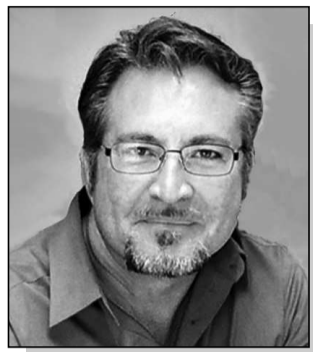


Siuslaw News
P.O. Box 10
Florence, OR 97439

Opinion



Keeping your letters from becoming a murky brew

Twice a week, this 22-by-12-inch sheet of newsprint becomes its own community forum-style debate as we voice our opinion on things that matter to us as individuals and as a community.

It's my job to be its moderator, ensuring this space doesn't turn into what we've witnessed during the last three

political debates: inflammatory rants from both sides that simply deepen the divide rather than educate and clarify.

As the election draws nearer, more letters are arriving each day in support of both candidates as well as senators, judges, measures and who should've won this week's "Dancing with the Stars."

This is our Constitution in action as we the People express our First Amendment right to free speech on the things that are important to us. Seeing your letters and emails arrive each day is inspiring because each is a reflection of the viewpoints, concerns and

values we hold as a community.

However, free speech doesn't mean it can come at the cost of being responsible.

From the Editor's Desk

NED HICKSON

As editor, my responsibility is to offer a balanced perspective that our community can trust as a resource in reaching educated, informed decisions about the things that matter to us.

Since Monday, I have spo-

ken with several letter writers regarding why I wouldn't be printing their submissions. In each case, I feel we learned something about each other

and reached an understanding: We the people used our right to free speech in the way it was intended and, as a result, established a dialogue that we will both benefit from as members of our community.

As I explained to one read-

er, personal opinion is fine in a letter to the editor, as long as it is tactful, constructive and not irresponsible or inflammatory.

Anything that includes "evidence" or accusations needs to be sourced by something other than an Internet link, and it needs to be cited in the letter.

We're part of an age that is the first to explore the benefits and dangers of a social media mentality, where wild accusations, rumor and opinion come together to form a murky brew served as regularly as our morning coffee.

To keep this page an honest representation of our commu-

nity means I have to be a watchdog when it comes to offering facts for our readers to form opinions from.

That being said, I make the same promise to you that I did to one reader — which is to be the kind of watchdog that runs to either side of the yard when someone is at the fence.

That way, when I bring you the newspaper with this 22-by-12-inch page wrapped inside, it will be something we can both feel good about.

Write Siuslaw News editor Ned Hickson at nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com or P.O. Box 10, Florence, Ore. 97439.

LETTERS

He's a keeper

I am happy to be endorsing the re-election of a friend of ours and a friend of all his constituents up and down the coast: Senator Arnie Roblan.

Not a tough decision.

In an election year fraught with F.U.D. (fear, uncertainty and doubt), it's a slam-dunk to vote for a man who has proven to be a true representative of the people — all the people.

What? He's a Democrat?

And I'm a Republican?

That's the point: it's rare to find a legislator who listens with equal intensity and concern to those on both sides of the aisle.

He's a keeper!

Pat Sapp
 Florence

Get out and vote

The presidential election is almost upon us. There are three important points to remember:

- 1) Trump is for controlled immigration; Clinton supports open borders
- 2) Trump will appoint Supreme Court Justices who (I feel) will uphold our Constitution; Clinton will appoint liberal Justices who (I feel) will try to change our Constitution
- 3) Trump is pro-life; Clinton supports partial birth abortion

Let he who is without sin cast the first stone. The rest of us need to get out and vote.

