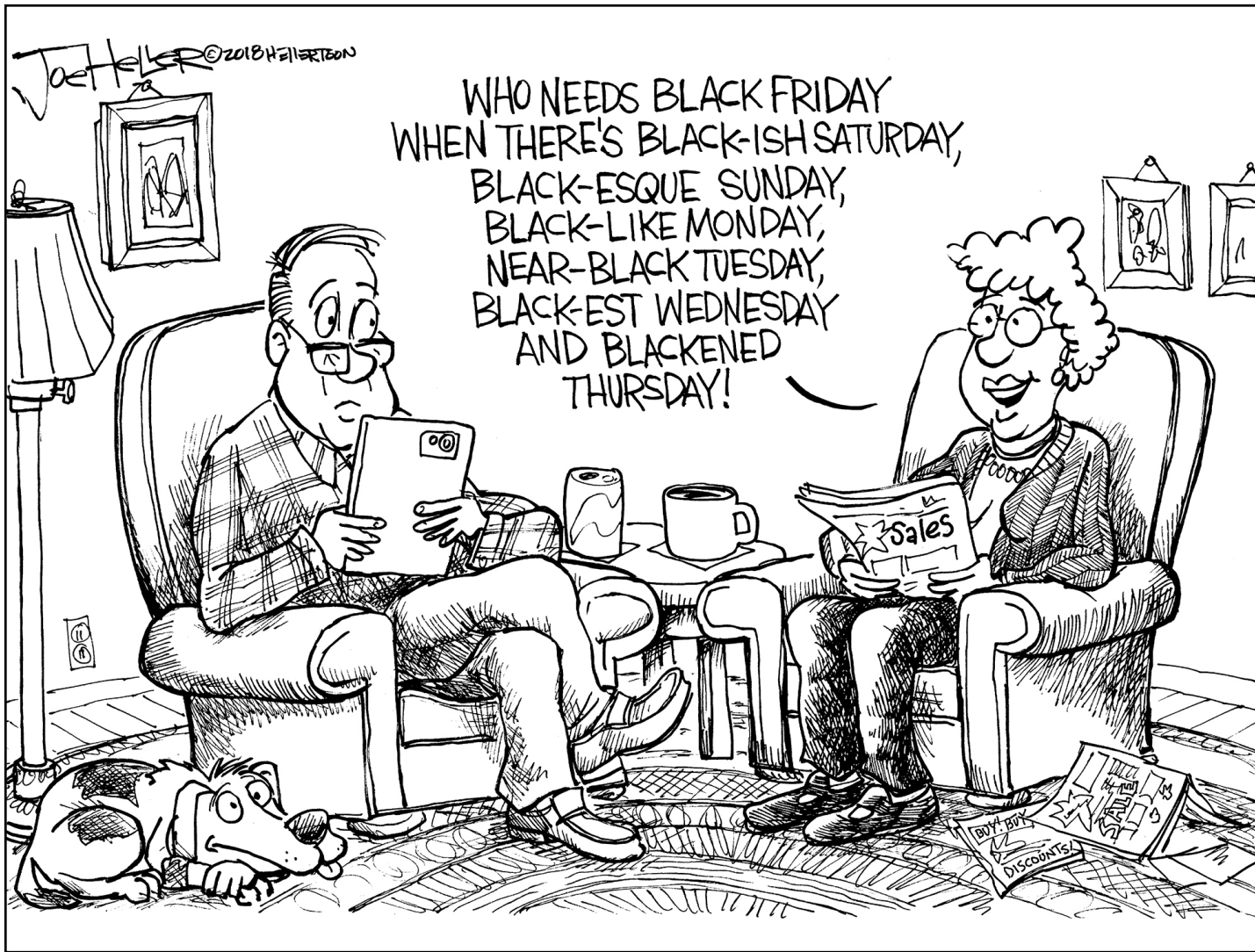


Siuslaw News
P.O. Box 10
Florence, OR 97439

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 TO THE COMMUNITY FOR TRIBUTE TO LEAH

Many, many thanks to all of the participants of the tributes to the memory of our beloved daughter, Leah Goodwin.

There were so many organizations and individuals involved. It is hard to find a place to start. We will try to thank everyone personally and in this letter. If we miss anyone, we know Leah is thanking them from heaven.

We would start by thanking Kevin, Matt and Kim at the FEC for donating time, labor and equipment.

Several people gave testimonials about their relationship with Leah, the Florence Methodist Church and others where Leah was a member or volunteered provided cookies, and more than 400 people attended the celebration of her life. Two plaques, a large stone and a brick were given in tribute to Leah at the FEC, where she was involved in numerous plays and productions as an active member of the Last Resort Players and other local theater groups in what she called her "home town" of Florence.

We would be hard pressed to name all of the many good friends who were instrumental in the celebration, but they know who they are — and so does Leah.

