

**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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## LETTERS

**NO MORE DE PAUL PICK-UPS IN FLORENCE?**

It was brought to my attention last week that all Florence pick-ups at our local St. Vincent De Paul thriftstore have stopped. I do not think this is a good idea since we are a small town with a large senior population that depends on this service.

The Florence St. Vincent location benefits greatly from selling all the quality furniture that has been donated. From what I can tell, the staffers are also not happy with the situation as they depend on the sale of those items for the benefit of the charity.

It was suggested that perhaps the decision was made due to the increased fuel prices. However a simple solution could be to just cut down on the number of pick-up days, as one person suggested to me.

I suggest a call to Paul Neville in St. Vincent DePaul's Eugene Ad-

ministration Department to express concerns and request service be restored (541-687-5820 extension 121.)

—Jean Perry  
 Florence

**HOW MANY CORMORANTS ARE THERE REALLY?**

I am commenting on the absurd claim in the recent Siuslaw News article ("Cormorant Count Could Determine Need for 'Hazing,'" July 14) that there are only 100 cormorants around the Siuslaw River.

Were these the same 100 cormorants that lined up 15-across in the Kiechly Arm Bay on Siltcoos Lake and cleaned out virtually every small fish in the north end of the bay?

Were these the same 100 cormorants that roost in the fir trees in the south end of Siltcoos Lake and clean out that bay?

How about Ten Mile and Tahkenitch lakes?  
 Cormorants look the same to

me, so are there 100, 300 or 500? Yellow perch are candy to cormorants, which can eat more than 3 pounds per day, every day. Without yellow perch, there will not be a bass population.

These three lakes used to have some of the biggest bass and perch populations in the Siltcoos Lake.

I have fished Siltcoos Lake for 20 years and have not seen a perch in many years — and the bass fishing is very slim.

—Martin Cable  
 Dunes City

**(Editor's Note:** In the article mentioned in the Letter to the Editor above, the reference to cormorant population counts, as explained in the article, was specific to the Siuslaw River estuary and did not include other locations, such as the Siltcoos. Numbers provided for the story came from the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife.)

**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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