

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.

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 Chalhou

Oregon Group Publisher 541-265 8571
Publisher, ext. 318
Editor, ext. 313
Consulting Editor 831-761-7353
Email: echalhou@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, \$76; 6-month in-county, \$52; 10-weeks subscription, \$23; Out of Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$99; 6-month out-of-county, \$65; 10-weeks subscription, \$29; Out of State — 1-year subscription, \$125; E-Edition Online Only (Anywhere) — 1-year subscription, \$71.

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

Walking the fine line of ‘The Post’

When journalists watch films such as “The Post” or “Spotlight,” they see how dedicated reporters, editors, copyeditors and an entire newspaper staff can take a kernel of truth and transform it into a paradigm-shifting story. In 2015’s “Spotlight,” a team of four investigative journalists learns to work with a new editor in the light of scandal within the religious community. In “The Post,” opening this weekend, an entire newspaper hangs in the balance as an editor and publisher seek to invoke freedom of the press. Both films are about the search for truth, the verification of sources and the inevitable pushback from people, often in places of authority, who do not wish to fully inform the public.

For me, “The Post” was about much more than that. Alongside the story about journalistic heroes fighting for the freedom of the press is the story of Katherine Graham (played by Meryl Streep), publisher of The Washington Post. “The Post” draws attention to the presence of women in the newsroom, the streets and the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. If they are there, they are few and far between. Except for Graham, who commands a room in her social life, but struggles with nerves and pressure in the



Siuslaw News

Chantelle Meyer
Features Editor

boardroom.

Taking on the controversial story of the Pentagon Papers is her debut, her coming out, her grand entrance into what is clearly a man’s world. By the end of the film, she has taken her rightful place at the head of The Post, not as the legacy of her father’s daughter or her husband’s wife, but as Kay Graham, herself.

This could not be done without a stellar supporting cast of journalists and her executive editor, Ben Bradlee, played by Tom Hanks.

While Bradlee and his reporters work to gather information, Graham must prepare herself to be the only woman in the boardroom. She rehearses key points, she takes notes, she takes a deep breath — but she rarely gets the chance to speak.

In short, she struggles with what pop culture describes as “imposter syndrome,” a term used to describe someone who feels insufficient in their knowledge, even if they have prepared for the test, earned their degree or qualified for

that position. It is something many women experience.

But Graham keeps going, often with a smile, even in the face of verbal opposition. She thanks her naysayers “for their frankness” as they tell her time and again that she is destroying the legacy of The Post.

For most of the film, Graham walks a fine line between hostess and publisher. As long as she doesn’t involve herself too much in the running of her newspaper, she can be both. But she must choose between her longtime friendship with the Washington elite’s Robert McNamara, who created the Vietnam Study Task Force in 1967 — which ultimately created the Pentagon Papers — and her role as a representative of the free press.

When Bradlee gets hold of the classified study, Graham ultimately must choose who she wants to be.

“If we live in a world where the government can tell us what we can and cannot print, then The Washington Post as we know it has already ceased

to exist,” Bradlee says.

It may sound melodramatic, like a line from “Star Wars” about the empire already winning. And maybe, in the Nixon era, it seemed that way. But thanks to the efforts of The New York Times, The Washington Post and journalists like Bradlee and Graham, the media reaffirmed its right to freedom of the press.

In the end, Graham affirms both the role of the newspaper — for “outstanding news collection and reporting” and “dedication to the welfare of the nation and to the principles of the free press” — and herself. As she says, “We will carry on in the tradition that has been so well set.”

As a journalist and a woman, it is a legacy I can look up to.

On Sunday, Jan. 14, Siuslaw News Editor Ned Hickson and Features Editor Chantelle Meyer will participate in a Q&A at City Lights Cinemas at the end of the 3 p.m. showing of “The Post.” Joining them will be Mel Gurtov, one of the authors of the historic Pentagon Papers, who will introduce the film and take part in the discussion.

Write Siuslaw News Features Editor Chantelle Meyer at cmeyer@thesiuslawnews.com or *clo Siuslaw News, 148 maple St., Florence, Ore. 97439.*

LETTERS

LUCKY TO HAVE DEDICATED FIREFIGHTERS

My wife and I have four hardwire smoke detectors with battery backups in our house. Over the past 17 years, we have had to have the batteries replaced numerous times — and when one device goes off at 2 a.m. in the morning, it causes stress.

I could once do the replacement myself. But I no longer climb ladders, so have always resorted to calling an electrician whose home-call charge is at least \$75, plus then the cost of the battery.

A few days ago, my wife contacted the Siuslaw Fire Department asking if they had someone that could replace a battery because it was going off and beeping loudly. That same day, Tony Miller, the Interim Fire Protection Officer, came over.

