It's Obama's economy," we hear Republican flaks repeat. "He's botched it. We will create jobs, grow the economy!"

They count on our lack of attention to or memory of important political/economic events of the past decade.

How many of you actually recall the major 2008 GOP-induced economic meltdown and, afterward, how the GOP obstructed the President and the Democratic House and Senate's attempts to stimulate the economy?

In the first two years of Obama's presidency, Mitch McConnell repeatedly used the Senate rule that a minimum of 60 votes were required to defeat the filibuster of any bill brought to the Senate floor for a vote.

During most of those two years the Senate consisted of 58 Democrats, 40 Republicans and two independents. Several of those 58 Democratic senators voted consistently with the Republicans. To reach the 60 vote threshold, Democrats had to gain the support of the two independents (one of them Democrat turncoat Joe Lieberman) and at least two or three "moderate" Republicans.

The Affordable Care Act ("Obama Care"), the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (the "stimulus package") and the Wall Street Reform Act (which included the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau) managed to slip through after Democrats made bill-weakening concessions.

Virtually everything else passed by the Democratic Party-controlled House was successfully filibustered. By the end of 2014, the GOP Senate had used the filibuster rule over 500 times.

Here are a few of the bills — all of which would have benefited working class Americans — that McConnell's minions stopped: infrastructure building; equal pay for women; an increased minimum wage; stoppage of corporate tax breaks for moving jobs and production facilities out of the country; a rehiring of 400,000 teachers, firefighters, paramedics and police officers; student loan reform; an extension of unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed; legislation to help working people join labor unions; the requirement that millionaires pay a comparable tax rate to middle-class Americans and the repeal of Big Oil tax subsidies.

When the Republicans won control of the House in 2010, President Obama's hopes for improving the lot of ordinary Americans were dashed.

Everything the GOP-controlled House thereafter passed was designed either to profit large corporations and the super wealthy or

weaken the support system for destitute Americans. Additionally, GOP House and Senate leaders sought to acquire what they wanted by shutting down once and later threatening to shut down the operations of the government.

For seven and a half years the Republican Party has sabotaged the national economy all the while presuming that it could win national elections by pinning the blame for stunted recovery on Congressional Democrats and our President.

Liars.
 Harold Titus
 Florence

Councilor vows city transparency

On Saturday, Sept. 3, Florence City Councilor Joshua Greene conducted an informational session at the Florentine Center. He elaborated on future plans being considered by the city and the arts council to improve and develop the Old Town portion of the city of Florence.

To have the citizens aware and involved is a goal that all politicians should have. Thank you, Mr. Greene.

Rod Stowe
 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.

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