

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)

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Siuslaw News

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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.

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Website and E-Edition: 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that are anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or documented will not be published.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. 071618Dumb

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 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
OREGON 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	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
U.S. SEN. RON WYDEN 221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg Washington, DC 20510 202-224-5244 541-431-0229 www.wyden.senate.gov	STATE REP. CADDY MCKEOWN (DIST. 9) 900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301 503-986-1409 Email: rep.caddymckeown@state.or.us
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Following our mission statement at the OCHS

(Editor's Note: Viewpoint submissions on this and other topics are always welcome as part of our goal to encourage community discussion and exchange of perspectives.)

As the Board of Directors of the Oregon Coast Humane Society (OCHS), we were elected less than 90 days ago. What we've learned in three short months is that we must talk with the community we serve. We believe the problem of homeless pets is a community problem, so we are reaching out to community members for assistance in addressing that problem.

First, we'd like to take a minute to explain the challenges and opportunities ahead. OCHS remains a no-kill shelter. We take in all homeless and at-risk dogs and cats that we can help. We provide all of the assistance we can, including marketing, networking to other rescues and adoption assistance, to animals we are unable to take into our shelter due to lack of space.

It is part of our mission to partner with this community, including the local animal control, to help reunite or find forever homes for stray, homeless and at-risk dogs and cats in the Florence area.

Our goal is always to save the lives of all the animals in our care who can reasonably be provided with a humane outcome. Animals that are well-socialized and healthy have as much time as they need to find adoptive or foster homes.

We utilize the expertise of trainers and other professionals to work with dogs and cats who have behavioral issues in an effort to socialize them well enough to make the transition to a forever home. Occasionally, when an animal has been at

the shelter longer than average, we try to place that animal with a recognized rescue organization to find them the best forever home possible.

We realize these groups also face more demand to house homeless pets than they can respond to, so options for transferring

GUEST VIEWPOINT By OCHS Board

hard-to-adopt pets from our shelter are limited. We have people within our organization who spend many hours a week reaching out to make contact with possible placements for our long-term animals.

Would you consider fostering one of these pets?

OCHS does not euthanize for reasons of population control, space at the shelter, age of the animal or length of stay at the shelter. This doesn't mean that OCHS never has to euthanize. OCHS has only ever euthanized animals for medical reasons.

We treat the animals at the shelter as if they are our own, and that includes the occasional circumstance when we have to make that most difficult of decisions. How many of us at one time or another hasn't had to make that decision for our own beloved pets?

We believe that ending the problem of homeless pets requires addressing the root causes of the problem. We are working hard to make subsidized spay/neuter services available to all. It breaks our hearts to see someone bring in a mother cat with a litter of small kittens because they can't handle the care and cost of housing all of

those babies.

A simple remedy would have been to take advantage of the spay/neuter clinics we offer at very low cost.

Our commitment to place 100 percent of adoptable animals has not — and will not — change. We believe the best way to achieve that goal is through collaboration with this community and other animal welfare organizations and individuals who share our concern for companion animals.

By necessity, due to lack of physical space, we must limit the intake of animals at our shelter. By need, we must foster good relationships with other shelters who can take in animals that we must turn away. We will continue to pursue our mission to advance the goal of a community in which every pet has a loving home and no adoptable pets are euthanized.

We look forward to working with community leaders, animal professionals, staff, our volunteers, members of OCHS and pet-lovers to achieve this goal.

Will you help us in this endeavor?

We will continue to follow our mission statement which is: "The Mission of the Corporation shall be to rescue, care for, and find responsible, loving, permanent homes for homeless and at-risk dogs and cats; to advance the goal of a no-kill community; to promote the principal of a lifetime commitment to our pets; and to provide for spay-neuter and educational programs to the public."

Consider joining our organization.

For more information, visit: www.oregoncoasthumanesociety.org

—The Oregon Coast Humane Society
Board 2018

LETTERS

LIBRARY MANNERS

I love our library. I read somewhere, "books like bookmarks."

They don't like folded or dog-eared pages.

They don't like spilled liquids.

