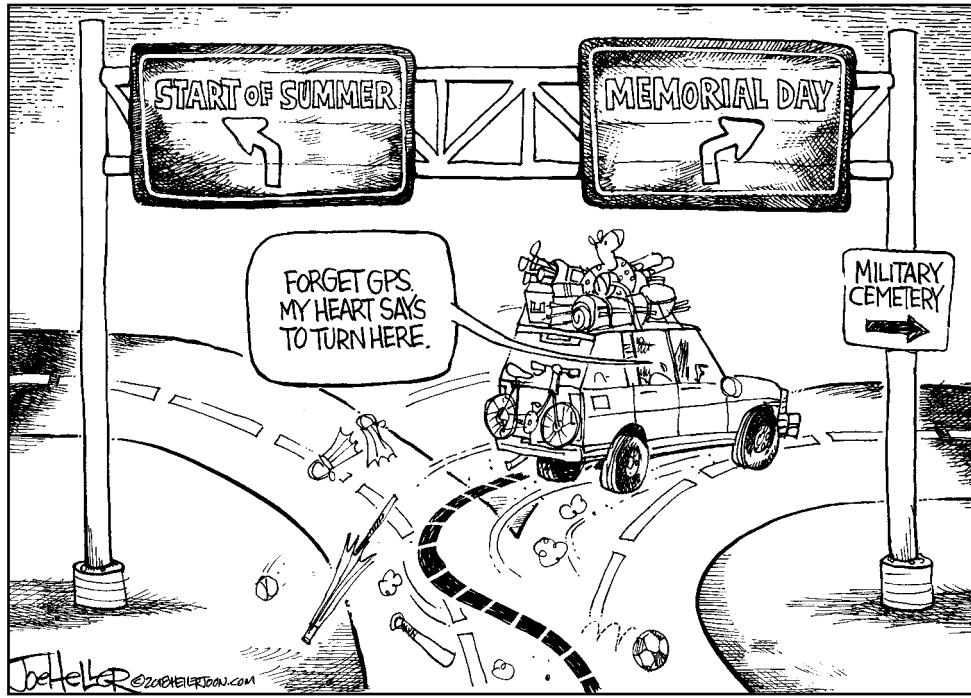


Siuslaw News
P.O. Box 10
Florence, OR 97439

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.

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



LETTERS

FEAR-BASED POLITICS DRAW LINES, DON'T BUILD BRIDGES

Two letters to the editor, May 16, were worth reading. One promotes inclusion in our democracy and the other, dominance by a select cadre. Mel Gurtov speaks of tolerance, community and goodwill; Ian Eales expands on his ongoing fear based politics including imposing his preferred religious beliefs on others and unbending support for the NRA.

I have no doubt that NRA members are law abiding, loyal and patriotic citizens. So are non-NRA members. Mr. Eales accuses those who do not support the rigid stance of the NRA as debasing solid good Americans.

He apparently feels the need to draw the line between people and policy. The unbending policy of the NRA is in opposition to the majority of good, patriotic and loyal Americans, which include both NRA and non-NRA members.

The hate, fear and convoluted patriotism promoted by such as Mr. Eales are reminiscent of the extreme policies of Joe McCarthy in the 1950s. Back then, the fear flag was Communism. Now the fear flag is immigrants.

McCarthy used his power as Chairman of Senate Committee on Government Operations and Subcommittee on Investigations. McCarthy labeled the State Department and its secretary traitors. He attacked the military when one of his aides was denied a posting that the aide was not qualified for.

McCarthy expanded his labeling attacks on those he did not agree with, including the press, government offices, universities, unions and the arts.

Anyone not in step with McCarthy was labeled a Communist with the attached fear and shunning. The resulting loss of jobs, reputations and careers was massive and no one who crossed him was exempt from his vicious destructive behavior. Those who came to the defense of the accused were considered guilty by association.

Important to know is that the chief counsel who defended McCarthy's abuse and destruction was Roy Cohn, the same Roy Cohn who became Donald Trump's lawyer — and more importantly, mentor.

