

Siuslaw News
P.O. Box 10
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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)

Don't overlook progress in Trump economy

(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.)

A few days ago, President Barack Obama gave a speech. It was concise but partisan. I listened very intently and recalled how I supported his presidency through two elections. I hoped he would become a great president but quickly became disillusioned. The lack of transparency, the "Fast and Furious" debacle, the politicization of the IRS against conservative nonprofits, spying on reporters, the lies of Benghazi, his statement to congress "we won, get used to it", the stagnant economy, pushing the ACA through without letting the public read it or opine. These were just a few of my concerns.

Now he's taking credit for our current economy. The Obama era economy had 43 million people living in poverty, 13 million more people on food stamps, lowest home ownership in 51 years, and 95 million people out of the labor force. We experienced the lowest labor participation rate since the '70s and the worst economic recovery since the '40s. One-in-5 families without someone in the work force, 1-in-6 men age 18 to 34 were incarcerated or out of the work force. He added more national debt than all other presidents combined. Our GDP never saw a quarter over 2 percent and Obama said "welcome to the new reality." He left office leaving a 1.6 percent GDP.

This is the lowest GDP of any President. All this happened through a recession where he raised taxes and heaped thousands upon thousands of burdensome regulations on business. In the last year of his

presidency he pushed through 4,000 new regulations affecting all forms of commerce — and 70,000 manufacturing companies either went out of business or moved overseas.

GUEST VIEWPOINT By Michael J. Davis Florence

Our country's growth cannot happen in that type of restrictive environment.

It was these issues and others that caused me to rethink my political association in the Democratic party. A lot of these problems came to light after his second election. It seemed as if there was some effort to keep things quiet until the election had passed.

So, after 40 years as a Democrat, my party no longer represented me. I felt it had no concern for a large part of American society, and I decided to join the Independent party. As an Independent I felt I had a responsibility to research all points of view concerning all the political issues, which I do proudly.

Donald Trump made a campaign promise to reform Obama's restrictive regulations. I agree that he can be a boisterous, egotistical and sometimes insulting president. But I also believe that his economic policies work. We are experiencing an economic surge due primarily to these policies.

Before I retired, I was an 11-year general manager of a computer hardware company in California. During that time, I learned how restrictive regulations can affect the economy. Since Trump enacted his regulation reform, our country has experienced a

surge in economic growth: about 4 million new jobs created — 600,000 of those jobs were people considered to have left the job market by the Obama administration.

Obama implied that we are no longer a country of manufacture, yet since the 2016 election Trump policies have created 400,000 new manufacturing jobs and they are growing at the fastest rate in 30 years.

Economic growth (GDP) last quarter was recently revised from 4.1 percent to 4.2 percent. Median household income has reached the highest level ever.

New unemployment claims are at a 49-year low, and African-American, Hispanic-American and Asian-American unemployment recently achieved the lowest rate ever recorded. In addition, womens unemployment reached the lowest rate in 65 years. Youth unemployment hit the lowest rate in 50 years. Almost 3.9 million people have been lifted off of food stamps since Trump's election, and 14 states have recorded their lowest unemployment rates ever.

Another of Trump's campaign promises was tax reform. He felt that lowering corporate taxes would bring corporate monies back from overseas and instill foreign investment. In many cases it did just that. By comparison, under Obama, \$2.1 trillion was stashed overseas by U.S. companies. These same companies are now starting to re-invest back in America. It has been reported that \$352 billion has already come back to build new plants and facilities etc.

Due to Trump's vision and policies, the benefits to our country are great. They should not be minimized or taken away in the name of partisan politics.

LETTERS

FIGHTING FOR WHAT TRULY MATTERS

Though Florence is electing new city councilors as well as legislative representatives, we should remember 9-11.

Though Oregon is electing statewide officers including a governor, we should remember 9-11.

Though our nation has many midterm elections, we should remember 9-11.

It seems our personal needs are not greater than things that truly matter — like God, family and country.

It seems a lesson for all. Whether it be WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq or 9-11; we strive to be a more perfect union.

Fighting for our traditions and institutions matter. But sometimes, our union supercedes ourselves.

God bless America.

—Joel Marks
Florence

SUPPORTING THE LAW DOESN'T MAKE A RACIST

In response to Harold Titus' Letter to the Editor "Dehumanizing Others Who Are 'Not Like Us'" (Sept. 8), which referenced my Sept. 1 letter ("The Real Accomplishments of President Trump"), I am not dehumanizing anyone.

