

**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.

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## Siuslaw News

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## LETTERS

### DON'T CONFUSE THE LAW WITH HATRED

Judy Preisler's letter "Hoping For a Hate-Free City" (Aug. 2) quotes numbers that illegal immigrants will contribute federal revenues of \$900 billion over a decade and state and local revenues of \$11.74 billion per year.

While the numbers may possibly be true, they do not tell the whole story. If one agency takes in \$100 in taxes from illegals and another pays out \$200 in benefits, it's simple to see that fewer illegals will cost less. One must always remember Disraeli's maxim: "There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies and statistics."

The Heritage Foundation issued a report in 2013 ([http://thf\\_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2013/pdf/sr133.pdf](http://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2013/pdf/sr133.pdf)), which analyzes the true cost:

"In 2010, the average unlawful immigrant household received around \$24,721 in government benefits and services while paying some \$10,334 in taxes. This generated an average annual fiscal deficit (benefits received minus taxes paid) of around \$14,387 per household. This cost had to be borne by U.S. taxpayers."

I hope Ms. Preisler does not conflate respect for the law with hatred. If I came over and demanded your big screen TV, would you give it to me or call the police?

By her metric, calling the police looks like BOF (Balding Old Fart) hatred.

—Ian Eales  
Florence

### THANK YOU FOR HELPING OUR HUNGRY

All of the volunteers at Mapleton Food Share want to thank Cross Road Church's Backpack For Kids program for the amazing donation of their food pantry.

They said, "We need to continue to support at risk Upriver kids and we can help with food," so they emptied their food pantry and gave all of the food to our summer sack lunch program.

And also, thank you community members and businesses for supporting this summer's Sack Lunch program. We had success with both our GoFundMe page and private donations.

The generosity of this area is overwhelming. When a need is identified, residents step up and show the love for kids. No kid should go hungry.

Hunger in our area is the invisible reality that many are not aware of in their busy comfortable world.

With sincere gratitude,

—Karen Harden, president  
Mapleton Food Share

### MORE CONSIDERATION NEEDED ON RIVER

I awake in the early morning anticipating a beautiful day of fishing on the river. I launch my boat at Siuslaw Marina and I'm the first one on the water. The sky is brightening as I prepare to fish for the bright and beautiful chinook salmon. It's so quiet and peaceful and the water is as smooth as silk.

Twenty minutes later, I hear a distant drone coming up the river and around the bend.

Here they come, the 18- to 20-foot

boats and guides. As I look behind their boats all I can see are waves anywhere from 2 to 4 feet stirring up the water — like a pod of whales going 20 to 30 mph — and not slowing down to pass other boats or docks that line the river.

My boat rocks like a bucking bronco while I try to control it.

And so it starts.

The bigger boats that race up and down the narrow river cause very dangerous conditions for the smaller boats, causing waves to crash into them, causing water to come over the transom.

So much for the tranquil day.

Whatever happened to the courteous boaters who used to fish here? It seems they have been replaced with the "Me First Society" and to heck with anyone else.

Oregon Law 250-020-0221 for the Siuslaw River states: "Slow—no wake, Max. 5 mph for motorboats within 300 feet of boat ramp or moorage from river mouth to Highway Bridge of Mapleton."

Oregon Law 830-305 states: "Operation that endangers or would likely endanger a person or property is prohibited: example, your boat wake causes a boat to nearly capsize."

In September, a fisherman who has fished the river over 20 years almost had his boat capsize due to the wake of some big boats. He is now fearful of fishing on the river because of the recklessness of those who do not follow the law.

Is the sheriff's patrol available to monitor the river and help enforce the law? If nothing is done to solve the speeding problem, a major accident could cause someone to drown or be seriously hurt.

We have beautiful resources in our state. Let's work together so everyone can safely enjoy utilizing our rivers.

—Richard Moore  
Florence

### KUDOS TO SIUSLAW VALLEY FIRE

On July 28, Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue visited our local Harbor Vista Park with their ladder truck at the request of park caretaker Mike Stewart.

On behalf of the Friends of Harbor Vista Park, I wish to thank Fire Chief Jim Langborg for sending three firemen and Fire Marshal Sean Barrett, who greeted the children and us "grown-ups." We are all children when it comes to meeting firefighters and inspecting their red machine.

The firefighters posed with the children for photos, let them sit in the truck and answered all their questions.

They were awarded fireman sticker badges and red helmets.

During the excitement Sean said, pointing to one of the youngsters, "There goes a future firefighter. It's experiences like this that inspire children to become firefighters."

Sean promised to come back next year with his fire truck and we look forward to another special event at the park.

—Mike Allen  
Florence

### SUPPORTING THE LAW ISN'T BEING A HATER

As Judy Preisler stated in her letter

("Hoping For a Hate-Free City," Aug. 2), I, too, think every legal resident should be treated fairly. However, we part ways after that.

I believe we are a nation of laws, not of men/women. I believe we need immigration now, as in our past. However, it needs to be subjected to our manners and laws. In supporting our constitution and our way of life, I do not support unfettered and unrestricted hordes of people just coming here.

This puts me at odds with the viewpoint of Lane County, as well as the Oregon Legislature, as it is currently controlled — and also many citizens who I feel are willfully ignorant of the facts.

As a result, they make judgments based on feelings.

None of us want to see people down and out. It would be nice if we could all have the same level of subsistence in our housing and lifestyle. However, that is not the reality we live with every day.

Some people, through no fault of their own, are either born in the wrong place or are not educated enough to find their way out of poverty. As good Christians, it is our duty to help them through our churches and other organizations.

At the same time, it is not our duty to ignore the law or subvert the law as is currently being done in our state and cities. I urge everyone to do your own research. Don't rely on the straw dogs that are thrown at us by some of our politicians and their lap dogs, like the Center for American Progress — which, in my opinion, is nothing more than a front for the DNC.

I have read many opinion pieces like Ms. Preisler's, and they all share the same song about those who oppose them as being racist or homophobic or such. They'll never just say it, but they lead people down that path.

At the end of Ms. Preisler's piece, she says how it is "morally and ethically right that we stand with our (illegal) immigrant brothers and sisters."

In my opinion, what she's really saying is that we should ignore our laws and help hide the illegal immigrants in our community in order to be "hate free," as she sees it.

And if you don't, you are a hater by her inference.

That is not who I see in this town when it comes to supporting our laws.

—David T. Eckhardt  
Florence

### THANK YOU FOR THE SUPPORT OF SENIORS

A huge thank you to everyone who donated and participated in the garage sale at the Florence Senior Center on Saturday, July 29.

The proceeds of the donated items will be put towards the funds for the building expansion of the Florence Senior Center.

Being a nonprofit organization, the center relies on all of these types of events to raise money for the center.

Once again, thank you all for your participation.

We are truly grateful.

—Sandra White  
Florence Senior Center

## 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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