

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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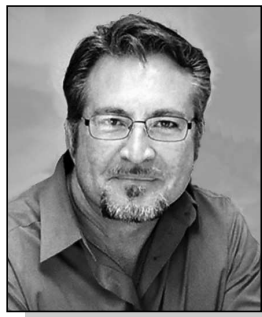
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Forever indebted to those who serve

grow up in an era that was essentially between wars, leaving a generation of kids whose only knowledge of battle came from history books,

Shield” and “SCUD missiles” entered our vernacular — and we witnessed live coverage of war on our television sets for the first time in our lives.

regardless of how we may feel about war itself.

We are indebted to everyone who has been, who is now and whoever will be, willing to sacrifice themselves in service to our nation.

Our debt to their duty exists well beyond the realm of politics, partisanship, personal agendas or approval numbers.

It’s about the fact that, thanks to our veterans, we occasionally provide a generation with the chance to grow up without knowing war.

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From the Editor's Desk

NED HICKSON

classic films and the occasional tale momentarily pried from tight-lipped fathers and grandparents.

It wasn’t until my late 30s, when our nation’s focus shifted from places like Vietnam and Korea to the shifting sands of the Middle East, that terms like “Operation: Desert

And we have essentially been at war ever since.

Though as Americans we have the right to disagree on what justifies going to war, who may benefit from it or what the moral consequences may be, we cannot ever overlook the sacrifice made by those who answer the call

LETTERS

DON'T WANT TO SAY GOODBYE TO FLORENCE

I love the Florence area but will be spending my money elsewhere unless the rampant thefts at local campgrounds are stopped.

I have been coming to the area from Langley, B.C., with my family for eight years now to enjoy the ORV opportunities that the city has on its doorstep.

We average six weeks in Florence each year and, by my conservative estimate, spend anywhere between \$1,000-\$2,000 per week at local businesses. My hard-earned money is not only spent at Florence Yamaha and Sportsman Honda, but also at the many local restaurants, grocery stores, gas stations and in antique shops and movie theater on rainy days.

Looking at the number of ORV enthusiasts there are at Jessie Honeyman and Driftwood II campgrounds, my math tells me that this adds up to a significant part of Florence’s economy.

Until recently, the only thefts that we would hear about would be the occasional unlocked jerrycan or cooler.

Although unpleasant, not enough to ruin a holiday.

This past October, however, my family, along with three other families, were staying at Honeyman State Park for seven days. During our stay, there were lock cables cut and items stolen every single night.

This includes the theft of an ATV.

One of the families in our party had a heavy-duty cable lock cut only 3 feet from where his head was while he was sleeping. They only lost a couple of full jerrycans but the frustration and feelings of violation still exist.

I highly recommend that the City of Florence make it a high priority to address the issue with state and county

police, as well as the state parks to end this crime wave. Myself and a number of the families that we regularly travel with to Florence with have agreed that we will give it one last shot as we already have a trip booked in December.

But if anything is stolen while we are there, we sadly feel the need to say goodbye to the Florence area and establish a different riding location down the coast as our destination of choice.

I travel 600 miles to Florence’s outdoor mecca, as do many others who travel similar distances. Please don’t let a few criminals drive this significant contribution to the local economy away — leaving local business owners and their employees to suffer the most.

—Kelly Dayman
Langley, British Columbia

ENOUGH

The NRA and the gun lobby are not organizations that are protecting 2nd Amendment rights; they are protecting the profits of gun manufacturers.

Enough.

In Texas last Sunday, 26 innocent souls were lost due to violence with the use of a gun and a dozen people were injured. Every day in this country, 90 human beings are lost due to an individual with a gun. A gun has no other purpose but to kill — someone or something. A semi-automatic or automatic gun is a weapon of war, with the sole purpose of killing as many people as possible in the shortest amount of time.

Assault weapons should be banned from being owned by anyone outside of the military. All high capacity magazines of ammunition should be banned as well.

All weapons should be registered.

Anyone attempting to buy ammunition should be required to show the reg-

istration for the gun for which they are buying that ammunition.

No registration, no ammo.

The 2nd Amendment gives you the right to own a gun, but says nothing about laws or restrictions on types of guns or ammo.

It’s time.

—Marybeth Marengo
Florence

TAKE PRIDE IN OUR COUNTY AND CITY

Do you see trash, bottles and cans littering the roadside in front of your house?

Why not take a few minutes and walk your property where it abuts the roadside? Or walk another 10 yards beyond your property line in each direction and pick up the garbage?

Those of us who live next to county roads certainly cannot count on Lane County to do it.

I questioned our Lane County Commissioner Jay Bozevich some time ago about getting the jail inmates to do it. After all, it doesn’t seem they are doing much anyway.

His reply was something along the lines of not being allowed by the unions to have staff out there watching the inmates.

And the blackberries and Scotchbroom growing by the road-sides? The county barely mows that anymore, apparently due to budget constraints again.

I guess I’ll have to take on that myself, too.

So, don’t wait for someone else to do it.

Take pride in our county and city.

—Dana Rodet
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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