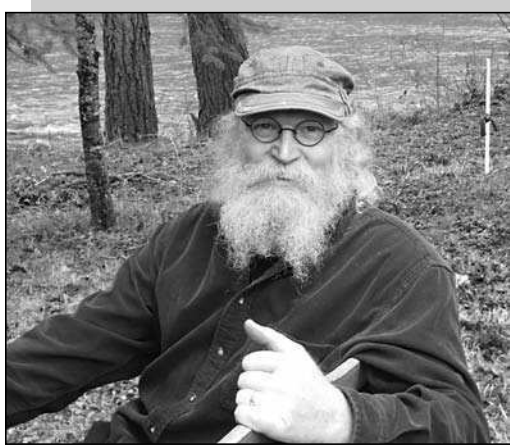


**Siuslaw News**  
 P.O. Box 10  
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# Opinion

## VIEW FROM UPRIVER



## Warning signs

WESLEY VOTH  
 For the Siuslaw News

produce is unsprayed and non-irrigated. Delivering mail here has been made more interesting this summer by the much needed and appreciated road work happening locally. As a writer, I am interested in posted signs, especially ones written as some form of warning. Some make me laugh, over and over, as I pass the same ones day after day.

Lane County road crew signs are especially pithy: Fresh Oil. Weeks can pass and even in the summer sun, long after the roadkill stuck to it has melted into ooze, the signs still promise the oil to be fresh. Or, my favorite sign of all, Flying Rock. Who needs aerial pigs when rocks here can spread their wings.

Some people are irritated by what seems like a great increase in posted warnings, but sometimes it would have been helpful if more attention was being paid to public health. The front page of this newspaper recently revealed that drinking water at Mapleton School had been tested and contained higher than acceptable levels of lead. I don't want to even get into the debate about how much of that dangerous-in-any-quantity metal could be acceptable; as the first statement on the EPA website warns "EPA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) agree that there is no known safe level of lead in a

child's blood. Lead is harmful to health, especially for children."

Many people reading the newspaper article, or hearing of the finding, grew up drinking that water, and their children or grandchildren are doing so now. And is the problem limited to the school?

Many homes I've been in here have old or brass fixtures that probably contain lead; ours does. And how can one know? Mapleton School gets its water from Mapleton Water District (240 connections), whose source is surface water from Berkshire Creek. Others in the area also get their water from creeks or springs, or from shallow wells like ours.

Anyone who spends time looking in the above-tidal sections of our river can tell you that lead fishing sinkers here appear to melt in a remarkably short period of time. That same water chemistry must do likewise with whatever lead is in the fixtures supplying drinking water here.

True, there may be a number of things even worse than lead in ruining our children's potential for success and health, but when we know that every cell in their bodies contains water, can't we try and make that water as free as possible from what causes harm to every organism ever so studied?

I trust our community will ask for answers, for more testing, and for help with testing.

I plan to.

## YESTERDAY'S NEWS

### MOMENTS IN TIME The History Channel

- On Oct. 6, 1866, in Indiana, the Reno gang carries out the first robbery of a moving train in the U.S., making off with over \$10,000. Holding up moving trains in remote locations soon became popular in the American West.

- On Oct. 5, 1947, President Harry Truman makes the first-ever televised presidential address from the White House, asking Americans to cut back on their use of grain in order to help starving Europeans. He asked that the public voluntarily forgo meat on Tuesdays, eggs and poultry on Thursdays and to save a slice of bread each day.

- On Oct. 4, 1957, the "Space Age" begins with the Soviet Union's launch of Sputnik, the world's first artificial satellite. Other firsts for the Soviet space program included first man in space, first woman, first three men, first space walk and first to orbit the moon.

- On Oct. 3, 1961, the United Auto Workers union goes on strike at Ford plants across the country to win higher wages and better benefits. It was the first company-wide strike since Ford had agreed to a collective-bargaining deal in 1941.

- On Oct. 8, 1970, Matt Damon, the future star of a long list of hit movies, including "The Bourne Identity," is born in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Damon, who left Harvard University before graduating to pursue an acting career, made his big-screen debut with a small role in 1988's "Mystic Pizza."

