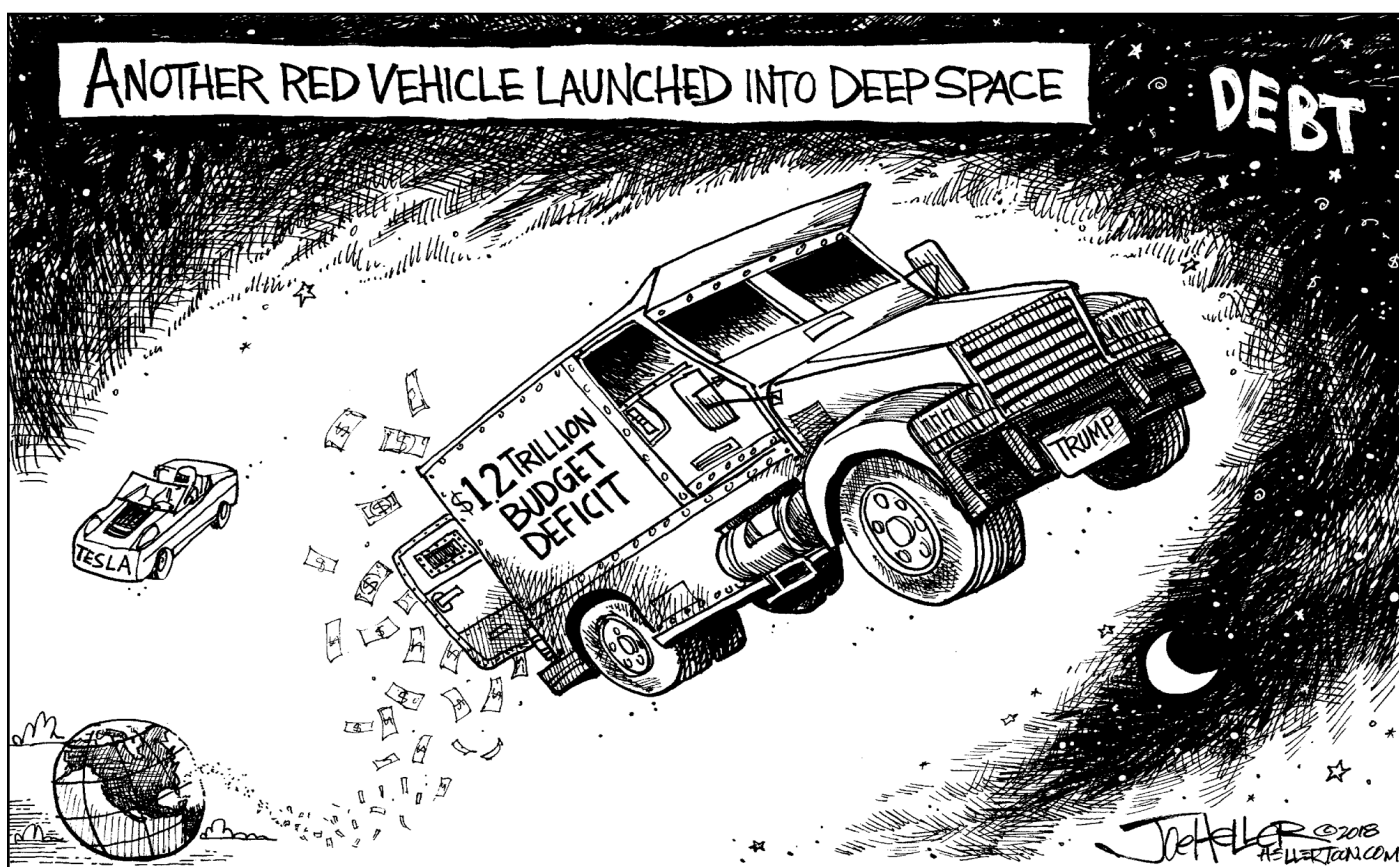


Siuslaw News
 P.O. Box 10
 Florence, OR 97439

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.

Jenna Bartlett
 Ned Hickson
 Erik Chalhouh

Susan Gutierrez
 Cathy Dietz
 Ron Annis
 Jeremy Gentry

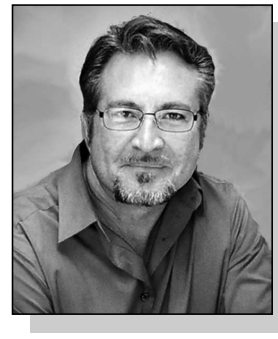
Publisher, ext. 318
 Editor, ext. 313
 Consulting Editor 831-761-7353
 Email: echalhouh@register-pajaronian.com
 Marketing Director, ext. 326
 Office Supervisor, ext. 312
 Production Supervisor
 Press Manager

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

Our community is full of ‘revolutionaries’



spontaneously arranged as people brought in fare to share, including a basket of donut holes from Dirk at Big Dog Donuts, who seemed to be the only one *not* phased by the early-morning hour.

As people warmed their hands around cups of coffee, in that same moment, it was obvious that even if Florence had been named among the top five — and had eventually even won — it would not have been a defining moment for our community.

That’s because Florence is defined by the kinds of people

and yes, even Democrats and Republicans.

The room was a microcosm of ideas, experience and diversity that defines Florence, fuels its momentum and provides those fortunate enough to call this place “home” with inspiration on a daily basis.

It’s those qualities that caught the eye of Amanda Brinkman and her producers of Small Business Revolution in the first place.