Comparing puppies to children in his letter and then conflating that to what "all" presidents have done to protect our country is contemptible at the least and ignorant at best. As many already know, seeking asylum is not illegal. But crossing our boarder without permission is.

Yet in his letter, Mr. Titus misleads in a way that confuses one with the other.

Following his train of thought, the parents of illegal immigrants have no responsibility for what their actions cause. So, should we just have no borders or laws to deter people from breaking them?

Taking that extreme view to its logical conclusion, we should just suspend all laws that interfere with what a person wants to do.

In his letter, Mr. Titus went on to conflate that members of our brave policing agencies are racist for enforcing our laws, suggesting by way of association that those of us who support policing the laws — including the president — are also racist.

That could not be more wrong, and those who think that way are simply dishonest and, in my opinion, contemptible. To think that all who cross illegally into our country are saints is pure ignorance.

And let's be clear: No one has said that all illegals are rapists and murders.

But that reality doesn't fit the narrative, which is to paint those on the "right" as Nazis or Nazi supporters. The intent of letters like that is to stifle dissent through a narrative that accuses those in support of the rule of law as racists.

I, for one, won't be deterred by that.

In this imperfect world, we are all responsible for our actions and the consequences of those actions. Like it or not, each of us has a responsibility to be aware of — and enforce — the laws that govern us as a republic.

Anyone wishing to come here and become a citizen should be welcomed with open arms. Just one requirement: Do it legally.

—David Eckhardt
Florence

BOND SUPPORTS OUR CHILDREN AND FUTURE

I am asking community members to consider the kids when it comes time to vote this November. I had the privilege of being a part of the Lane Council of Governments while serving as a Port of Siuslaw Commissioner for five years.

Two of the meetings were held at two different new schools in Eugene. It was wonderful to see buildings that were open, with all classrooms having natural light, fitted with today's technology in blackboards I had never seen, halls wide enough for kids to easily move from class to class and inviting lunch rooms where students could quickly get their meals or eat their own from home.

Children are the future of this country and we have to do our best to provide them with a safe environment in which to learn. A new building built to seismic codes would more likely survive an earthquake. Only one of our buildings partly meets this requirement now.

If such an event were to happen, only the Florence Events Center is large enough to provide shelter. The proposed high school would be another space for community emergency shelter.

It would also provide a space for a hot lunch program. Currently there is no kitchen in the high school. Meals are prepared in the elementary school and transported to the high school.

Our high school is almost 50 years old. In any area except the coast this would not be a long life, but here the weather is damaging. There are not enough classrooms for the kids we now have. Some classes are held in rooms that were not meant for classrooms. They have no windows and are either too warm or not warm at all, with no easy access and are not ADA compliant.

Other classrooms don't work with today's programs; there are two classes in the elementary school that will not fit in the high school when they get there.

One other thing to consider is that we can't keep doctors here. Since we are mostly a retirement community it would be good to have them stay so we don't have a new doctor every other year (if we even get one).

Many doctors leave as soon as they meet their required time in an outlying community and schools have been the basic stated reason. We must work together to provide the best we can for our children.

Please vote "yes" for schools. The cost won't go down, only up, if it doesn't pass now.

—Nancy Rickard
Florence

GRIER POLITICAL MAILERS CONTRADICT EACH OTHER

After viewing two different mailers just days apart, I wonder if other people are as baffled as I am about the real Teri Grier.

If you're a Democrat in House District 9, you might think Teri Grier is a third party, feel-good candidate who is ready to save folks from the tragedy of a health care bankruptcy.

If you're a Republican or Independent, on the other hand, you've seen quite a different mailer — one that paints a slanderous picture of Caddy McKeown as some kind of scheming shrew playing poker with our money.

There's even a gratuitous Portland liberal job thrown in for good measure.

That's not the Oregon way, Teri.

One has to ask, does Grier oppose the "one party rule" that gave Oregonians pre-existing conditions protection long before the Affordable Care Act became law?

Does she support the rural clinics paid for with ACA money? Does she support the legislation to provide health care access to every Oregonian?

How does she propose to help people keep their health coverage if her party, the Republican party, repeals the programs we have? What does "access to affordable healthcare services" mean to her?

I won't be fooled.

Caddy McKeown knows Oregon and, in my opinion, has always looked out for our local needs. There is no reason to replace her just because someone comes along and fans partisan fires that do not actually reflect McKeown's values or voting record.

—Sandy Todd
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.
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 partisan-ship 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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