

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

Published every Wednesday and Saturday at 148 Maple St. in Florence, Lane County, Oregon. A member of the National Newspaper Association and Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association. Periodicals postage paid at Florence, Ore. Postmaster, send address changes to: Siuslaw News, P.O. Box 10, Florence, OR 97439; phone 541-997-3441; fax 541-997-7979. All press releases may be sent to PressReleases@TheSiuslawNews.com.

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DEADLINES:

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, Wednesday 5 p.m. Soundings, Tuesday 5 p.m.

NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

In Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$71; 10-weeks subscription, \$18; Out of Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$94; 10-weeks subscription, \$24; Out of State — 1-year subscription, \$120; Out of United States — 1-year subscription, \$200; E-Edition Online Only (Anywhere) — 1-year subscription, \$65.

Mail subscription includes E-Edition.
Website and E-Edition: www.TheSiuslawNews.com



Sign on Hwy 101 shows that no place is immune to hate

the sign there.

"I don't want to get shot or beaten up," she said. "I just thought you should know."

She hung up.

I took the short drive north on Highway 101 and immediately spotted the sign, written in black marker on the

vidual had enjoyed enough free speech on my dime.

I currently have it at my office if they'd like to come get it. It will remain here until Monday, after which it will be gone much like the eclipse.

It's hard to say whether

accelerated and overtook them — but not before millions of civilians were systematically killed due to hate.

And let me say, had the sign read any differently in regard to hating any other groups, racial slurs or religion affiliations, it would have just as quickly made the trip to my office.

Hatred resides in seeds planted shallow in the soil of ambiguity.

It grows like a weed; easy to spot and just as easy to pull from the ground. However, it also spreads quickly when allowed to, which is its only real means of survival.

To me, the sign I plucked from the highway was one of those weeds.

Ignore it and it will spread.

I hope you will join me in saying: Not in my town.

Write Siuslaw News editor Ned Hickson at nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com or P.O. Box 10, Florence, Ore. 97439.

From the Editor's Desk

NED HICKSON

surface of a large piece of white, pressboard shelving which read:

F.U.!

N__ERS

F__OTS

B__CHES!

I stared at it leaning there against a power pole and facing the highway, like a sandwich board offering a list of daily specials made from soured ingredients of hate.

I snapped a photo and then took the sign down, deciding as a taxpayer that since it was on public property, this indi-

vidual had enjoyed enough free speech on my dime. I currently have it at my office if they'd like to come get it. It will remain here until Monday, after which it will be gone much like the eclipse. It's hard to say whether accelerated and overtook them — but not before millions of civilians were systematically killed due to hate. And let me say, had the sign read any differently in regard to hating any other groups, racial slurs or religion affiliations, it would have just as quickly made the trip to my office. Hatred resides in seeds planted shallow in the soil of ambiguity. It grows like a weed; easy to spot and just as easy to pull from the ground. However, it also spreads quickly when allowed to, which is its only real means of survival. To me, the sign I plucked from the highway was one of those weeds. Ignore it and it will spread. I hope you will join me in saying: Not in my town.

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LETTERS

CLIMATE STATEMENTS LACK OBJECTIVITY

The Wesley Voth opinion piece ("Our Future is Downstream," Aug. 12) has a factual error about the climate report being leaked. The writer was parroting the New York Times, since corrected, when in fact the December revision of the mentioned report has been online since January for any interested party to read.

The report repackages a lot of prior information with very little new. Over and over, the report states that support for its conclusions comes from the Fifth Assessment Report published in 2013 by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

In too many cases, statements lack objectivity. For example, "successful implementation of the first round of Nationally Determined Contributions associated with the Paris Agreement will provide some likelihood of meeting the long-term temperature goal 2°C" is based on a study that concludes that the Paris Agreement marginally increases the odds from zero to 8 percent.

Twelve-to-1 against are long odds and more accurately described as "highly unlikely" rather than "some likelihood."

I encourage readers to download and read "Seductive Simulations? Uncertainty Distribution Around Climate Models" online at www.sciencemag.org/content/355/6326/1248.

This report highlights many of the pitfalls of Global Climate Models [GCM]: Complexity, inability of modelers to test against actual data, models built upon purchased models assumed to be accurate, emotional attachment to one's model, etc.

