

**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.

## Memories of a man for all seasons

### GUEST VIEWPOINT

By DELBERT PHELPS  
SIUSLAW PIONEER MUSEUM DIRECTOR

My first memory of Wilbur Ternyik came in 1961 or 62, when our local Jay Cee club was fighting the takeover of the sand dunes from Florence to Coos Bay by the federal government to create the Senator Neuberger National Park.

We (the Jay Cees) were attending a State Convention in Grants Pass and our intent was to get the Oregon State Jay Cees to oppose this land grab, and then at the Jay Cee national convention get them to oppose the park proposal as well on Capitol Hill.

Each of our delegation members at the Grants Pass convention were given 15 or 20 small plastic bags full of sand to sell for .50 cents each.

When it came time for our presentation, our choice for spokesperson was Wilbur Ternyik. This very well-dressed young man when recognized by the speaker (State Jay Cee President) got up, introduced himself and proceed-

ed — very quietly and so well spoken — to tell everyone in attendance why those sand dunes should not be made into a national park.

He went on to explain how, by way of his local club, he was selling all of the sand and that, soon, there would be no sand for a park.

It hit the point so well that everyone stood and applauded. As a result, the motion to take the issue to the National Convention passed unanimously.

He got my attention and gained my respect from that point on. And as it turned out, we became good friends and I was very proud to serve with him later in life on the Florence City Council and Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association.

For two years, we drove or flew each month to a different port or town on the

Oregon coast for the OCZMA meetings. We talked about many subjects and I always came home with a new perspective.

Often, I would go to Wilbur and Joyce's home to strategize on issues that were important to both of us. Going to their home was like going into a museum; I was always in awe at what I saw.

Later, when I started contemplating the development of Florentine Estates, I chose to use Wilbur as my wetlands consultant.

It proved to be one of the best moves our company ever made. Without his expertise in this field, and Joyce's memory and file keeping abilities, Florentine Estates could not have evolved into the community it is today — and home to an 18-acre wetland restoration program within the city of Florence.

Due to natural erosion and scouring by the creek, the wetland was shrinking in size and turning to upland.

Wilbur devised a mitigation program that, when approved by Division of State Lands and the feds, produced a 5-to-1 increase in wetland return for the site. Wilbur was very proud of that accomplishment.

As I was of his efforts.

DSL showcased the project for many years as one of its most successful restorations.

When Kathy Bridges contacted me a few years ago and told me they needed a home for Wilbur's bronze bust that was commissioned by Senator Hatfield, and that Wilbur wondered if the Siuslaw Pioneer Museum could find room for it, I told her "We will make the room."

And we did.

Wilbur was fair, honest, kind, a loving husband and so much more.

He was truly a man for all seasons, and I'm proud to say a friend for 58 years.

### LETTERS

#### ONLY FACTS

Bravo for Shirley Nelson's Letter to the Editor "Guns Only Have One Purpose" (April 14).

Finally, a letter which only presents pure facts and is not bogged down by a politically motivated one.

I am sick of letters that push their opinions filled with hate comments against "Liberals" and which ignore any blame on their own side of the issue.

I also find it appalling that people brag about killing anything, such as one letter that bragged about killing animals.

I just hope we get more clear-thinking people like Shirley Nelson.

—Jean Perry  
Florence

#### MISUSE IS THE GUN PROBLEM

Regarding Shirley Nelson's letter to the editor (April 14) "Guns Only Have One Purpose," I found it hilarious on one hand but very sad on the other hand.

I don't know how anyone can say automobiles, drugs and matches have specific purposes, and that if there are deaths related to them it is due to the misuse of those things — then go on thinking guns have but one purpose (to kill or wound) and not realize it is the *misuse* of guns that causes the deaths of school children and others.

*Misuse* is the key word, whether we are thinking automobiles, drugs, matches or guns as being "killers."

