

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.



In the time it takes you to reach the end of this sentence, approximately 26 people will have died from cancer.

Mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, sons and daughters, rich and poor, Republicans and Democrats, without regard to religious affiliation, cancer will claim the lives of more than 500,000 people before the rest of us are ringing in the new year — at which point the tragic cycle begins again.

Considering that each of us has a 39.6 percent chance of being diagnosed with some form of cancer in our lifetime, including nearly 16,000

Spreading ripples of hope

children age 19 and younger, we are all unwilling participants in the same game of cancer roulette.

And the stakes couldn't be any higher.

Like many of you, my life has been touched by cancer more than once, including the

annual Relay For Life, a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, which focuses on the research, information and prevention of cancer around the world.

But on a local level, it is more than that.

In a small town, the ripple

11-year-old Malakai Kirk, with hundreds of residents rallying to help raise funds for a bone marrow transplant for the fifth-grader.

While it's true that the money raised at this weekend's Relay For Life won't impact the Kirk family, the research supported by the ACS could some day eliminate the need for future generations to experience the ripple effect of cancer at all.

In the meantime, there is hope.

According to the National Cancer Institute, the number of people living beyond their cancer diagnosis is expected to grow from 14.5 million in 2014 to 19 million by 2024.

Please join me and others in our community as we spread ripples of hope during this Saturday's Relay For Life.

loss of my closest friend at age 30, from ocular cancer that had been in remission before returning exponentially a year later.

Between family and friends, cancer has left 11 empty chairs around my life's dinner table in the last 20 years.

For 18 of those years, Florence has been hosting the

effect of cancer — whether it be in the fight against it, the celebration of its defeat or mourning in the wake of those it has taken — reaches everyone in some way, even if indirectly through our overall connection as a community.

Most recently, ripples have spread through our community in the form of support for

From the Editor's Desk

NED HICKSON

Siuslaw Jam has taken root in Florence

Many years ago, when I first moved here, Jon Thompson, Lis Farm and Lynnette Wikstrom indoctrinated me into the methodology needed for putting on a community event.

Helping organize Chowder, Blues and Brews was a trial by fire. More lessons came from volunteering on the Rotary Auction in addition to working with the Rhody Pageant.

Years later, experiencing the Siletz Bay Music Festival and watching the festival's interaction with the community and the schools motivated me to take the lessons I learned and create the Siuslaw Jam. The Jam, held July 7 and 8 at the Florence Events Center, was a huge success, planting the seed for future growth and something I could never have accomplished without the support of our sponsors, patrons and community.

In particular, I want to thank the following: Michael Falter of City Lights Cinemas for running promotional slides and airing the documentary film on the Siletz Bay Festival; Jenna Bartlett of the Siuslaw News

for advising how best to utilize her various publications in the surrounding area with press releases, advertising and editorial coverage; arts and entertainment reviewer Burney Garelick, who surprised me with her in-depth knowledge of the American Songbook; Jon Thompson, who gave us substantial airtime with interviews and advertising on both KCST and KCFM; Mark Sanders and Yaakov Bergman, executive director and artistic director of the Siletz Bay Music Festival, as well as their board, who embraced our efforts as a sister festival; and our performers, who saw the opportunity our community had to offer and were fully engaged during their stay.

The musicians were excited to see our theater and environments created for their performances, and they were especially excited by the connection and attentiveness of the audiences.

All the performers felt

welcome and enjoyed their time spent visiting our community and said they look forward to coming again.

We are very fortunate to have the Florence Events Center (FEC) team. The work that Kevin Rhodes, Jennifer Connor and Sandi Anderson did to accommodate us as a client was professional, both in marketing the event through social media, placing posters around town and whatever other needs we had with staging.

Lighting Director Margaret McDiarmid shares my fondness for dramatic lighting and led the charge. Stage Manager Leah Goodwin and her stagehands, the "Women in Black+1," made the experience with the FEC flawless.

Weeks before the event, Brynne Sapp and I started creating our fantasy environments. With the help of items from Pat Sapp's Vintage Blue Warehouse and Annie Schmidt's famous

slipper chair, our fantasy became reality.

The free concert for young people was critical to the Jam being successful and embraced by our community. Not only did three kids play on stage with an extraordinary backup band, the musicians themselves were all touched by participating in the experience.

Those in attendance saw the magic being created on stage.

The discussions for next year's festival have already begun. Our focus is on building a team of volunteers to help make next year's festival an even greater success, in addition to working closer with the pool of young musicians and adding new entertainment to expanding the variety of performances.

Anyone interested getting involved in the next Siuslaw Jam can contact us by emailing satchmo@siuslawjam.com.

The community is encouraged to participate, share ideas and make recommendations that will help this musical event that has taken root continue to grow in the years ahead.

GUEST VIEWPOINT

JOSHUA GREENE

FLORENCE CITY COUNSELOR, SIUSLAW JAM COORDINATOR

LETTERS

NO 'PLAUSIBLE DENIAL'

In response to Mr. Cavarno's statement in his Letter to the Editor "Dirt for Dirt" (July 15) that Hillary Clinton and the Democrats wouldn't have hesitated to go to the Russians for dirt on Donald Trump, Al Gore was handed hacked emails from George Bush's campaign and turned them over to the FBI.

Lets say the Dems did get an offer from the Russians — I would hope that Hillary would be smart enough not to send Bill, Chelsea or other high ranking staff or family members to such a meeting.

Apparently, President Trump's people have never heard of "plausible denial," which is a bit hard to do when you are caught in the act.

— Frank Keavy
Florence

HELPING HANDS CONTINUES

I and the rest of the board of The Helping Hands Coalition would like to thank the Florence Community for the

support exhibited recently in our bid to open a new facility on Highway 101.

In declining to appeal the decision of the Planning Commission, we have reaffirmed our commitment to serving food to the insecure population of Florence and Western Lane County.

We are extremely thankful to the Florence United Methodist Church for its continued partnership in helping us provide a nutritious hot lunch three days per week.

The church has graciously extended the use of its facilities until we can work out other accommodations.

We look forward to continuing our work and sharing in the building of a stronger Florence.

— Greg Wood
Helping Hands Coalition
Florence

NO HARM, NO FOUL? NO WAY.

Mr. Cavarno's Letter to the Editor ("Dirt for Dirt," July 15) asked, "Is there anyone out there who believes if the Kremlin, during the election campaign,

had notified Hillary, Bernie, Pelosi, Schumer or any other Democrat that they had 'dirt' on Donald J. Trump — or any of his team — they would have had any qualms and not have stumbled all over themselves to obtain such information?"

I don't believe any Democratic (listed above or otherwise) or most Republican party members would have taken a meeting with the Kremlin.

First and foremost, it's illegal under campaign finance laws to accept assistance from a foreign government. Ignorance of the law is no excuse.

If I steal a car, I'll go to jail whether or not I know stealing a car is illegal.

Donald Trump Jr.'s position that nothing was gained from the meeting, so no harm/no foul is also ridiculous on it's face.

If I steal the car because I thought there was a million dollars in the trunk, but the trunk turned out to be empty, I'll still go to jail for stealing the car.

— Marybeth Marengo
Florence

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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.

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