The first thing he did when he walked into our house was to use a device to check for carbon monoxide. He then changed the battery in the detector that continued to beep. He then mentioned that the detectors had a life of about 10 years and ours were 17 years old.

He then asked if we wanted to find a replacement or have him replace the old with new. Today, he showed up with four new detectors with a lifespan of 10 years with an internal battery that cannot be replaced — so no more changing batteries.

This is a program that the State Fire Marshal has in place and it is no charge to a family.

Tony was professional, very courteous and gave us some insight into firefighter’s training and his duties as the Interim Fire Protection Officer.

Florence is fortunate to have such a dedicated individual working for us.

—Win Jolley
Florence

MORE STUDY NEEDED ON WATER ISSUES

Two great lakes, one in good health and one that has chronic symptoms. With that said, the Dunes City Council, in my opinion, took action to draw water from the healthy lake without doing due diligence.

As a good neighbor, I’m not against Siltcoos Lake for obtaining good drinking water by using Woahink Lake as a source. But what is disturbing to me is that I feel the Dunes City Council should have ordered a new environmental impact report before dropping the gavel.

But they chose not to, which may come

back as a problem in the future.

Again, I am not against good clean drinking water for Siltcoos Lake residents. But I believe Dunes City Council rushed into a large impacting decision by not doing a study on healthy Woahink Lake.

—John Colwell
Dunes City

FOCUSING ON LOCAL ISSUES HAS BROADER IMPACT

Regarding Michael Allen’s Letter to the Editor (“Climate Change Underreported by Local Media,” Jan. 10):

I declined to participate in the nationwide EMAC effort because the “other climate mayors across our state” were initially folks like the Mayor of San Francisco and Portland, and was as much a reaction to the actions taken by President Trump in relation to the Paris conference as it was out of concern for the environment.

I have struggled hard since becoming mayor to keep anyone from using our city government to further any political agenda (and that includes mine).

Another aspect of my decision was that neither the Mayor of San Francisco nor I can have much impact on Global Warming, and I have worked hard to see that our staff and committees focus on things that will support the work plan of the our city.

I was happy to support the efforts of our local EMAC to regulate Styrofoam in our community because that has a direct impact on the City of Florence.

I believe I was elected to serve the Citizens of Florence and to guide the efforts of the City Council and staff in the responsibilities set forth in our City Charter and Code.

Those responsibilities focus primarily on providing essential services to the City and making it a better place to live.

Nowhere do I see a mandate to support any regional or global effort that is partisan in nature or one that furthers anyone’s political agenda.

—Joe Henry
Mayor of Florence

PASSAGE OF M101 ASSURES AGAINST COST SHIFTING

Katie Prosser’s Letter to the Editor (“War on the Working Class,” Jan. 10) unfortunately confuses or conflates many issues and her efforts to place stigma on Measure 101 aren’t founded in fact.

A couple of examples:

1) The bicycle or vehicle taxes, have nothing to do with M101.

2) Health insurance providers of the Legislature are not exempted from M101. The exemption for Medicare resulted from federal law, not state choice.

Every worker insured through an employer would expect to benefit from M101 passage through lower overall healthcare premium prices. Every person buying “individual market” coverage will see lower premiums (and by “lower” I mean reduced from what the price increase trend would otherwise be.)

Why? By keeping the health care costs of 400,000 new (as of 2014) Medicaid enrollees from being shifted over to Oregon “group” and “individual” market policies should they become uninsured by repealing M101.

Passage of M101 accomplishes this: Using 95 percent of federal — rather than state — funding.

If the 400,000 have no such coverage, their ER charges and other provider costs will be shifted over to all other carriers using those same providers. In turn, the carriers would seek higher approved rates from the state.

These lower premiums are confirmed by a major 2016 study looking at national impacts of the recent Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act.

Oregon and many states adopted such expansion while many GOP-controlled states rejected it. The study compared 91 pairs of counties, each pair having similar health demographics.

The only difference for each pair was respective location for one county in a state that expanded Medicaid versus rejecting such expansion.

The study result: “Marketplace premiums in states that have expanded Medicaid are, on average, substantially lower than in states that have not ... We estimate that Marketplace premiums are about 7 percent lower in expansion states...” (Underlined in original text.)

The study, conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services, and titled “The Effect of Medicaid Expansion on Marketplace Premiums” is at <https://aspe.hhs.gov/pdf-report/effectmedicaid-expansion-marketplace-premiums>.

Granted, healthcare finance is not a simple issue. But a “no” vote only promotes immediate insurance price instability — and risks increasing premiums.

—Rand Dawson
Siltcoos Lake

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