- On Oct. 7, 1984, at Soldier Field, Chicago Bears running back Walter Payton runs for 154 yards to become the NFL's all-time rushing leader, breaking the record set by Cleveland's Jim Brown in 1965.

- On Oct. 9, 1992, a bowling ball-sized meteorite crashes through an orange 1980 Chevy Malibu in Peekskill, New York. Scientists say it came from the asteroid belt between Jupiter and Mars.

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## LETTERS

### Republican demagogue

Joseph McCarthy was I believe our first Republican demagogue. Fast forward to more of the same and now we have Trump. Now I must go back in time to understand how we went from the past to the present.

When "The Great Communicator," Ronald Regan was said to have known about the Iran-Contra scandal, Republicans were infuriated and how dare anyone accuse him of wrongdoing.

Then we have Nixon. His demise really burnt the GOP to the core. Dirty tricks then became dirty politics which the GOP made into an art form. They did railroad a few Democratic potentials, tried to take down Clinton with his smoking cigar and did a good job on John Kerry.

They blew it with Obama, although dirty politics keep coming up with old mudslinging.

Not to think that Trump is a real Republican or even a politician he is the ultimate mudslinger.

— Win Jolley  
 Florence

### Thankful for heroes

Early Tuesday afternoon, while you were getting your hair cut or your oil changed, grocery shopping, or having lunch with friends at the port, a fire broke out north of town, in a dry wooded area. Anyone who has experienced the volatility of wildland fires, or been evacuated from their home with 30 minutes notice can attest to the visceral fear that such news incites.

Thanks to a swift response, with all personnel mustered, and a nod to the graciousness of mother nature for a very mild

breeze instead of our usual bluster, our Siuslaw Valley firefighters with the aid of Oregon Department of Forestry, quickly doused flames and avoided disaster, but while the company was still occupied with the wildland fire, another blaze began in a residence on 17th street.

Wow, what a day in quiet Florence. People of our beautiful Siuslaw River environs, you have heroes living in your neighborhood; painting your house, working on your car, sweeping your chimney, and so many other occupations in our town.

They work at everyday jobs like the rest of us until, called into action, they join their brethren (I don't know the feminine for that, so I include my sisters in that society) in a race to save lives and protect property.

They volunteer their livelihood and risk their lives... volunteer!

There's a new Firefighter Academy coming up soon and I believe registration is still open.

Think about it. Check out the requirements at SVFR.org or stop into the station. It is a commendable, worthwhile endeavor, both to yourself, and to our community.

Firefighters of SVFR, I am overwhelmed with gratitude and deep appreciation for the service and sacrifice you and your families give to our community.

That extends to our police, ambulance, and all first responders as well. It's been a busy day people. Go home, set your boots and turnouts up for the next tap-out, and get some rest.

Thank you, heroes.

— R. M. Dickerson

### *Florence* Doesn't get much better

One of the reasons that I moved to Florence was because of the many great events held throughout the year in our great city. Now we can add Windfest to this list.

This is an event put on by Steven Leskin and crew at the Port of Siuslaw. Windfest became a very enjoyable way for people young ( boy can two year olds dance!) and older (I met people in their eighties and nineties there) to spend their Saturday evenings.

Windfest was held this last summer on every Saturday evening on our much appreciated green area next to our boardwalk in Old Town. It featured very talented people from several local area bands who played a wide variety of music.

This event was free with a suggested donation to Florence Food Share so it could be appreciated and enjoyed by everyone.

I saw many local people who attended every Saturday as well as many visitors who were getting to enjoy yet another of the many great things Florence has to offer.

Windfest is an event that provides great music that you can listen to while watching our beautiful river.

Things just don't get much better than that!

Thank you Port of Siuslaw Commissioners and staff for an event that will hopefully continue for many summers to come.

— Maureen Miltenberger  
 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 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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 Saturday Issue—General news, Thursday noon; Budgets, two days prior to publication; Regular classified ads, Thursday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Thursday noon; Boxed and display classified ads, Wednesday 5 p.m. Soundings, Tuesday 5 p.m.

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