

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

Opinion

The First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.



LETTERS

GENEROUS VOLUNTEERS

The students, staff and I at Highland Elementary School in Reedsport want to thank those near and far who helped with the set-up of our new swings.

Locally, Frank Hedges has persistently kept the project moving and has made sure all the details are worked out prior to having additional volunteers show up to work.

We also would like to thank our friends

from Florence, Tony Miller, Doug South and his wife, Terri South.

Doug South Contracting supervised the construction, transported its backhoe and donated numerous hours to the project. Viking Concrete provided cement for the project at a discounted price, and Rainbow Concrete Pumping from North Bend also donated its time and services.

Numerous Highland Elementary School staff and their families, along with students from Reedsport High School, also volunteered.

This project would not have been possible without the generosity of our neighboring businesses and all these volunteers.

With much gratitude,

*Principal Beckie Lupton
 Highland Elementary
 Reedsport*

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

I believe the failure of Republican Senators to be swayed by the overwhelming lack of support for Betsy DeVos among the electorate was fueled by fear.

- Fear of losing face.
- Fear of losing an election.
- Fear of losing control.

I think there will be many more fear-based denials of the peoples' will in the time ahead.

We have an admitted anti-Semite, Steve Bannon, in a very powerful position as President Trump's Chief Strategist.

How are we, as citizens of this great nation, to proceed?

Many of us are trying to make our voices heard, but it's unclear if we are gaining any traction.

*Ivy Medow, MA, CRC, OTA
 Florence*

HAVE AN IMPACT

We live in a community of Confederated Tribes of Native Americans. I am writing this on their behalf.

Attempting to peacefully protect their sovereign land and sacred burial grounds, the Lakota Sioux in North Dakota have been subject to military-style tactics from local police, state police and private security guards. They have used attack dogs, pepper spray, being sprayed by fire hoses in sub-zero weather, and being shot at with rubber bullets — all of this against "water protectors" who are using drums and song as their weapons.

These methods are supported by the local mayor and the governor in North Dakota.

A recent executive order has lifted the ban to stop construction, so protesting has begun again. For our Florence community that has spoken for a "hate free" community, this is an opportunity to extend this attitude.

We can support the peaceful protestors and help them regain their rightful land. If you bank with or have credit cards with a bank that is funding this pipeline, move your business away and tell them why you are doing so — and do your banking business locally.

Some of the larger banks involved in the

pipeline project are Wells Fargo, City Bank Citibank (CitiGroup) and Bank of America.

This will not cost you, but could have an impact on a financial institution that is only motivated by profit.

Or you could access a number of online support groups, one of which is the Indigenous Environmental Network at www.ienearth.org, where there are a number of projects to support.

Either one could make a feel-good day for yourself and others.

*Nan Harvey
 Florence*

TRUMP BEING TRUMPED

National Security Adviser Michael Flynn and Labor Secretary Andrew Puzder are gone because of the White Houses's inability to do any vetting.

President Trump has already lost a few of his transition team members and I won't be surprised if Kellyanne Conway soon follows.

Who will be next in the coming year?

Betsy DeVos?

Stephen Bannon?

Being the President is not a "reality TV" show. "You're fired!" only works if it is within his own staff. He can't fire the "fake" press reporters, congressmen or senators in his own party who disagree with him.

There will be continued fallout until he decides to learn to be President.

*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 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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Wednesday Issue—General news, Monday noon; Budgets, four days prior to publication; Regular classified ads, Monday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Monday noon; Boxed and display classified ads, Friday 5 p.m.
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, Saturday 5 p.m. Soundings, Tuesday 5 p.m.

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WHERE TO WRITE

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