The Senate held a hearing in 1954. It was televised. I sat through it with my aunt who stressed that what I was watching was one of the most important lessons in politics.

The truth needs to be brought to light and media has the right and the responsibility to inform the people. Without that, we are not a free country.

The Senate in the midst of chaos and division demonstrated integrity, supported the investigation, held a hearing, voted to condemn Joseph McCarthy and supported democracy.

—Karen Mahoney
 Florence

THANK YOU FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT IN CLEAN-UP

I want to thank the Mapleton School District community service volunteers who worked so hard a few weeks ago to clean up. I am particularly thankful to the young man with a tractor who removed the dirt and grass that nearly covered the sidewalks and mowed the grass on Highway 126 near the stores.

All of us local residents and our summer visitors appreciate the positive change.

Is there another clean-up scheduled for maintenance?

You can count me in.

—Lucas Stang
 Mapleton

IT'S NO WONDER THERE IS SO MUCH FAKE NEWS

I am glad I don't suffer with ulcers as the letter submitted by Dr. Mel Gurtov, Prof. of Political Science at Portland State, whose letter certainly would have activated some ulcers I probably didn't know I had.

His entire letter contained so much mush, which I know professors like him and others are expounding to young students in classes.

He is a prime example of the survey I recently heard on the radio regarding all of the colleges in our country that teach "Communication" — meaning radio, TV and newspaper — and discovered the number of liberal professors and teachers as compared to conservatives was 120 to zero.

Yes, 120 to zero.

It's no wonder there is so much fake news and liberal writings. Makes me wonder if colleges won't accept conservative professors or is it that conservative professors feel like they are spitting against the tide?

—Tony Cavarno
 Florence

THREE SIDES TO EVERY STORY

In response to Ms. Marengo's letter "Don't Minimize the Death of Millions," hear are some facts:

The Nazi party was formed in 1920. Antisemitism was one of the main planks in their platform. Dachau opened in 1933. Thirteen years of antisemitic propaganda convinced Germany of the need to rid itself of Jews.

The NRA specifically targets 2nd Amendment issues and contributes to elected officials that will work to preserve our rights. It spent about \$30 million total on the 2016 campaign at all levels from local to federal. Banks alone contributed \$1.2 billion — or 40 times as much.

The Nazis [National Socialist Workers Party] originated as leftists metastasizing to the ultimate hate group. A thinking person has to wonder how long it will take for "deplorable" and "irredeemable" to become "vermin" given the evermore strident leftist characterizations of those with whom they disagree. Probably less than you think given the ubiquitous and unceasing onslaught of a lazy, corrupt and biased media.

No gun control law anywhere can be shown to have stopped or reduced murder. There are myriad "studies" that purport to do so but further examination finds them severely flawed.

A new study has shown that the more information one gets from Facebook, the less politically astute they may be. (<https://psmag.com/news/facebook-may-be-creating-a-less-informed-electorate>.)

There are three sides to every story. Unless one takes the time and effort to independently ascertain the facts, one is part of the ignorant mob destined to become another thug on the next Kristallnacht.

—Ian Eales
 Florence

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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
echalhoub@register-pajaronian.com
 Marketing Director, ext. 326
 Office Supervisor, ext. 312
 Production Supervisor
 Press Manager

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 Wednesday — General news, Monday on Budget, 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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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 partisanism 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

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
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541-465-6732
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160 State Capitol
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Salem, Ore. 97301-4047
Governor's Citizens' Rep.
Message Line:
503-378-4582
www.oregon.gov/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.ArnRoblan@oregonlegislature.gov |
| U.S. SEN. RON WYDEN
221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510
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541-431-0229
www.wyden.senate.gov | STATE REP. CADDY MCKEOWN
(DIST. 9)
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
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Email: rep.caddymckeown@state.or.us |
| U.S. SEN. JEFF MERKLEY
313 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-3753
FAX: 202-228-3997
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JAY BOZIEVICH
125 E. Eighth St.
Eugene, OR 97401
541-682-4203
FAX: 541-682-4616
Email: Jay.Bozievich@co.lane.or.us |

