

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.

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



Graduates, allow yourself to be wise

(Editor’s Note: Last night, our family watched with no small amount of pride as our third child graduated from Siuslaw High School. In addition, today I have the honor of giving the commencement speech at Mapleton High School’s graduation. What follows is a portion of that speech, which I’d like to share with graduates from both of our local schools.)

To the Class of 2018, faculty members, parents, dignitaries, honored guests, misinformed wedding crashers, and Visa/MasterCard representatives who have gathered here today: I am honored to have the opportunity to address the Class of 2018 and impart the wisdom I have gained since my own graduation from high school nearly 150 years ago. I see the anticipation on your faces as each of you comes to realize what sharing my wisdom will mean: Possibly the shortest commencement speech in school history. Before long, each of you seniors will step forward and receive the culmination of 12 years of education. You will

shake hands with some of those who have helped guide you to this milestone and, unless your last name begins with a “Z,” you will return to your seat as the rest of your classmates step forward, one at a time, to be recognized.

person takes ownership of the things they know; a wise person seeks the knowledge of others when they don’t. When I graduated from high school in 1984, there was no Internet. No Siri.

From the Editor’s Desk

Ned Hickson

At some point it will finally hit you — and you will silently think to yourself, “I really shouldn’t have had that second bottle of Mountain Dew.” You will also begin to understand what this moment means because of the challenges you have faced and overcome together as a class, and as individuals, to get here. Starting today, each of you is now officially your own person — making your own decisions, embracing the rewards and accepting the consequences of those decisions — as you embark on a journey of independence in a world of your own making. At least until laundry day, when you will return home to eat chocolate chip cookies while mom gets the Cheeto and pizza stains out of your favorite shirt. That’s because having wisdom isn’t about knowing everything. It’s also about recognizing and acknowledging when you don’t. A smart

No Pinterest. And thankfully, no Kanye West. Therefore, the Class of 1984 was expected to know EVERYTHING. The pressure was tremendous! We hugged our parents goodbye and entered a dark, Google-less world. We were young pilots flying blind. Dead stick. Rudderless. Broken-winged. And lots of other euphemisms I am now able to Google for occasions like this. We had no choice but to rely on each other. We pooled our knowledge. Challenged each other. Together, we advanced ourselves and society by having the courage to answer fundamental questions like: *What would happen if we grew chia seeds on a clay pot shaped like a farm animal?* Truth be told, it’s human nature to want to know all the answers. At the same time, culture discourages us from admitting when we don’t have them.

You’ve now spent the better part of your first 17 to 18 years of life receiving an education. Not so you’ll have all the answers, but have the courage and wisdom to ask the kinds of questions that will improve your life and, hopefully, the lives of others. This will take more than Googling. More than Wikipedia. Possibly even more than how-to videos on YouTube. It’s certainly going to take a great data and texting plan. However, most of all, it’s going to take the kind of determination that got you here, sitting in these chairs, moments away from receiving your diploma, and still regretting that second bottle of Mountain Dew. As we look upon your faces we see our own hope reflected in them. When you leave here, be courageous and wise. Never be afraid to admit you don’t have all the answers. Those who do are destined to a life of empty promises. Usually somewhere in our nation’s capital. Always remember the feeling you have right now. The anticipation. The hope. The unlimited possibilities. It’s who you are at this moment. It’s who you will always be as long as you allow yourself to be wise...

LETTERS

THANKS TO COMMUNITY FOR BRINGING CEMETERY HISTORY BACK TO LIFE

The Deadwood Pioneer Cemetery Board of Trustees wants like to thank its friends, family members and supporters for a terrific month of May. We held two work days with at least 24 workers who put in a total of over 140 hours to:

- Place almost 20 granite headstones purchased with a grant from the Oregon Parks and Rec’s Heritage Program to memorialize unmarked or poorly marked graves
- Add a gravel path near the Ash Scattering Garden area overlooking the river,
- Add row markers and a Directory of the 275 known graves (with links on FindaGrave.com),
- Add a fire ring surrounded by 10 1-ton rocks,

Plus all of the normal edging, mowing, cleaning and trimming needed regularly for a non-profit cemetery ... and that’s not including the many hands who contributed to our yearly event during Memorial Day.

On May 28, we hosted over 80 people for our fourth annual Pioneer Heritage Day, starting off with a terrific potluck, and featuring several actors from the Siuslaw Pioneer Museum’s “John Quay Players,” who brought history to life with humor and amazing stories of some of the local pioneers. Several veterans shared a moving flag retirement ceremony and stories of their experiences. The day was topped off with kids’ games by Guthrie Kushner and Pat Ronney, wonderful old-time music from Eric Sprado’s melodic voice and dobro, John Riedel’s stand-up bass, plus Guthrie singing folk songs with her National Steel guitar. We hope to post a video of the day soon on our website at deadwoodcem.org. A great time was had by all, and the board thanks everyone who came, and especially those who helped and contributed.

—Megan Gerber
Secretary

ILLEGAL IS ILLEGAL

I have to take exception to Win Jolley’s letter of May 2 (“Cycle of Intolerance is Returning”) when, in the last two paragraphs (actually, I take exception to more than just the last two) where he wrote, “I went to grammar school and high school with first-born American/Mexican kids and today we call them illegal immigrants because, thanks to President Trump, the cycle of intolerance seems to be returning.” The only persons called illegal immigrants by President Trump are those of any nationality, not only Mexican, who violate our sovereignty by crossing our boarder illegally. My father was an immigrant, a legal one, by holding his 12-year-old head up high and entering our country legally through Ellis Island on a quota.

—Tony Cavarno
Florence

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	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
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