

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)

EMAC's continued commitment to local environment

(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.)

The members of the Environmental Management Advisory Committee (EMAC) of Florence have been hard at work fulfilling their commitment of addressing environmental concerns in our city. As many residents know, last year the Florence City Council passed Ordinance 12, which banned expanded polystyrene foam (EPS) food containers from our community based on the recommendation from EMAC.

This ban was designed to protect the waterways, beaches and wildlife in Florence and the surrounding areas. It has been shown that by banning the EPS products from the businesses and homes in an area, there is a substantial decrease in pollution and contamination within the environment and coastal habitats.

For example, in San Francisco one year after its ordinance implementation, the city experienced a 36 percent decrease in EPS litter.

EPS food packaging is non-recyclable, non-biodegradable and non-renewable. Most often, it ends up as one of the most common forms of beach and floating ocean debris.

EPS is made using Styrene, a possible human carcinogen and neurotoxin. It doesn't make sense to have it in our community. And over 85 percent of surveyed Florence residents agreed.

As members of EMAC, we want to thank all of the committed community residents, local businesses and restaur-

ants and the local government for quickly making the ban — which took effect on April 1 — a success. Over 80 percent of the local food establishments and grocery stores have complied with the ordinance

GUEST VIEWPOINT
By Maureen Miltenberger & Britte Kirsch
Environmental Management Advisory Committee

and have discontinued the use of all EPS food container products.

It is a testament to our community's awareness and dedication to the protection of our important coastal resources.

As part of the enforcement of this ban, any local business that has not discontinued the use of EPS food containers was sent a letter from the City of Florence requesting adherence to the ordinance or fines will be charged effective Aug. 1.

There is a fine of up to \$250 for the first offense and up to \$500 for any subsequent offense. Please visit the city of Florence website at www.ci.florence.or.us/bc-emac/polystyrene-phase-out-information for more information about the ordinance.

With so many alternative options available now, transitioning away from EPS food containers is surprisingly simple and becoming more cost effective. There are containers made from aluminum, non-coated cardboard, bio-plastics made from corn, potato and other plant materials, and bagasse products made from sugar cane. Plastic food containers should be considered as a last resort because currently the local haulers are not able to properly recycling for those types of products.

Here are a few ways members of the community can help transition away from EPS packaging:

- Ask local restaurants and businesses to provide other options for food storage and take away.
- Bring your own safe "doggie bag" containers and reusable beverage cups when you go out to eat.
- When shopping, refuse to buy food in any Styrofoam container (i.e. Cup-O-Noodles, Ramen noodles, etc.) and encourage the store to discontinue selling them.

• Bait *cannot* be sold in foam containers. A good alternative option is biodegradable Bait Cups (www.bait-cups.com)

• If you are hosting a meeting or fundraiser or have a coffee break room, please use alternative non-EPS food containers and coffee cups.

• Ask to have your fresh meat or fish wrapped in butcher paper instead of on foam trays.

These simple actions take a little planning and management but, like bringing your own reusable shopping bags, it can easily become a habit!

By eliminating EPS from our environment, EMAC and the City of Florence have committed to protecting the oceans, rivers, coastal parks, recreation areas and roadways from pollution and contamination. It is an important step in creating a sustainable and healthy environment for our community and visitors.

It's just another reason why Florence is the special place we call home!

—Maureen Miltenberger,
EMAC Chairperson and
Britte Kirsch, EMAC member

LETTERS

DEFINITELY HEADED IN WRONG DIRECTION

"They can't be fair. Can't be honest. They're biased," now assert President Trump's defenders, attacking our federal intelligence agencies and Special Council Mueller's investigators.

There is such a thing as being biased for the truth, for valuing honor and integrity, and for being committed to the discovery of facts.

Propagandists like Sean Hannity are paid handsomely to incite, distort, and erect fantasies built on tall foundations of far-fetched lies. In my opinion, he and President Trump have much in common.

We who recognize the president and his cabinet appointees for what they are are labeled as "deranged," "duped" according to letter writer David Eckhardt ("Wrong Direction, Mr. Hickson?" July 21). Indeed, we are angry — furious — that the GOP seems to be working assiduously to make our country a Koch brothers' inspired oligarchy; engenders dishonest elections through gerrymandering and voter disenfranchisement; that it lies continuously to ordinary folk about how it has their welfare at heart; that it continuously vilifies whoever gets in its way; and that it places feeding its donors everything they want at the expense of human life — all of which is horrific.

Now we have what could prove to be a law-breaking president whose virtues are greed, egotism and dishonesty whose base *loves* him — and whose GOP office-holders abide him.

Thomas Friedman, in his latest *New York Times* column (www.nytimes.com/2018/07/17/opinion/trump-putin-republicans.html) stated it this way: "... what makes Trump even more powerful and problematic is that this president with no shame is combined with a party with no spine and a major network with



no integrity."

We do live in perilous times, Mr. Eckhardt. And we are definitely headed in the worst direction.

—Harold Titus
Florence

LEFTIST MEDIA IS UNHINGED

Various polls I've seen put trust in the media below 50 percent. Back in April, left-leaning *Politico* found that as many as 77 percent of people believe media outlets produce fake-news (www.politico.com/story/2018/04/02/poll-fake-news-494421).

Such numbers are typical for repressive regime state-controlled media. Possibly the last time such low trust in media occurred was in Nazi Germany as the Russians rolled back the German army from the Volga to the Elbe were reported "victories."

Dennis Prager opined, "If truth mattered to the media, their ongoing narrative would be '... the Left still do not accept Trump victory.' If truth mattered to the media, every American would know Trump has been harder on Russia than former President Barack Obama was.

"If truth mattered to the media, every American would be reminded that

Obama sent army meals to Ukraine and Trump has sent anti-tank missiles and other arms to repel the Russians.

"If truth mattered to the media, every American would be reminded that Obama watched Syria burn and Russia come to dominate that country, while Trump has bombed Syrian military installations, including one where Russians were killed.

"If truth mattered to the media, every American would be reminded that it is Trump who has weakened Russia's ally Iran, while Obama immeasurably strengthened it. Instead the media scream 'treason,' 'impeachment' and the like 24/7... Meanwhile, leftist mobs shout at administration officials and Republican members of Congress while they eat in restaurants, shop in stores and sleep in their homes..."

Any thinking person has to find the leftist media hysteria unhinged.

Trump's foreign policy pronouncements can be described as impulsive, naive and chaotic.

Any thinking person has to ask: "Why on earth would Putin assist a mercurial quantity like Trump over a reliable known quantity?"

—Ian Eales
Florence

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Siuslaw News

Published every Wednesday and Saturday at 148 Maple St. in Florence, Lane County, Oregon. 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 sent to PressReleases@TheSiuslawNews.com.

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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.

Saturday Issue—General news, Thursday noon; Budgets, two days prior to publication; Regular classified ads, Thursday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Thursday noon; Boxed and display classified ads, Wednesday 5 p.m. Soundings, Tuesday 5 p.m.

NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

In Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$76; 6-month in-county, \$52; 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 subscription, \$71.

Mail subscription includes E-Edition.
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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.

Email letters to:
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WHERE TO WRITE

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