# Opinion

## The First Amendment

ongress shall make no law respecting an es-■ tablishment 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)



slaw High School. In addition,

today I have the honor of giv-

ing the commencement speech

graduation. What follows is a

portion of that speech, which

from both of our local schools.)

guests, misinformed wed-

ding crashers, and Visa/Mas-

Class of 2018 and impart the

wisdom I have gained since

my own graduation from

high school nearly 150 years

ment speech in school history.

ago.

have gathered here today:

dignitaries,

## Graduates, allow yourself to be wise shake hands with some of person takes ownership of the You've now spent the better

unless your last name begins others when they don't. with a "Z," you will return to classmates step forward, one no Internet. at a time, to be recognized. (Editor's Note: Last night, our family watched with no small amount of pride as our third child graduated from Siu-

those who have helped guide things they know; a wise per- part of your first 17 to 18 years you to this milestone and, son seeks the knowledge of of life receiving an education.

When I graduated from your seat as the rest of your high school in 1984, there was

No Siri.

## From the Editor's Desk

Ned Hickson

At some point it will finally at Mapleton High School's hit you — and you will silently think to yourself, "I really shouldn't have had that sec-*I'd like to share with graduates* ond bottle of Mountain Dew."

derstand what this moment was tremendous! o the Class of 2018, fac- means because of the chal-

Starting today, each of you terCard representatives who is now officially your own person — making your own I am honored to have the decisions, embracing the opportunity to address the rewards and accepting the journey of independence in a world of your own making.

At least until laundry day, my wisdom will mean: Possi- and pizza stains out of your shaped like a farm animal? bly the shortest commence- favorite shirt.

receive the culmination of 12 recognizing and acknowledgyears of education. You will ing when you don't. A smart them.

No Pinterest.

And thankfully, no Kanye Therefore, the Class of 1984 was expected to know EV-

ulty members, parents, lenges you have faced and goodbye and entered a dark,

honored overcome together as a class, Google-less world. We were and as individuals, to get here. 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

consequences of those deci- rely on each other. We pooled sions — as you embark on a our knowledge. Challenged each other. Together, we advanced ourselves and society by having the courage to an-I see the anticipation on when you will return home swer fundamental questions your faces as each of you to eat chocolate chip cookies like: What would happen if we comes to realize what sharing while mom gets the Cheeto grew chia seeds on a clay pot

Truth be told, it's human ment. That's because having wis- nature to want to know all the Before long, each of you dom isn't about knowing answers. At the same time, seniors will step forward and everything. It's also about culture discourages us from admitting when we don't have

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, mo-You will also begin to un- ERYTHING. The pressure ments away from receiving your diploma, and still re-We hugged our parents gretting 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 mo-

It's who you will always be as long as you allow yourself to be wise...

# Sivslaw News

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 sen

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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

#### NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

 $In \ Lane\ County -- 1- year\ subscription, \$76; 6-month\ in-county, \$52; 10-weeks\ subscription, \$23; 10-weeks\ subscription, \$23$ 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

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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.

WHERE TO WRITE

Emal letters to:

nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com

## **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 Rongey, 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.

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

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