Pamela Richardson
 Florence

Stand with me

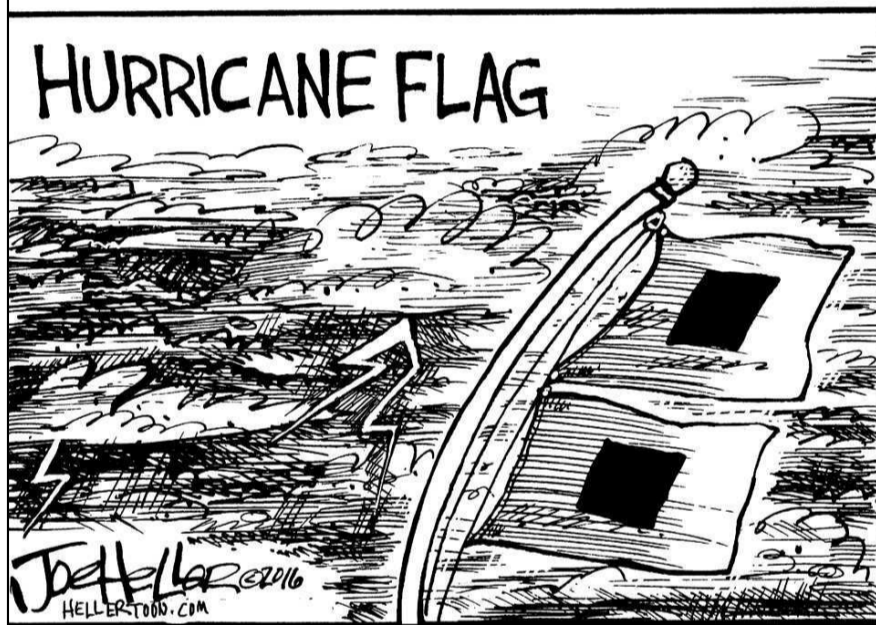
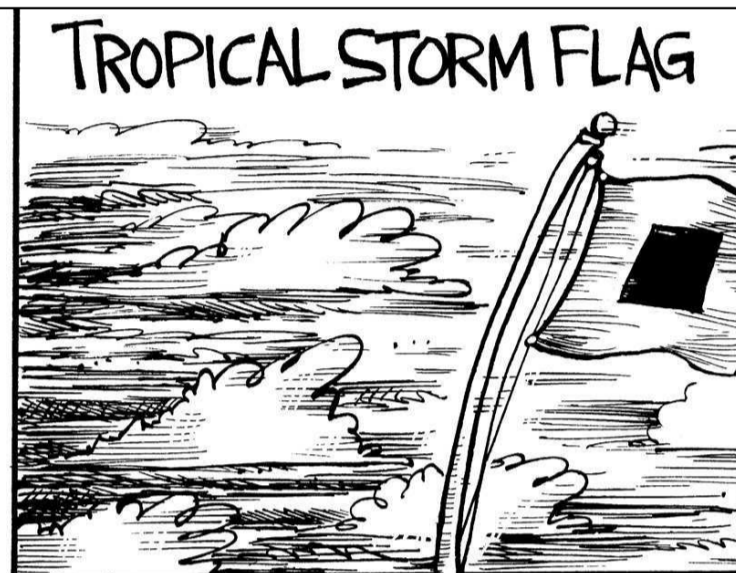
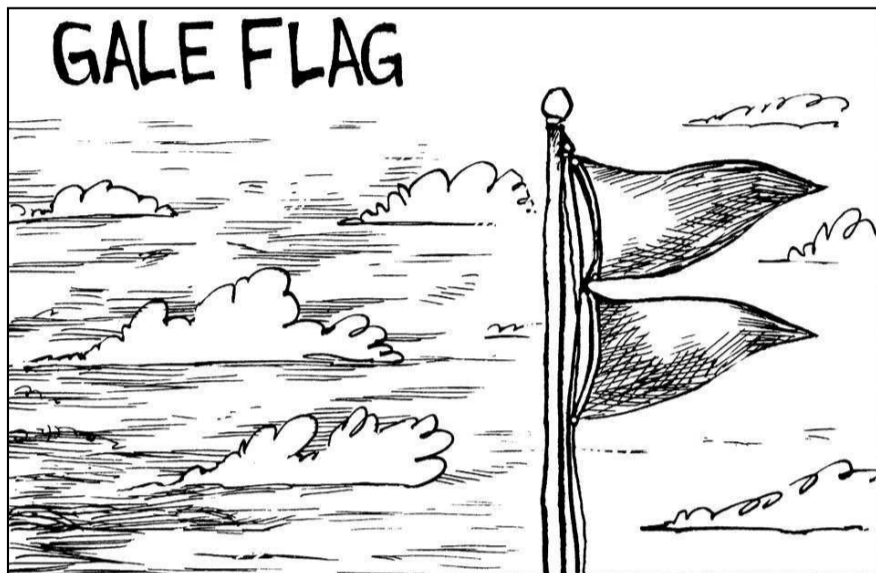
It is no secret that State Senator Arnie Roblan has been a champion, in both in his private and public lives, of strengthening K-12 education and the expansion of access to higher education for all our citizens.

