

March from 9A

Smith has been a part of the debate for years, with his experiences from guns coming from his time in the Vietnam War.

"I'm too old to be here for the end of this dialogue," he said. "But certainly, when I see students and others out

there, and a million kids initiating this dialogue and trying to bring some reason to this situation, I feel very positive about it.

"But it won't end today."

Editor's Note: See the neighboring panel for additional dialogue on the gun control issue.

MORE ON THIS ISSUE

While there are multiple polls that give hope for bipartisan solutions to the gun control issue, a further look into those polls give reason for pause.

An October 2017 NPR poll found that 91 percent of Democrats, along with 76 percent of Independents and 70 percent of Republicans, agree on banning "assault-style" weapons.

The problem is in agreeing on what the definition of an assault weapons is; the meaning of the word can change, depending on point of view and knowledge of the subject. Some gun reform advocates lump "semi-automatic" guns into the "assault weapon" moniker, which would essentially ban the majority of guns in America, including rifles and pistols.

For many gun advocates, the definition of "assault weapon" consists of a gun that has both automatic and semi-automatic components. Since the selling of fully automatic guns was banned in 1986, "assault weapons" are already disallowed.

The issue is further muddied by how different state and federal legislatures define "assault weapons," as well as individual states cre-

ating different regulations based on their own definition of the term.

A Fox News poll released this week found that 72 percent of registered voters believe that the legal age to buy guns should be raised to 21. (The poll did not break down political affiliation.)

While some retailers in America are voluntarily making the switch to that minimum age, some gun advocates point out that individuals can sign up for the military at age 18 and responsibly use guns.

The same Fox News poll also found that 84 percent of respondents favored mental health check requirements for gun ownership.

However, the questions remain as to what criteria should be used to deny someone the right to gun ownership based on mental illness, how those checks are implemented and the duration of the denial of weapons. Organizations like the NRA and ACLU have opposed in tandem such measures.

In Saturday's edition, the Siuslaw News will examine further some of the issues raised about the gun debate, and the accuracy of the claims made on both sides.

Easter Buffet
Surfside Restaurant

Appetizers & Salads

- Deviled Eggs (Vegetarian)
- Grilled Sausage Platter w/ Dipping Mustards
- Pork and Wasabi Dumplings
- Mixed Green Salad w/ Choice of Dressings
- *(Vegetarian/Vegan)
- Spring Glow Salad

Entrees

- Mango & Ginger Chutney Glazed Ham
- Beef Medallions in Umami Mushroom Demi Glaze
- Coconut Cod w/ Sweet Chili Cream Sauce

Sides

- Lemony Orzo Pilaf w/ Spinach (Vegetarian/Vegan)
- Garlic Mashed Potatoes
- Roasted Vegetables

Sweet Shoppe

- Cinnamon Swirl Bread Pudding,
- Assorted Cheesecakes and Baked Goods

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\$189,900 BH7649 ML#18187251

FEATURED LISTING
Beach Cottage. Come play at the beach. Eateries & market nearby. Live full or part time. New gravel driveway
1 or 2 Bdrm, 1 Ba 840 sq ft
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