

Siuslaw News
P.O. Box 10
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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.

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Siuslaw News

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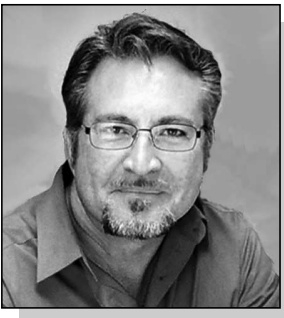
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Owning up to my mistakes

Within 15 minutes of posting “Details Revealed in Shooting Death” online last Friday (July 7), we were rightly taken to task by some folks on Facebook regarding several typos in the story.

While I was quickly able to correct the online version, the print edition had already gone to press, along with

those typos.

I immediately responded to the Facebook posts, apologizing for the misspellings and thanking those individuals for holding us to a high standard. I also clarified that assuring against those kinds of mistakes are ultimately my responsibility rather than our reporters.

I also felt it was important to address you, our print edition readers, and offer the same apology by owning up to my mistakes.

Since becoming editor in September, one of my goals has been to not only make the stories we cover more

relevant on a local and national level, but also more timely. Sending a member of our three-reporter staff to Eugene to cover a story in the middle of a deadline day isn’t something we’ve done in the past.

Since September, we’ve done it three times.

However, in our efforts to achieve the goals we’ve set for ourselves as a news team, it’s clear we are still working to find our equilibrium balancing those goals with our commitment to accuracy.

Today, we met as a team and created new proofreading rules to prevent those

kinds of typos in the future.

Will it guarantee we will always be error free?

Probably not, which is why every newspaper posts corrections. But I can guarantee you of our commitment to doing our very best.

Your faith in our reporting and its accuracy is paramount to us; it is the cornerstone of our relationship.

So is your willingness to let us know when we make mistakes.

Thank you for holding me accountable and making that cornerstone even stronger.

— NED HICKSON, EDITOR



LETTERS

WE ARE ALL ENTITLED TO RESPECT

My wife and I have been residents of Florence for almost 25 years. We have found Florence to provide almost all the things we considered important when we made our decision to move 3,000 miles and live here for the rest of our lives.

In the past, I wrote letters to this newspaper and got involved in various community issues. I was critical of waste and inefficiency in the school system, management issues by park officials at various levels, and the failure of past editors to use this newspaper more forcefully for the public good. I did so trying to help bring changes which would improve the Florence area for all citizens.

We gladly support Food Share, Siuslaw Outreach Services, Helping Hands Coalition and the Siuslaw Public Library.

Today, my wife and I were incensed by the letter from Jessica Rojas (“Leaving Florence,” July 8) who said she is leaving Florence. I can only say to her: Goodbye.

Three times she mentioned the lack of “amenities and resources” without bothering to give one example of what she feels is missing. If she is disappointed in what is here, it is her own fault for not checking out the community before moving here. Florence has more amenities and resources than most small towns. And it is located in one of the most beautiful and progressive areas in the United States.

The attitude of Ms. Rojas seems most clearly revealed by her disparaging the “entitlement population” and “do-gooders” here. I must assume she means senior citizens on limited incomes, immigrant families, transients and others in our community who either need help or are willing to help others because it’s the right thing to do.

We all contribute to the diversity and character of Florence and are each entitled to respect.

I feel Ms. Rojas should leave Florence just as those who have done so

in the past once they realize that it rains a lot in winter, is dry and windy during the summer months and has slugs which eat plants.

These things are easy to learn about before moving here.

I say good luck to her in finding the amenities and resources she needs to be satisfied, although I doubt she will ever be happy.

— Joe Decker
 Florence

DON’T TRASH MY TOWN

Reading Saturday’s wisdom in the Letters to the Editor (July 8) was enlightening. Imagine my dismay that we are not one letter writer’s ideal small town because we don’t have enough amenities or resources.

By golly, what more do we need that we don’t already have? If she means that our retired women have more needs than retired men, I guess she might have a point. After all, we could use a few more beauty shops; Lord knows we have enough barbers for the men.

I don’t know about the rest of you all, but I moved here to get away from all the “amenities and resources.”

We have all we need, with a few exceptions — which is ok in my book. I don’t want sidewalks and street lights and the need for a cop on every corner. I find the citizens here to be to my liking just fine.

I spend time in Old Town and see no “lack of pride in ownership.” I can get great food at any number of places, parts for my vehicles and for home projects, too. My insurance and registration fees are about half compared to were I came from.

As for the beggars... is she saying there is a town that doesn’t have them?

Look, I’m just an old retired trucker. I spent the better part of the last 40 years and 4-plus million miles making a living. I love this town and I’m not going anywhere. If it doesn’t suit you, well go ahead and leave.

Just don’t trash my town by comparing it to big-city wants.

Some of us like it just fine the way it is.

— David T. Eckhardt
 Florence

COUNTY EMPLOYEES CAN’T REPORT FEDERAL CRIMES?

I just discovered the Lane County Commissioners were planning to take up an ordinance Tuesday (July 11) banning Lane County employees from “detecting or apprehending persons whose only violation of law is that they are persons of foreign citizenship present in the United States in violation of Federal Immigration laws” (proposed wording for new provision in the Lane County Manual under “foreign citizenship”).

I realize the proposed provision reflects Oregon state laws recently passed, and this one focuses on not using county funds to enforce immigration law. But I feel the headline in Sunday’s edition of the Register Guard (“County to Take Up Immigrant Protections” July 9) reflects the real truth. Its not about money and wise use of taxpayer funds.

This ordinance is a political statement relating to our federal immigration law.

As I thought about the proposed ordinance, I can only assume it would prohibit a county employee — who for whatever reason discovered or suspected a person was in the United States illegally — from simply calling INS to report that violation.

In fact, even if that employee waited until they were off duty to make the call, it could result in their termination or worse.

So, to sum up, Lane County and the State of Oregon are essentially making it illegal for a county employee to report a federal crime to federal law enforcement — and our property taxes are being used to support that.

Just think about that.

— Dave Peck
 Florence

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Siuslaw News welcomes letters to the editor as part of a community discussion of issues on the local, state and national level.

Emailed letters are preferred. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed. All letters need to include full name, address and phone number; only name and city will be printed. Letters should be limited to about 300 words. 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, argumentative and anonymous letters or poetry, or letters from outside our readership area will not be published.

POLITICAL/ELECTION LETTERS:

Election-related letters must address pertinent or timely issues of interest to our readers at-large.

Letters must 1) Not be a part of letter-writing campaigns on behalf of (or by) candidates; 2) Ensure any information about a candidate is accurate, fair and not from second-hand knowledge or hearsay; and 3) explain the reasons to support candidates based on personal experience and perspective rather than partisanship and campaign-style rhetoric.

Candidates themselves may not use the letters to the editor column to outline their views and platforms or to ask for votes; this constitutes paid political advertising.

As with all letters and advertising content, the newspaper, at the sole discretion of the publisher, general manager and editor, reserves the right to reject any letter that doesn’t follow the above criteria.

Send letters to:
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 The White House
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 TTY/TDD Comments:
 202-456-6213
www.whitehouse.gov

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