

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)

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Siuslaw News

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that are anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or documented will not be published.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



That time Florence's fireworks finale came early

(Editor's Note: Not to take anything away from the terrific fireworks spectacle that the community and visitors were treated to during this year's July 4th celebration in Florence, but we received several calls, emails and Facebook messages asking about the time Florence's fireworks finale came early. What follows is the original story that was published exactly 41 years ago today in the July 7, 1977, edition of the Siuslaw News.)

Florence Does It In A Big Way

Display has early finale

Florence's version of a fireworks display is definitely unique. Instead of the "bombs bursting in air" the majority of the fireworks for the July 3 display were exploded on the ground in a momentary barrage, bringing the 15-minute Independence Day celebration to an unanticipated grand finale. The display, sponsored by the Florence Booster Club, was proceeding smoothly at its site in the sand dunes, south of the Siuslaw River and west of the bridge, just after dusk Sunday



The original story as it appeared in the July 7, 1977, edition of the Siuslaw News.

night.

Then, according to Ron Shelton, one of the five fireworks attendants on the scene, one of the shots drifted back over the site and a burning ember landed in a case of 3-inch mortars. One of the rounds exploded and, Shelton said, "The guys on the end went up over the lip of the dune to the river, and we ran to the west as things started getting hot."

Ron termed the event "exciting."

Fortunately, the 24 sticks of dynamite had been detonated earlier to alert spectators that the show was beginning to start.

According to Morrie Robertson, Booster President, the only casualty was the burned brim of an attendant's hat. But to observers on the north side of the river, the fiery spectacle dimmed the cheerful celebration.

Words of concern for the safety of the men rang up and

down Bay Street, which had earlier been the scene of a pot-luck social around the gazebo in the new mini park.

And the sound and site of the Western Lane Hospital ambulance racing over the bridge seemed to confirm the worst.

Some people dashed to their vehicles and tuned in to channel nine on CB radios and were relieved to hear members of Oregon Coast REACT reporting no casualties at the scene.

A short while later, Don Hicks announced to a large crowd at Don's Beachcomber that the men were not injured as cheers went up.

The festivities quickly renewed.

Besides Shelton, the other men who set off fireworks were Joe Tuttle, Richard Bales, and Don and Bill Lindberg who had handled fireworks at Dunes City for about 10 years.

Robinson said that the Boosters are ready and willing to sponsor the event again next year.

Preferably without the early finale...

LETTERS

STATE-RUN NEWS AND TELEVISION?

They announced today that Bill Shine, former president of Fox News, has joined the crew at the White House as the new Communications Director.

Shine was at Fox News for most of Roger Ailes' tenure and reportedly paid out \$50 million, in one of those years, to women for sexual harassment claims.

It seems apparent that President Trump wants state-run news and television — and now he has acquired the person who can give him the expertise to do so, much like Putin in Russia.

—Albert G. Anderson
Florence

NOT THE AMERICA I WAS RAISED IN

I continually dwell on the solutions to problems rather than reiterating, time after time, the essence of a problem.

The enormity of the situation regarding the separation of mothers from their children and the dissolutions of families who crossed the U.S. border may, initially, seem impossible to rectify.

However, I believe there is a simple, common sense solution:

Why not bring all of the mothers from the detention facilities and all of the displaced and missing-in-action children to a common place — say the Astro Dome — and let them find each other and re-

unite?

I'll guarantee you that those mothers, and those frightened and alone children, will find their families much quicker than the government is currently doing.

I am flabbergasted that the whereabouts of these children are still unknown.

Was there really a plan for reuniting those families? And if not, then why not? This is not the America that I was raised in.

Where is the respect for humanity?

—Kimberly Ann Fleenor
Mapleton

LIMBAUGH FALSEHOODS ARE EASY TO FIND

On June 27, I submitted a Letter to the Editor in response to a letter written by Ian Eales. In the July 3 edition of the Siuslaw News, Tony Cavarno responded.

I know Tony is a nice man and I have actually met him and his family at an open house tour of the wonderful house he had built.

But in his letter, he took exception to my statement that from the likes of Rush Limbaugh come false information.

"I would ask Mr. Jolley to state here and now at least three falsehoods Rush has voiced and back them up with irrefutable proof for all of us to see," he wrote.

I'm sorry, Tony, but I do not want to

spend the time to do so. However, for anyone interested in doing so, just go to Wikipedia — Rush Limbaugh or simply do an Internet search for "Falsehoods by Rush Limbaugh."

—Win Jolley
Florence

NOT HARD TO IMAGINE

Imagine leaving your country of origin because you fear for your children's lives.

Imagine a long, treacherous trek to find safety.

Imagine you make it to a legal port of entry at the U.S. border seeking asylum only to be turned away.

Imagine your difficult decision to attempt illegal entry because it's just too dangerous to turn back.

Imagine you are caught and put into a detention camp.

Imagine having your infant, 4-year-old, 8-year-old or 12-year-old forcibly taken from you.

Imagine having no idea where they were taken, and them having no idea where you've been taken.

Imagine not having any communication with your loved ones.

Imagine your feelings of loss, fear and heartbreak.

Not hard to imagine if you're a human being.

—Julie MacFarlane
Florence

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