Even when our Oregon experienced the worst economic times since the Great Depression of the 1930s, during his leadership as Co-Speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives, we did everything in our power to cushion the pain that would be visited on our schools, colleges and universities.

With the support from Democratic colleagues, who have always stood together to address the educational needs of our children, we fought hard to restore the budget cuts that had to be taken in those hard times.

We are now out of those desperate economic woods and, thanks to those who have continuously led the charge for more education funding, our schools are getting more financial support from the State than ever before.

And now the campaign season is upon us and it is the time when we have to make choices that could have a lasting effect on future generations



of Americans.

I ask you to stand with me in supporting a person who continuously stands with you and has historically delivered on his promise to put the children of Oregon first.

Join me in re-electing State Senator Arnie Roblan this November.

Joanne Verger
 Retired Senator
 Coos Bay

We can't wait any longer

Our roads are a mess. It seems like every time I watch the evening news or log onto my computer there's a report of a fatal accident. But crumbling roads and bridges aren't just deadly — they're costly too.

Every year we miss out on new jobs because our roads can't handle the traffic.

Politicians in Salem haven't passed a transportation package in seven years. Our roads and bridges can't wait any longer.

We need funding now to pay for desperately needed repairs and safety upgrades.

This year, I'm voting for Dick Anderson because he has a proven track record of getting

things done for the Coast. As the Mayor of Lincoln City he cut red tape to widen Highway 101 and make it safer. He also sits on two ODOT transportation commissions where he collaborated to secure funding for a new dry dock at the Port of Toledo.

If he did all this as Mayor, imagine what he can do as our Senator.

Dick Anderson is an expert at working with ODOT and politicians on both sides of the aisle to secure funding for projects here on the Oregon coast, not in the I-5 corridor.

Let's elect a Senator that can get things moving; let's elect Dick Anderson to Oregon Senate.

Karen Childs
 Florence

Dying for lack of medicine

Here is an example of what our Congress has done to protect the people of the United States. Due to lobbying by pharmaceutical industries, we have a regulation that forbids the government from negotiating the prices for drugs that are bought for Medicare, Medicaid and the Veterans Administration (VA).

As an example: The Gillian Sciences compa-

ny manufactures a drug that treats Hepatitis-C that costs \$1 to produce and which they charge as much as \$1,000 for. This has resulted in many people dying for lack of money.

The government has paid out more than \$10 billion to those companies, which have their money being "stored" in Ireland and don't pay any U.S. taxes on.

The reason this bill passed is because some of our representatives in Congress benefit from the pharmaceutical industries, from funds contributed to campaigns.

These statements were quoted as fact by Dr. Jeffery Sachs of "The Earth Institute" on the Morning Joe show, Oct. 11, 2016. It was also stated that the VA was quoted as having to "send people home until they were sicker" because they could not afford the cost to treat the early diagnosis.

This should take Congress one hour to write and one hour to pass on a single sheet of paper since the current Congress has proven to have veto control. Call 202-224-3121 and let your state Representative know you want this approved as a bill.

Albert Anderson
 Florence

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