At best, predicting the weather is an educated guess — and has been ever thus.

— Ian Eales
Florence

ERASING SYMBOLISM

IS ITS OWN KIND OF HATRED

Where do we stop? The new practice of hiding history because it "feels" wrong is quickly becoming the new normal, a detrimental action that will impact future study of factual history.

Should a line be drawn that separates out the "good" history from the "bad" history in order to protect some people from being offended?

The fact is, history is what it is — it has been made and recorded as it was, and no amount of gnashing of teeth can change that fact.

To re-fashion history in order to make it fit within a particular paradigmatic viewpoint is nothing more than politically correct revisionism based on an emotional — not pragmatic — response.

The current atmosphere of cleaning house of any signs or symbols of the confederacy smacks of hatred, most of this hatred being perpetuated by Black Lives Matter and Antifa, two groups the media refuses to name, instead calling them "counter-protesters."

To those groups, history is nothing more than "white privilege" which must be countered and defeated in any manner deemed necessary. If that doesn't meet the definition of racism, I don't know what does.

This censorship of history is a smack in the face of America; it is a reduction of historical context to its emotional foundation, removing the importance of that history and replacing it with the "feel-good" mantra of the progressive left.

What's next? The removal of anything related to George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Quincy Adams or Alexander Hamilton because they were white men who owned slaves?

History must never be defined through a 21st century lens, yet that is exactly what the progressive left is forcing on the public.

Lane County, where we live was named after a racist member of the Klu Klux Klan. Do we remove his name just because 160 years ago slavery was still accepted? Or do we say, "Well, history is sometimes messy, but to understand that history is to understand who we are today and see it as it is, warts and all."

The former will do nothing but prevent a clear and understandable definition of historical context; the latter will enlighten, inform and bring knowledge to those who care enough about history to keep it alive.

George Santayana said it best:

"If we refuse to see history for what it is, we are doomed to keep repeating it."

If we keep selling our history for the payout of "warm fuzzies" we will get what we deserve — an empty cultural definition based in nothing more than feelings.

— Barry Sommer
Florence

MAKING OCHS LOOK

BAD IS UNFAIR

After reading the Siuslaw News article about The Oregon Coast Humane Society ("Past and Present Volunteers, Board Members Clash Over Care,"

Aug. 12), I was shocked and saddened. I felt that the newspaper had only negative things to say about the shelter that cares for so many homeless and abandoned animals in our community.

I am a member of The Oregon Coast Humane Society and a foster parent for the OCHS. I have adopted a dog from OCHS and volunteered two to three days a week for the last eight months. I read that 16 volunteers had been interviewed from the OCHS for the article but I was never contacted for an interview. Instead, the reporters used quotes from a disgruntled former volunteer and failed to reach out to other, non-disgruntled volunteers like myself.

I can tell you that I have seen all of the current dog-workers and their interactions with these animals and it's far from abuse.

I would not volunteer any of my time to OCHS if I felt that the animals were being mistreated.

The article mentioned that they have concrete floors, but fail to mention that the floors are heated and the dogs have blankets and beds that are distributed at night, while older dogs have orthopedic beds at all times. The article also stated that the dogs have small kennels but failed to report that they have exercise time in the large fenced area, multiple times a day, often with other dogs that are friendly with each other.

Volunteers are allowed to take the dogs on the trails around the humane society and socialize with the dogs in the fenced area.

Did the reporters even notice that most of the dogs at the shelter know basic commands such as sit and stay? This is because the dedicated workers spend countless hours working on obedience in hopes that the dogs will some day find a forever home.

The newspaper can try to make the OCHS look bad for having too many cats on every level, but each cat is loved and cared for with ample space to spend time outside of cages.

The workers at the humane society truly care for these animals and want to see them go to wonderful homes to spend the rest of their lives.

I encourage anyone who is interested in helping these animals to take some time to volunteer at the humane society, or consider adopting/fostering an animal.

OCHS was voted the No. 1 place to volunteer in Florence and its not just because of the precious animals; it's also due to the outstanding staff.

— Candace Degman
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 only be published at the discretion of the editor.

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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See **MORE LETTERS 5A**