At a separate meeting, she was awarded the Paul Haris Fellow Award sponsored by Chrystal Farnsworth and Dana Rodet at the November Rotary Club meeting.

Our heartfelt thanks and appreciate to the community for celebrating Leah's life.

— Butch, Roise and Mabelle Goodwin
Florence

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

In the Nov. 17 edition of the Siuslaw News, in a Letter to the Editor ("Call to Action"), Michael Allen "condemns" Mayor Henry's partisanship position on such issues as sanctuary city status, gun violence prevention, climate change and support for educational upgrades.

One can only conclude that Mayor Henry's position is contrary to Mr. Allen's clearly partisan position on these issues.

In addition, he makes an "ardent Call to Action" on this matter.

It seems to me that the results of that "ardent Call to Action" were received when none of the partisan candidates ran against Mayor Henry in the recent election. Furthermore, it is overwhelmingly conclusive that Mayor Henry's position on these issues and his overall job performance is laudable and highly supported by the residents of Florence when one sees that Mayor Henry garnered 94.09 percent of the votes cast for mayor.

This looks like the "democracy in action" that Mr. Allen identified.

—Ron Duzy
Florence

(Note: Mayor Joe Henry ran unopposed in the Nov. 6 midterm election.)

WHEN WILL LOCAL GAS PRICES DROP?

Is anybody else curious as to why gas prices in Florence have not fallen?

For many years, the price of regular gas was always 10 cents a gallon cheaper in Florence than Eugene and was always cheaper than Medford.

At the time of writing (Nov. 16), Florence has seen the price drop just 3 cents a gallon in the past week while the price has dropped 10 cents in Eugene during the past couple of days — and is now 25 cents a gallon cheaper than Florence at some stations.

Even in Medford, the price dropped 9 cents in the past two days and is currently as much as 15 cents cheaper than Florence.

It would seem that here in Florence, if no gas station drops its price, the other stations are more than happy to maintain their prices.

—Frank Keavy
Florence

WHERE WAS THE PRESIDENT?

Our Commander and Chief, Donald Trump, has humiliated our military and country. As a political stunt prior to the midterm elections, he sent 5,200 Army troops to the Mexican border to help ward off the "invasion" of about 4,000 migrants from Central America who he warned will "invade" our country.

Now these troops have laid barbed wire on top of "the wall" at the tune of \$200 million and the troops are bivouacked miles from the border.

In the meantime, Secretary of Defense James Mattis stated that, other than laying the barbed wire, he did not know what their other functions were.

Next we had the observance of both WWI and Veterans Day, when it seemed a bit of rain hindered the president from flying in a helicopter to the Asine-Marne American Cemetery, where 2,289 American service men are interned — only an hour's drive by car from Paris.

Then we have Veterans Day and — once again — he was a no-show, this time at the Arlington National Cemetery observance because a bit of rain. Neither did he attend any other function honoring our service men and women that day.

I served my country in the U.S. Army for three years. I was both humiliated and embarrassed by his actions.

—Win Jolley
Florence

AN UNDISCOVERED CHRISTMAS TREASURE

I have a magnet on the side of my car that says, "Florence Nativity Festival," and I am always quite surprised at how many people stop and ask me, "What is that?"

For a small town, it is amazing how many fun, giving or spiritual things go on in Florence — especially during the holidays. But, instead of a large service club or nonprofit project, this one started with just a few women sharing their prized Nativity collections over a weekend.

Now there are over 400 that can be seen for free by the public.

If you haven't discovered it yet, it is a good thing to share with your family and friends and maybe start a yearly tradition. The festival is always the first weekend of December from 1 to 5 p.m. at the church on the corner of Munsel Lake and North Fork roads.

This year, the Friday showing falls on Nov. 30.

—Sherry Harvey
Florence

USPS# 497-660 Copyright 2018 © Siuslaw News

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.

Jenna Bartlett
Ned Hickson
Erik Chalhoub

Susan Gutierrez
Cathy Dietz
Ron Annis
Jeremy Gentry

Publisher, ext. 318
Editor, ext. 313
Consulting Editor 831-761-7353
echalhoub@register-pajaronian.com
Marketing Director, ext. 326
Office Supervisor, ext. 312
Production Supervisor
Press Manager

DEADLINES:

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.

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 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

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

U.S. SEN. RON WYDEN
221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-5244
541-431-0229
www.wyden.senate.gov

U.S. SEN. JEFF MERKLEY
313 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-3753
FAX: 202-228-3997
541-465-6750
www.merkley.senate.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

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

STATE REP. CADDY MCKEOWN
(DIST. 9)
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1409
Email: rep.caddymckeown@state.or.us

WEST LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER JAY BOZIEVICH
125 E. Eighth St.
Eugene, OR 97401
541-682-4203
FAX: 541-682-4616
Email: Jay.Bozievich@co.lane.or.us