Actually, I find it more sad than hilarious that some folks can't — or won't — see that misuse of so many things in this world cause pain and suffering to so many. In every case mentioned above, the auto, drugs, matches or guns cause nothing on their own.; a human being is responsible if there is a misuse.

We shouldn't blame items, but rather the *misuse* of those items.

—Tony Cavarano  
Florence

#### APPRECIATION FOR OUR NEWSPAPER

Siuslaw News editor Ned Hickson's quote "Some feel we try too hard to straddle the middle without taking a stance" in his editorial ("Your Feedback Makes Us Better," April 14) has got to be about the best judgment an editor can receive from his readers in a small town

newspaper.

I read up to three newspapers a day and really appreciate our local paper. Growing up in a small town and working in the local newspaper, I gained an early appreciation for how hard it is to be an editor in a small town. Over the years, I've seen them come and go and always dislike the ones that tried to shove their opinions down the readers' throat.

Thank you for your news reporting and honest editorials.

If there's an opposing opinion or complaints on an issue, you always seem to print both sides.

Keep up the good work.

—Bruce Yelle  
Florence

#### THE FEC ROCKS

I have had the great pleasure of working with the FEC over the past two years, to layer into place the Watercolor Society of Oregon's Spring 2018, Convention, Exhibition and Juror Workshop.

Our contracts covered April 5-24, with nine days on site and 19 days for use of Galleries One and Five, where 80 water-media paintings now hang.

The convention weekend was fairly complex for FEC staff because of the many moving parts of the convention. Reconfiguration of five flat-floor rooms occurred at least 20 times over four days, including setting up 24 tables for a Saturday evening banquet, with Pavilion Catering providing a delicious buffet in the lobby.

Because we were painting, two rooms needed to be tarped to protect the carpet. I purchased the tarps and special tape and intended to lay and tape. However, FEC crew and friends, following my tarping diagram, did the work.

Juror Fran Larsen of Santa Fe, N.M., was our hired mentor for seven days. More than 200 WSO members attended various parts of the convention, exhibition and five-day workshop — and all moving parts, including audio visual, flowed together seamlessly and according to schedule thanks to FEC Director Kevin Rhodes, Operations Manager Matt Holdahl, FEC Art Committee Chair Liz Johnson and her crew, Shannon with Pavilion Catering, and the FEC office staff.

WSO artists had a highly satisfying

experience because of FEC staff.

Thank you — and thank you to the City of Florence for working to facilitate our events center.

—Kathryn Damon-Dawson  
Chair, WSO Conference

#### SHE'S NOT JAY BOZIEVICH

I learned a lot about both candidates at the April 6 forum for West Lane County Commissioner candidates.

Nora Kent, a political greenhorn, is full of integrity, intelligence and drive. She shows a willingness to stand up and fight for the rights of the people of Lane County.

All the people.

By contrast, Jay Bozievich seems to be a polished bureaucrat, defending the timber industry and big business with rigid intensity. When talking about housing, watershed and the environment, it seems that these are only issues for him when they begin to impact the timber industry and large campaign contributors — such as Wildish Land Co. and McDougal Bros. Investments, both based in the Eugene/Springfield area.

It was while on his watch that the boundaries for Western Lane County were changed to include West Eugene and surrounding areas amid reports of gerrymandering.

Comm. Bozievich adamantly states that he will not support *any* change in timber industry practices even though thousands of people in Western Lane County are asking for change to protect our health, children and the environment.

Lane County's Roadside Vegetation Management Program has responded to these concerns and has drastically reduced its spraying program. It doesn't take a rocket scientist, or even an engineer, to see the parallels between that and aerial spraying.

I don't want the minions of the timber industry and large corporations influencing the laws and standards by which I must live.

That's why I will be voting for Nora Kent. She's a smart woman, and what she doesn't know through polished bureaucrats is what makes her *not* Jay Bozievich.

—Ann Huntington  
Florence

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## Siuslaw News

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#### 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.

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#### NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

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## 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.

Letters that are anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or documented will not be published.

Letters containing poetry or from outside the Siuslaw News 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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