

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)



## LETTERS

### FLORENCE IS MORE THAN A PLACE TO BEAT THE HEAT

It's been a busy summer heat in Florence. Since Rhody Days, we've had a number of opportunities to showcase the charms of our wonderful city.

The annual baseball tournament, the beach soccer tournament and the Independence Day fireworks celebration all brought thousands of people to Florence. The Power of Florence was a great event for locals of all ages to celebrate the spirit of giving back.

Most recently, the Oregon Mayor's Conference and the Bay Street Block Party were two new opportunities for our city to shine.

A former colleague and close friend was among the mayors in town for the weekend. It was with great pride that I escorted him through Old Town. I got to meet a number of vis-

iting mayors who were excited by the reception they had here in Florence.

Our citizens, businesses and certainly our city staff made a positive impression on these visiting leaders, many of whom commented on the positive energy in the city around our upcoming transportation improvement projects and the school bond.

In addition, last night the Florence Police Department offered another chance for us to get out and meet our neighbors when they hosted the National Night Out at Miller Park.

All of this shows that Florence has more to offer than just as a place to beat the heat.

—Mike Harklerode  
Florence

### HELP BRING FIREWORKS BACK TO MAPLETON

Another summer is almost behind

us. Another Fourth of July where many of us were disappointed once again that we didn't have fireworks in our town.

They are so beautiful in our valley over the river.

So we decided that we should try to do something about this. We talked with Terry Saubert and he has assured us that he would be glad to put on the show. So we have set up an account at Banner Bank for fireworks.

If we get enough money we will once again enjoy the holiday right here in Mapleton.

We have until March to get everything together, so let's get going!

The tellers at the bank will be happy to assist you.

Here's to the Fourth of July 2019!

—Linda Jensen  
Mapleton



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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 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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