Books like bookmarks, so please use them. Almost anything flat works. Please take extra care of the books checked out out of our great library

While I am at it, I totally agree with the signs about not using cell phones in the library. However, the irony I find in the volume of people talking, especially in front of the DVD section, is often overbearing.

I was brought up to keep the volume down in the library. This does not seem to be the rule of thumb here in Florence.

If you have to have a group meeting, take it to the lobby, please.

—Tom Jackson
Florence

NATO INEQUITY

I disagree with Win Jolley's assertion that President Trump "tripped over himself" at the NATO meeting.

Of the 29 members of the NATO Alliance, only four currently contribute the agreed upon payment of 2 percent of the gross national income. The U.S. rate of 3.61 percent pays for 22 percent of NATO's Principle Budget.

Putting the non-paying nations on notice that they must more equitable in their contributions to the budget is quite appropriate and long overdue.

I personally believe that the whole NATO concept is obsolete and ineffective, as shown by its failure in Syria and the destabilization of Libya.

Past U.S. Foreign Policy also shares responsibility for converting the "Arab Spring" into a humanitarian nightmare.

—Keith Kraft
Florence

WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?

We in Florence are so fortunate in our small coastal community to have such a vibrant and varied selection of cinematic choices as we have at at City Lights.

In no way am I a film critic, but I want to thank Michael Falter and Susan Tive for bringing "Won't You Be My Neighbor" to Florence. Please take advantage of the many daily and hourly opportunities to experience the lovely documentary about Fred Rogers, a name familiar to many Americans.

A lot of us grew up with our children loving the television program, "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood." This film not only brings back fond memories, but also further introduces us to an educated, decent and humble man and his determination to help adults and children understand the meaning of love and acceptance.

At no time since his TV programs began in 1968 until his death in 2003 have his words been more important.

Go see this movie.

—Judith Preisler
Florence

WRONG DIRECTION MR. HICKSON?

So, Siuslaw News editor Ned Hickson thinks we have gone the wrong direction ("We've Come a Long Way Since the Dixie Chicks — But In the Wrong Direction," July 18) I suppose it depends on which side of the fence you sit, but I disagree.

As a country music fan, to this day I still don't listen to the "Dixie Chicks." Not just because they dissed G.W., but their music generally stinks, IMO.

But let's get to the real problem here.

It seems that we are supposed to believe anything that comes out of our government. Well, I can't go there, and anyone paying attention should have a hard time too.

Mr. Clapper lied straight-up, then back tracked and no one seemed to care except me. I will never trust another word from his mouth; just because he is an intelligence official means nothing. Mr. Clinton lied on live TV and was eventually impeached for it. The Senate then failed to do its job — because of politics I suppose. If Clinton says the sky is blue, I want a second opinion.

Oh, let's not forget Mr. Brenner who, if he hated President Trump any more, his look would burn him to the ground.

And finally, how about the past FBI head, James Comey, and his underlings. He and his underlings say they didn't let their biases affect their work. I say they are lying straight-up and know it.

Just look at Comey's family, all female and all Hillary fanatics. They even marched in that supposed (liberal) woman's march. And I am to believe he didn't have a bias and didn't act on it?

Really?

Wow.

How about the point man Strzok and his paramour and all those emails on a government phone? If he said two true words in his testimony it was probably his name. And he said he also did not act on his bias.

So, all these folks were just good old boys and gals doing their level best to adhere to our laws and morals?

What a joke.

What we have seen since Donald Trump became president is, in no small measure, a Democratic Party which lost a supposed safe election and is now going bananas. They call themselves the resistance; I call them deranged.

Even President Obama did not receive this amount of negative coverage for all his lies and half-truths. I personally think the Dem's have lost their party to the Socialists and are going to be pursuing their agenda in the future. This will manifest itself with single-payer medical, guaranteed income and attacks on capitalism.

Make no mistake: the socialists are as much a danger to our Republic as any Russian ever thought to be.

I hope to God I'm wrong.

Anyone who believes the supposed intelligence agency's assessment, without knowing their background, has been duped.

As President Reagan used to say: Trust but verify.

And that is where the rub begins.

—David Eckhardt
Florence