

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

# Opinion

## VIEW FROM UPRIVER



## Serving all

WESLEY VOTH  
For the Siuslaw News

dire predictions.

I find myself in an awkward place here as an older white male, one who has benefitted all his life from something he wishes did not exist — race, class, religious, majority and gender privilege. At the same time, I'm trying to be open to the election and efforts of someone I did not support and whose public posturing is antithetical to my true tribe and family — all who yearn and strive for liberty and justice for all, and who practice a culture of kindness and inclusion.

I'm challenged by trying to disassociate myself from the practices and rhetoric of other older white males who somehow feel threatened by the empowerment of anyone not like themselves, while at the same time not being unkind or unfair in my dealings with any actual people.

I remember my alarm eight years ago when, upon the election of Barack Obama, some of the most vocal conservative pundits were saying that they could not allow the new president to succeed or they would all be doomed. They did such a good job of casting aspersions on his status as a native-born citizen and actual practicing Christian that many people I know (and otherwise find sane) still believe he is a Muslim and born on foreign soil.

And I heard many racist remarks thrown in for free by some who claimed that their major disagreement was about policy.

I refuse to be a part of that kind of treatment of Donald Trump, while at the same time being clear that I do not — and will not — tolerate exclusionary words, policies and behavior. Nor will I tolerate backsliding on hard-fought rights and protections of any class or group, including the right of all to clean air and water.

Donald Trump won the presidency and Republicans the power in every branch of government.

However, there is no majority mandate at

work — even, as some claim, in rural America.

Trump did not achieve 50 percent of the vote in the Mapleton precinct, nor in any other precinct in our area except for Dunes City proper. In the Mapleton precinct, which includes Swisshome, Indian Creek and Deadwood, 6 percent voted for Green Party candidate Jill Stein.

Detailed results can be found on Lane County's new website under "elections," although it is not currently possible to see back any further than the primary into previous historical data.

Because of this lack of majority approval, and therefore more people in opposition than for some of the Republican platform ideas, I am hoping that pragmatism will prevail — and that priority will be given to things which either have a broad consensus or enough compromise hammered out to achieve it.

I wish our president-elect well, and hope he can rise above some of what he has said in order to serve us all.

Susie and I recently made a day of going up the coast while there were high surf advisories. What a froth seawater can be whipped into; in places, what coated the rocks and floated in the surf eddies was the color and texture of whipping cream, in other places the foam collected in high banks, creating drifts that looked like snow.

It was seawater not looking like seawater at all.

People seem in a similar frenzy following the election, amid rumors and fears, hopes and

## LETTERS

### Elvis is still alive

Fake news? There's nothing new about fake news. How long has "The Globe" and "National Enquirer" been around publishing fake news?

Aliens taking over the world; Elvis still alive; two-headed babies with long tails; Hillary losing the election because of false FBI reports; Hollywood actors moving to Canada; grandma gives birth to octuplets at age 85; Nick Saban leaving Alabama to coach the Ducks.

And people really believe that stuff!

Dana Rodet  
Westlake

### Can't be quiet

In response to the letter from Donna Dobson ("No More Fighting and Hatred," Dec. 7) regarding disrespect of Donald Trump, I feel compelled to note a few facts.

Eight years ago, when Barack Obama was elected, the people who "weren't happy" did anything but "give him a chance," as we are being told Trump deserves.

The Republican plot to obstruct President Obama began before he even took office. This obstruction included meetings by Republican leadership in the House and the Senate for all-

out resistance to a popular President-elect.

Throughout his Presidency, if President Obama was for it, then Republicans were against it — even if it meant opposing their own proposals. This came regardless of the impact on the country and included everything from clean energy to Medicare cost savings.

Many in the Republican party even voted against their own bill to create a deficit-reduction commission in order to thwart President Obama's efforts.

We have spent the last year listening to Donald Trump's own words which, more often than not, could only be described as bigoted and divisive. We've listened to him foment violence with his inflammatory language and have witnessed his blatant disrespect for women and the disabled.

We have heard him declare intentions to suppress certain religious freedom and discriminate against minorities. His Cabinet selections confirm a disregard for the environment, a commitment to helping the rich get richer as the poor become poorer, and a willingness to disenfranchise students, people of color, low-income populations, seniors and so many others.

All this and so much more, and some would like us all to sit down and keep quiet?

Really?

Dolly Brock  
Florence

### Saving our salmon

The Umpqua region once abounded with free-ranging salmon. Now it does not. Perhaps it's partly due to overfishing. But I also believe it's in large part due to government agencies creating a monopoly on salmon rearing that continues to strangle the potential that privately funded free-range salmon rearing affords.

It's time Oregon voters demand legislative changes that can re-establish prosperity and support a privately funded free-range salmon rearing project on the lower Umpqua to feed our regions families.

The Lower Umpqua Free-Range Salmon Project is an eight year, \$15 million project that

entails building a salmon rearing facility near Gardiner, Ore.

At the facility, Chinook and steelhead will be hatched and reared in tanks (similar to the operation at Turner Creek on the Columbia) until they are sea worthy. Once sea worthy, they will be freed through a non-navigable artificial stream that feeds into Umpqua River.

After release, they will then be allowed to range freely and mature in the Pacific being treated no differently under law than either native or government reared fish — with respect to commercial and sports fishing — until their return to the private facility's artificial non-navigable stream.

Upon entering the facility's artificial non-navigable stream, ownership of the harvest will become the sole and unlimited property of the project.

The facility will then breed and/or wholesale the harvest into the local and regional commercial salmon markets.

Additionally, like the Turner Creek facility, the project facility intends to be open to visitors and tourist for the purpose of education.

If successful, the project expects to generate in excess of \$5 million annually from the sale of harvested returns; re-establish threatened Chinook and steelhead runs to commercially viable and sustainable levels; revitalize the

region's commercial salmon industry; and create hundreds of jobs feeding thousands of people.

But the project requires public input. Legislation is required to break the governmental monopoly and amend laws that prevent the regional prosperity this project could afford.

I hope everyone will support this project and the legislation required to make privately funded free-range salmon rearing legal.

Demand our Congressmen, Senators and their parties to support the project with emails, letters or phone calls.

If they can't or won't support such legislation, we shouldn't support them.

A'eron Blackman  
ReedSPORT



## 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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