

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

UNETHICAL BEHAVIOR

I have waited until after the midterm voting has been completed so that I may express my view — a viewpoint that I believe is held by many others in this community.

I am appalled and outraged by the behavior of two Florence City Council members prior to the distribution of ballots to voters.

It is unconscionable and appalling to read of the bullying of a City Council candidate by two sitting City Council members. Their behaviors are so egregious that I can conclude I have never seen the likes of them before.

Regardless of the political outcome this type of behavior is at best totally unethical.

It is my opinion that the two City Council members should be removed from office and barred from holding public office forever.

—David Lynch
Florence

FIRES ARE DUE TO POOR USFS

PLANNING, ENVIRONMENTALISTS

Claims that the devastating fires are caused by global warming is not entirely right.

Global warming is only a small part of the problem. The main cause is the failure to maintain a healthy forest. For the past 70-plus years, all fires have been seen as "bad," and the forest service began putting out all fires. The result was a build-up of debris on the forest floor.

To further aggravate the problem, fanatical environmentalists stopped major portions of logging activities. Look at the pictures of Yosemite in the 1940s and compare them to today, and it is easy to see the problem: Back then, there was enough room between trees to drive a car. Today, it is hard to ride a horse between them.

It is like pouring gas on the fire once it

starts. With proper timber management, many of today's fires wouldn't have happened. By the time USFS figured this out, it was too late to stop the inevitable.

Any fires were going to be almost impossible to control.

They have started to try and clean up and thin out forests now, but it is expensive and will take time; after all, it took many years to get this way.

Think what your place would be like if you let it go for years, let alone decades.

—Dan McDivitt
Florence

NO COLLUSION OR REASON TO DEMONSTRATE

Recently, local political activist Nora Kent, while demonstrating on 101 against the termination of Attorney General Jeff Sessions, was quoted (Siuslaw News story "March In Support of Special Counsel Robert Mueller," Nov. 10) "This is what Democracy looks like..."

Really? Just where does a lawfully released cabinet member by a United States President look like democracy by demonstrating because mobocracy is concerned that a Special Counsel Mueller, appointed by the executive branch of government, *may* be terminated?

Since when did Robert Mueller have more authority than the executive branch which hired him, even the President, who is the chief officer of the executive branch?

It seems absurd to link this misguided demonstration with democracy. Our democratic right is to vote; the President's right is to terminate those in the executive branch.

Our rights under the Bill of Rights is to "peaceably assemble" with common sense. Bob Mueller should have been dismissed long ago because the taxpayers of America have coughed up \$20 million for what appears to be a no-proof hoax put in motion by Deputy Attorney Gen-

eral Rod Rosenstein over the impotence of the recused Jeff Sessions.

The only collusion with the Russians that I can see is Barack Obama at an open microphone pleading with President Medvedev for time and compromise, and Hillary Clinton's paid-for dossier using Russian influence with her campaign funds.

Save the demonstrations for real issues, like eliminating the Second Amendment and destroying the lives of Supreme Court Justices who would send Roe vs Wade to the states.

God bless America, our wonderful Republic.

—Joel Marks
Florence

NEED FOR UNDERSTANDING OF SCHOOL FUNDING RULES

In response to the letter submitted by Cris Reep ("Tough Times Call For Tough Measures," Nov. 10) I wonder if many others in our community have a misunderstanding of how schools are funded in the state of Oregon.

The funding received by public schools through normal taxes are very restricted. Under current Oregon law a school district may not use operating funds for certain capital improvement or construction. Those can only be obtained through bond measures.

By law, a school district could have a huge budget surplus but is restricted from using those funds toward capital projects. Students pay out-of-pocket to play sports or other after-school extracurricular activities.

Eliminating football and any other extracurricular activity would not even begin to address issues outlined by the school district.

—Bob Teter
Florence

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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Wednesday Issue—General news, Monday noon; Budgets, four days prior to publication; Regular classified ads, Monday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Monday noon; 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; 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-week subscription, \$23; Out of Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$99; 6-month out-of-county, \$65; 10-week subscription, \$29; Out of State — 1-year subscription, \$125; E-Edition Online Only (Anywhere) — 1-year subscription, \$65.

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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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WHERE TO WRITE

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