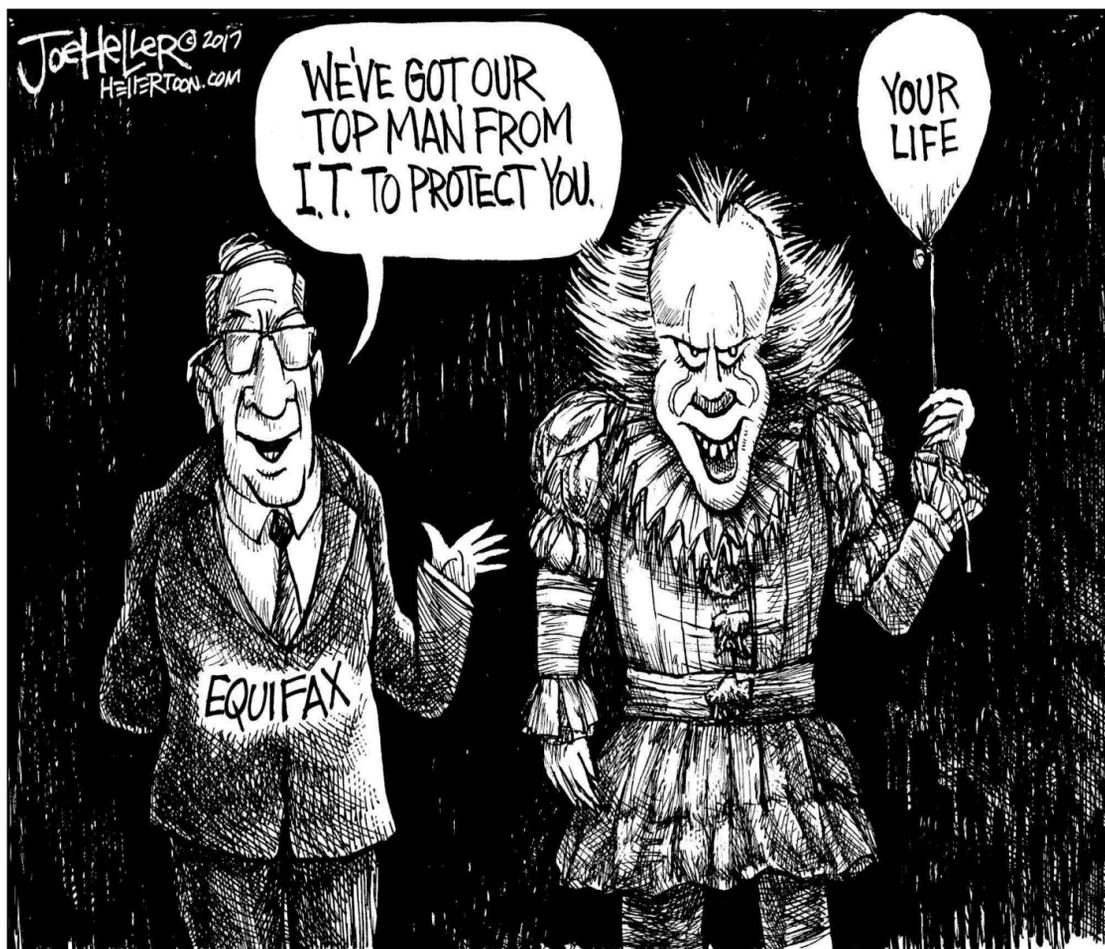


Siuslaw News
P.O. Box 10
Florence, OR 97439

Opinion



USPS# 497-660 Copyright 2017 © Siuslaw News

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.

James Rand
Jenna Bartlett
Ned Hickson
Erik Chalhoub

Oregon Group Publisher 541-265 8571
Publisher, ext. 318
Editor, ext. 313
Consulting Editor 831-761-7353
Email: echalhoub@register-pajaronian.com
Marketing Director, ext. 326
Office Supervisor, ext. 312
Production Supervisor
Press Manager

Susan Gutierrez
Cathy Dietz
Ron Annis
Jeremy Gentry

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

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.

Send letters to:
nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com

WHERE TO WRITE

Pres. Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
NW
Washington, D.C. 20500
Comments: 202-456-1111
Switchboard: 202-456-1414
FAX: 202-456-2461
TTY/TDD Comments:
202-456-6213
www.whitehouse.gov

Gov. Kate Brown
160 State Capitol
900 Court St.
Salem, Ore. 97301-4047
Governor's Citizens' Rep.
Message Line:
503-378-4582
www.oregon.gov/gov

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden
221 Dirksen Senate Office
Bldg
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-5244
541-431-0229
www.wyden.senate.gov

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley
313 Hart Senate Office
Bldg
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-3753/FAX: 202-228-3997
541-465-6750
www.merkley.senate.gov

U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio
(4th Dist.)
2134 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-6416
541-269-2609
541-465-6732
www.defazio.house.gov

State Sen. Arnie Roblan
(Dist. 5)
900 Court St. NE - S-417
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1705
FAX: 503-986-1080
Email: Sen.ArnieRoblan@state.or.us

State Rep. Caddy McKeown
(Dist. 9)
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1409
Email: rep.caddymckeown@state.or.us

West Lane County Commissioner Jay Bozievich
125 E. Eighth St.
Eugene, OR 97401
541-682-4203
FAX: 541-682-4616
Email:
Jay.Bozievich@co.lane.or.us

LETTERS

APPRECIATING OUR CONSTITUTION

Though we've had 230 years of Constitutional rule, our understanding of what that document truly represents, and how it has shaped the global society, is not really clear.

