

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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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that are anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or documented will not be published.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:
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
U.S. SEN. RON WYDEN 221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg Washington, DC 20510 202-224-5244 541-431-0229 www.wyden.senate.gov	STATE REP. CADDY MCKEOWN (DIST. 9) 900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301 503-986-1409 Email: rep.caddymckeown@state.or.us
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Seize the moment and avoid repeating the past



Thirty-six years ago, Ronald Reagan was president and the U.S. Supreme Court had its very first female justice, Sandra Day O'Connor. And while the gender equality gut check that was the Clarence Thomas hearings was still nine years away, it seemed a different United States back then.

Or so we thought.

As we're slowly discovering, it's disconcertingly similar to 36 years ago — in the same way that many of the white, wealthy faces that make up today's Senate hearing panels are the same.

Bridging the gap between that span of 36 years is the accusation by Christine Blasey Ford

that, at age 15, she was groped and pinned down at a party by a drunken Brett Kavanaugh, then 17, and now a Supreme Court Justice nominee.

Ford admits she doesn't remember every detail; and Kavanaugh denies it happened at all.

From the Editor's Desk

Ned Hickson

There is, of course, another viewpoint, expressed by Utah Senator Orrin Hatch, that Ford is "just mixed up."

Keep in mind that Sen. Hatch also told Utah's *Deseret News* newspaper that, "there's no question in my mind she was coached by special interest groups," adding: "Her story's too contrived. It's so slick it

doesn't compute."

So, is she "mixed up" or "slick?"

This vacillation is all too reminiscent of the Clarence Thomas hearings — or more specifically, the portrayal of Anita Hill as "mixed up" and perhaps "mentally unstable" by

The sad irony is that, as political strategy takes center stage in the minds of both parties, it seems more likely that questions of how to win or defeat the appointment of Judge Kavanaugh will become more important than asking ourselves if we have become better than we were 36 years ago.

In the age of #MeToo and a record number of women running for political appointment within all levels of government across our nation, what a shame it would be if we didn't seize this moment to put aside partisanship for personal growth as a nation.

It's time to walk the talk and, rather than repeat the past, finally cross the bridge spanning the last 36 years.

The consequences of not doing so will last far longer than any Supreme Court Justice appointment.

members of the all-male panel on the Thomas hearings.

However, there is one thing that differentiates today from yesterday: The mid-term elections.

Now just seven weeks away, both Republicans and Democrats are walking a taut, strategic tightrope held at both ends by women voters.

LETTERS

MCKEOWN HAS BEEN AN EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATIVE

I will vote for Representative Caddy McKeown in the Oregon House District 9 race this year. There are many reasons I have chosen to spend my vote in support of this extraordinary public servant but if I could tell just one story that illustrates my reasons why.

Several years ago I was in a meeting with Representative McKeown when she brought up the subject of the transportation issues facing Yachats. The citizens of Yachats had no way of accessing public transportation to reach doctor appointments, better shopping, education or employment opportunities.

To some, this was not a big deal; just another small town that fell through the cracks, but I could tell that it was a big deal to our representative. She has chosen to represent all of her constituents; not just the ones that supported her or of her political persuasion. I heard of the "Yachats" problem over the next months.

The day I learned that the problem had been solved I learned the magnitude of the problem.

The problem had to do with geography. Yachats is in Southern Lincoln County; the closest community with access to opportunity is Florence, located in northern Lane County. In other words, it was someone else's problem.

We, as a state, have decided that public transportation is a county issue. Representative McKeown had to find a way to work with Lincoln County, Lane County, Yachats, Florence, Oregon Department of Transportation and private partners.

She brought all these parts together with success. The reward for Representative McKeown was very small politically but huge to her personally.

As she stated, this was just her doing her job, what we had elected her to do.

This is just one small example of how Representative McKeown has effectively done her job for us.

—Dick Leshley
Yachats

WHAT MESSAGE WOULD A SALES TAX SEND TO VISITORS?

Regarding Dr. Sheldon Meyer's Letter to the Editor "Innovative Tax Idea" (Sept. 19), Meyer was correct that his smug proposal would disgust.

In the real world, people have a budget for a vacation. If we take, say, 10 percent as a visitor tax, then visitors may visit fewer days, e.g. nine rather than 10.

A 10 percent reduction is called a depression.

A great many snowbirds come to Oregon for work on their RVs. If they are subject to tax, they may get the work done elsewhere.

Will Oregonians require ID for every purchase to avoid the tax?

Lastly, what kind of message would it send to visitors that we expect them to fund our children's education?

—Ian Eales
Florence

WOMEN NEED AND DESERVE RESPECT AND SUPPORT

This letter is from a husband, father and grandfather who has protected,

—Dave Masko
Florence