

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

# Opinion

"I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend." —Thomas Jefferson (1800)



## Filling the void left by Jose Dela Mora

chosen to fill that void by offering a way for others to reach their own potential.

Jose was an artist and a

offered each year to students who are pursuing their own passion for art or wrestling, especially those who make lack the

it.

This year's scholarship taco feed is tomorrow, May 6, beginning at noon at the Crossroads Church, 1380 10th St., just across from the Siuslaw Public Library. The cost is \$6 for 10 tacos, and the feed will continue until the tacos are gone.

Don't wait.

The Dela Mora family owns Rosa's Mexican Restaurant, so I don't need to explain how good the tacos are.

It's these kinds of events that not only bring people together and remind us of the common bond we share as a community, they also foster the kind of healing and fellowship we could all use a little more of right now — all of which represent the very best reasons for honoring the memory of Jose Dela Mora.

### From the Editor's Desk

*Ned Hickson*

Each of us responds to loss in our own way. For the past three years, the Dela Mora family has chosen to deal with its heartbreaking loss by giving back. Since the spring of 2016, when Jose Dela Mora would have graduated from Siuslaw High School, his family has been hosting an annual taco feed to raise funds for the scholarship they established in his memory.

The Jose Dela Mora Scholarship is the family's way of turning Jose's drowning into something more than an irrevocable tragedy — by not allowing the loss of so much potential to continue on as a void. Instead, they have

people person, someone whose sense of humor and fun-loving nature touched many lives, particularly those of his fellow students. Our oldest son, who was friends with Jose and would have graduated with him in 2016, often spoken of Jose's kindness and their shared love of drawing.

As a testament to his uniqueness, Jose was also a talented wrestler and pursued it with the same passion he did for art. For that reason, the Jose Dela Mora Scholarship is

financial support they need to attend college or a vocational school.

Without question, the idea of helping others achieve their goals and dreams is something Jose would have wanted to be a part of — which is what makes this scholarship particularly poignant.

Even in his absence, Jose's spirit of kindness and shared love of art and wrestling continue through the scholarship itself and, perhaps just as poignantly, the spirit of community that supports

## LETTERS

### CASTING MY VOTE FOR CADDY

The mid-term primary election is gathering momentum. It is important that at this critical juncture of our democracy we as citizens stand up for our shared values and vote.

My choice is Representative Caddy McKeown. She is currently the Co-Chair of the Transportation Committee and in that role has been very supportive of the road and bridge-work we here in Florence can't survive without.

She is also on numerous committees including many in the environmental area.

Whenever the citizens of Florence have a problem, Caddy and her team are extremely supportive. Specific examples are the work on Highway 126 and the recent problems with the Building Codes Division that are threatening to shut down or slow to a crawl our permitting process.

When I reached out to her on the Codes issue, she was in communication with the Speaker of the House, the Senate and the Governor's office within 24 hours.

Caddy is a member of the Coastal Caucus, and she is very supportive of the RAIN entrepreneur program.

A native of the Oregon Coast, she knows our needs and values.

—Ron Preisler  
Florence City Councilor

### MISUSE IS THE ANSWER

After reading the whole Siuslaw News special series on guns, it is clear to me that there will never be an answer on which both sides of the debate will agree. Even Florence Police Commander John Pitcher won't come down on either side.

I find it disheartening that he states he knows of no one who is looking to confiscate our guns, when in fact there are many who

have made the national news calling for what is essentially the same thing.

Am I to assume if the state were to order officers go door to door to confiscate them he would say no?

Sorry, I'm not that naive.

We should all be skeptical of cited sources. For instance, there seems to be a study for just about anything you like or don't like — and experts galore. Although the Siuslaw News article was fairly well written, it fell into the age-old trap of "magazines vs. clips," which is a good way to determine just how familiar one is with guns. It is also a mistake to think law enforcement officers are all experts on guns.

They are not.

Just as I would not go to a journalist for advice on an operation I was thinking of having, I also would not go to a gun control advocate for advice on gun safety.

The oldest gun safety people are the ones who administer the Eddie Eagle Program. I have raised two sons who are very safe with guns. Not because I scared them with some phony numbers but because I educated them from an early age on the facts.

While I could go on and on about the misuse of number and statistics, I will just quote a known author and say, "There are lies, damn lies, and then statistics."

If you care so little about the freedoms we enjoy in this great land and the responsibilities that go with them that you run scared at the thought of your fellow countryman having a gun, then I pity you.

However, if you choose to give up your God-given rights, I will not follow you.

You should remember that your rights come not from the government. But the government was established to protect them. And if it does not, there are two boxes we can utilize.

I pray to the Lord we only have to use the first one.

—David Eckhardt  
Florence

### ONE OR THE OTHER

As you read this, there are thousands of migrants pressed against the southern border, hands stretched out northward through a steel fence. At the same time in California there are 110,000 Americans sitting on the streets and living in tents — homeless.

North of those souls are 14,000 homeless here in Oregon. And just above us in Washington State, are 21,000 homeless.

I think you can see where I'm going with this.

California already has 2.3 million illegal residents, Oregon 130,000, and Washington State 250,000. Imagine, if the United States just enforced it's immigration laws how many low income homes would become available in these three states? 100,000? 500,000?

And imagine with that surplus of housing, how much rents would drop.

You see, you can't solve homelessness, the housing shortage and make housing more affordable — and at the same time, not enforce the law and have an open boarder.

You have to make a choice: One or the other.

—Jeff Ashmead  
Florence

## 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 Chalhoub

Susan Gutierrez  
Cathy Dietz  
Ron Annis  
Jeremy Gentry

Publisher, ext. 318  
Editor, ext. 313  
Consulting Editor 831-761-7353  
Email: echalhoub@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](http://TheSiuslawNews.com)

## 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 unourced or undocumented 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.

Email letters to:  
[nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Sen.ArnieRoblan@oregonlegislature.gov)

**State Rep. Caddy McKeown**  
(Dist. 9)  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-986-1409  
Email: [rep.caddymckeown@state.or.us](mailto: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](mailto:Jay.Bozievich@co.lane.or.us)