What did our founding fathers (and mothers) mean when they crafted it? It boils down to a simple set of basic principles that we know as the Bill of Rights.

The first 10 amendments are that Bill of Rights, seen by the founders as the primary and wholly necessary motivator of the Constitution. And of that Bill of Rights, the first and most important one — the one from which all others flow — is the one which enshrines as a right of man those freedoms and liberties which allow me to write this and you to read it.

Adams, Jefferson, Hancock, Franklin and all the rest of the 55 signers knew that if there was no freedom of speech, press or religion, there could not be the federal republic known as America.

The Articles of Confederation were the original glue tying the states together during and immediately after the revolutionary war.

Long on states rights and very short on central control, when it came time for the "Continental" Congress — or Confederate Congress as some preferred to call it — to create a real constitution, much whining and complaining ensued about the lack of a central or federal government structure in those articles. It became obvious something would have to be created that would stand up to the challenges from those charged with crafting it.

It was agreed that a Bill of Rights would be created as a basis for the new Constitution. Up to then, most discussion about the new government entailed talks on the minutia of how the government would be run; term lengths, salaries, judgeships, legislative structure and the like.

Not until the introduction of the Bill of Rights did the idea of a ratified Constitution that had a separate and unifying federal entity capable of controlling the states come to fruition.

James Madison was the primary pen, using concepts from Thomas Paine to the Bible, always remembering that these rights had to address the persecution suffered at the hands of the British.

The 13 states too, had to believe that these 10 rights would protect and liberate them, ultimately deciding that standing together was better than hanging individually.

The Constitution is a bill of rights

that stands for the rights of all, as well as the Bill of Rights for all time.

There is a reason the first 10 amendments are the Bill of Rights, and (to paraphrase a great local philosopher) the pursuit of its meaning to define ourselves must, God willing, continue.

— Barry Sommer
Florence

NO BOUNDARIES OUR CONSTITUTION CAN'T ENCOMPASS

Ned Hickson's editorial on the value of our sacred Constitution "Pursuit Begun By Forefathers Continues," Sept. 16) and Florence Mayor Joe Henry's proclamation honoring (with the Daughters of the American Revolution) Constitution Week from Sept. 17-23, are essential in the growth and health of our American republic.

However, having sung the anthem of accomplishment to our Framers, we must also ponder the question: "What is the meaning and interpretation of this 230 year young document?"

Moreover, there are two major schools of thought regarding this greatest of all parchments of freedom. We either interpret the 1787 "inspired text" by its original intent, or see it as a "living, breathing" tome changeable by Court fiat reflecting the times in which we live.

When we do the latter, there are no boundaries it cannot encompass, as Thomas Jefferson has enunciated.

He also was the one who caused a revolution of freedom in America, stating that the truth written and enumerated in the text should not be expanded (except through the amendment process), and should strictly be a limited interpretation in order to protect our God-given liberties.

Sadly, in today's schools, these concepts are foreign to our young people. In fact, the former seems more acceptable than the latter concept of interpretation stated earlier.

For instance, what does the "general welfare" clause of the Constitution mean?

Today's understanding is appropriations for any project for the nebulous "public good," which has given us, through our irresponsible politicians, \$100 to \$200 trillions of debt.

James Madison, in the unread Federalist Papers, says that the general welfare clause (and this was the Supreme Court's interpretation until 1936) is only linked to what is "enumerated" in the document itself — and nothing more.

It is good and proper that we speak and proclaim Constitution Week.

However, would it not be more fitting that we learn the Constitution's true meaning?

I think the men and women of our founding generation would be appalled at what they bequeathed to this generation through the blood of patriots — and what we have left of the Constitution to posterity.

—Joel Marks
Florence

VALUE IN LEARNING ABOUT CONSEQUENCE

In response to the question Gail Katz posed in her Letter (Sept 16) regarding taxpayer-funded childcare, there are other options right here in Florence.

The Boys and Girls Club offers affordable care with great programs. Their website is user friendly (www.bgcwlc.org).

Those who are facilitating the programs sincerely care about children and offer them opportunities to learn life skills and participate in sports — while having fun.

My children had paid child care until they were old enough to gradually have unsupervised time and learn responsibilities, such as helping with chores around the house and beginning easy meal preparation for dinner. Taking on age-appropriate responsibilities prepares them to become responsible self-sufficient adults.

Our obligation, as parents, is to only have the children we can afford to raise. Taxpayer-funded birth control is readily available. Once we have children, it is our duty to teach them how to be responsible — not only by example, but by providing them opportunities to learn that inappropriate behavior has consequences.

— Jacquie Beveridge
Florence

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.