

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

THANKS FOR GENEROUS COMMUNITY SUPPORT

I want to give a huge thank you to the Florence Community, for your overwhelming support of the Florence police department in hosting our first annual National Night Out on Aug. 7 at Miller Park. We partnered with our local public safety agencies to make this happen and I want to thank the Oregon State Police, The Confederated Tribal Police, Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue, Western Lane Ambulance, and USCG Siuslaw River Station.

The event was such a wonderful success thanks to many monetary donations and many volunteers. A special thanks to Charles Korando and friends, Hine Investments, North Fork Roofing, Action Realty, Pacific Frameworks, Katie Prosser, Guy Veach, William Meyer, Wells Plastic, Al Pearn, Heceta Self Storage, Ray Wells, WG Petersen Woodworking, Bob Steele, Carl and Merrilee Mager, Hoberg’s Muffler, Three Rivers Hotel and Casino, Streets Insurance, Siuslaw Vision, Pam and Joe Henry, Resurrection Lutheran Church, TR Hunter, Peace Health and Chuck Trent.

Without the generous support of the community this event would not have been possible. I am so fortunate and blessed to live in such a caring and compassionate community. Fortunate too that there is a deep understanding of, and commitment to, building and sustaining police-community partnerships and neighborhood comradery here in Florence. Again, our thanks to the donors, volunteers, our wonderful city employees, and all who attended for making it possible.

—Tom Turner,
Florence Police Chief

NEWS MEDIA NOT THE ENEMY

Thank you, Ned Hickson, and to all your journalistic colleagues across the United States for your continued vigilance. I wish I could say that we in Canada were immune to these issues, but we are not. In my home province of Ontario, our government recently established its own news vehicle to ensure its message got through and to avoid the regular media as much as it could.

We keep a wary eye ... well, some of us do. Know that you are not alone in your vigilance. The people cannot simply expect journalists and media outlets to do all the fact-checking, to bear the lamp of openness and oversight. It is up to us as individuals to think about what we see and hear, to discuss it openly with each other, to do our best to understand perspectives that may pain or irritate us, and to ask questions and demand answers. I had the great fortune to spend 10 days traveling the coast of Oregon last

year and spent several days in Florence (In full disclosure: Ned and I know each other socially). I met some wonderful people, many of whom likely have completely different political and worldviews than mine.

But as with any of my travels across the United States and Canada, I trust these individuals to seek the truth and to make well informed decisions; decisions that are aided greatly by local, national and international news organizations. The news media is not the enemy of the people; it is as much the people as I am.

—Randall C. Willis
Toronto, ON
Florence visitor

FIRE CHIEF, BOARD AT CENTER OF SVFR ISSUES

No less a philosopher than Jim Nabor’s USMC recruit TV character, Gomer Pyle regularly said, “Fool me once shame on you, fool me twice shame on me.” It would seem greater Florence has been fooled twice.

The current Fire Chief was terminated by a new board three years ago, but a few individuals went on a jihad to overturn that termination and he was rehired.

Now, SVFR and Western Lane Ambulance District have an parasitic IGA and the fire district may have a financial shortfall between \$500,000 and \$700,000 in the current year. At the center of both events is the formerly terminated fire chief.

Perhaps the board can commission a series of bobble head dolls after themselves and sell those dolls as a fundraiser to cover the possible shortfall?

Oh, and for a greater irony, this same board will be hiring a replacement for that chief who has recently decided to resign, and relocate back to California.

Don’t you just love small towns where everyone knows every body else?

—Al Pearn
Florence

STATE OF PLAY ENCOURAGES US TO STOP LISTENING

We talk to each other from opposite corners of the room. I talk of pesticides that kill bees and you talk of pesticide regulations as government interference with farmers.

Our voices fly right past each other. I talk of children torn from their parents’ arms who become instant orphans, and of their mothers and fathers thrown out of the country and sent back to the horrors of Central America; you talk of aliens, illegal people trying to sneak in and take away jobs and bringing in drugs and causing violence in our cities.

We talk right past each other with apparently no way to stop the fly-by rhetoric. It has made us enemies. Any chance to heal and forgive one another and find space and places where we can

agree ... well, that’s taken away from us by crude, cheap politicians on both sides of every argument who just want to keep their power and stay in office, and none of whom has any sense of principle and decency.

Out of all this come the loudest and crudest and, I would argue, the most dangerous among us, threatening and bullying over the internet and even out in the open now. It is a time to pull back and be silent about our opinions and to vote.

Please God, let us vote.
—Jim Rassmann
Woahink Lake

‘CLIMATE CHANGE?’ CLIMATE IS ALWAYS CHANGNG

Regarding recent Guest Viewpoint “Lessons Learned From the Dutch Flood Wall” (Aug. 22), flooding in the Netherlands is a historical fact. The 1953 flood was minor compared to many, some killing many tens of thousands when the population was a tiny fraction of modern times (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Floods_in_the_Netherlands.)

Multiple studies have shown the earth warms every 1,500 years plus 500 years. The current rise is on that timeline and just happens to coincide with the rise in anthropogenic CO2.

Oceans have risen in the past. Previous rise rates were several multiples of the current rate. The sea level has been rising for the past 500 years, well before the CO2 bugaboo. In fact, it has been rising for about 20,000 and, if historical patterns hold, the current rise has just about shot its bolt.

When the earth cools, it does so rapidly, in the order of a few decades. A 2017 study at the University of Bordeaux reran 40 climate models with a minor tweak in the Labrador Sea. The models predicted a 50 percent probability, not possibility, of severe North Atlantic cooling by 2100 (www.nature.com/articles/ncomms14375).

When minor model tweaks of a single parameter yield vastly divergent results and model results are based on guesses feeding guesses feeding guesses, only a fool would say with any certainty that “This too shall come to pass.”

As stated previously, no computer model has been able to run in reverse and come anywhere close to historical conditions. Ergo, they are little more than wild guesses based on incomplete data sets; as stated previously, the Paris Accords will do somewhere between nothing and very little to change global warming.

The climate is always changing. It been both warmer and colder with more CO2 in the air than at present.

—Ian Eales
Florence

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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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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 and publisher.

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:
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
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