And they are qualities that will continue to define us because, ultimately, we are a community of revolutionaries.

From the Editor’s Desk

NED HICKSON

an apple fritter crowd-surfed its way through the gathering as individuals broke off pieces and passed it along, waiting for the big announcement.

When it finally came, and Florence wasn’t named, there was an audible groan of disappointment.

But it was short lived.

represented — albeit a little bleary-eyed — by that cross section of community members gathered around the TV screen.

Men and women, millennials and seniors; blue collar and white color; morning people and not-so morning people; business owners and patrons;

My wife and I were among the 50 or so people who swatted at their alarms this past Tuesday morning before heading to River Roasters coffee shop to be on hand for the 4:15 a.m. announcement of the Small Business Revolution’s five-town list of finalists.

Gathered around a large-screen TV brought in for the occasion was a cross section of our community, from small business owners and city officials, to local media and area residents. A food table was

LETTERS

ANIMALS ALSO HAVE RIGHT TO LIVE

I know I’m far from the only one disgusted by the actions of ODFW and Greentrees concerning the local bears that were killed.

If you’re a resident of Florence, you’re aware that we have bears living among us. I’d like to know why this landscaper was so close to the bears that he was swiped at?

The actions of the bears that were described are those of an animal warning a person to back off. Nowhere in the article does it say that the bears attacked or tried to attack anyone.

So why didn’t the landscaper pay attention and *back off*?

What has Greentrees done to address the bear issues? They most certainly knew they were there. If bears don’t have access to food then they don’t stick around. Using bear bangers is one great method to make bears feel unwelcome.

ODFW, according to the article, claims the “situation in Greentrees has developed over several years.” So what has Greentrees and its residents done to keep this disgusting event from happening?

Apparently, not enough.

Oregon has an appalling record of environmental protection. The horrendous clearcut forests don’t provide habitat for wildlife and only fragment what little is left.

Meanwhile, the ever increasing human population and sprawl that are clearing our gorgeous coastal forests at an alarming rate only increase wildlife’s desperation to find food.

These animals have as much right to life as we do and don’t deserve to be terminated at the whim of the ODFW and places like Greentrees.

I can only hope the actions of ODFW and Greentrees will make the Florence community think hard about what it’s loosing by destroying it’s coastal forests

and killing it’s wildlife.

Personally, if I wanted to be living with humans only and safe from anything remotely “wild,” I’d be living in downtown Portland ... not on the Oregon coast.

—Jill Rick
 Florence

CLARIFYING TO TO GIVE CREDIT WHERE IT’S DUE

We are appreciative of the coverage of Top Hydraulics’ ribbon cutting ceremony in Wednesday’s edition of Siuslaw News (Feb. 7).

The event was an important opportunity for us to thank everyone involved, and to become better known in Florence.

However, the following wording in the article may lead to a misconception, and it was not using my exact words: “‘It was a herculean effort,’ according to Klaus Witte, ‘with careful coordination between the City of Florence officials and contractors playing a key role in the company’s creation.’ The result, Klaus said, was a company that can provide living wage jobs to the community.”

Allow me to clarify:

As much as we appreciate its efforts in our recent expansion, the City of Florence and local contractors had no involvement in creating the company, and Top Hydraulics has been providing living wage jobs for the community since 2011.

When the business was taking up over 3,000 square feet of our home outside of town in 2016, working quarters became very tight. There was a constant stream of delivery vehicles and we decided that it was time to either scale back or move into a larger facility. While scaling back would have been convenient for us personally, on the other hand, it is natural for a business to strive for expansion.

We could have expanded our business a lot faster by moving into a larger town with a larger pool of qualified workers,

but we love being in this area and decided to pay it forward to the community by building a manufacturing facility in town.

We started talking to the city about buying land in September 2016, the contract was ratified in October, we broke ground in November and we moved into this facility in late March 2017.

What was special about this project is how everybody involved came together to make it happen, and make it happen on schedule.

We cannot thank everyone involved enough, and we are happy and proud to be members of our community.

— Klaus Witte
 Top Hydraulics, Inc.
 Florence

TWO IDEAS FOR OUR HUMBLE TOWN

Here are a couple of ideas I think are worth considering.

What if, in the evening, after the high school is closed for the night, a second shift came in — paid workers, no less, who work an overnight shift and set up cots in the gymnasium where homeless people could gather starting at maybe 9 p.m. Lights out at 10 p.m., then sleep until 5 a.m., then out of the building by 6 a.m.

After all, the gym is there, 24/7.

Secondly, I heard a story about someone picking up trash outside a school in another town. This person got stopped by the police and acknowledged the fact of the activity when questioned.

“Wait right here,” said the officer. He returned from the patrol car and handed the good Samaritan a certificate for a free pizza. The certificate said, “Caught in the Act! Doing it Right!”

How do you like that?

— Ivy Medow
 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.

Send letters to:
nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com

WHERE TO WRITE

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>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</p> | <p>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</p> |
| <p>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</p> | <p>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@oregonlegislature.gov</p> |
| <p>U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden
 221 Dirksen Senate Office
 Bldg
 Washington, DC 20510
 202-224-5244
 541-431-0229
 www.wyden.senate.gov</p> | <p>State Rep. Caddy McKeown
 (Dist. 9)
 900 Court St. NE
 Salem, OR 97301
 503-986-1409
 Email: rep.caddymckeown@state.or.us</p> |
| <p>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</p> | <p>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</p> |