

"I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend." —Thomas Jefferson (1800)



LETTERS

A GREAT PLACE TO BE A KID

As another holiday season draws to a close I am given reason to reflect upon the tremendous generosity in the Florence community. Beginning in November, a number of individuals, families and community groups stepped up to ensure a joyous holiday season for Siuslaw Elementary School families. School staff worked with donors to align this support with families needing some help. The support took the form of holiday meals, giftwrapped presents, clothing and direct financial support. The fact this support was donated anonymously speaks to the spirit in which it was given. It also speaks to the degree of trust SES staff have earned within the community. And such support is not specific to the holiday Season. We have benefited from individual and group donations to our clothes closet, donated time and effort

to maintain recess equipment, the support of an active PTA, donated healthy snacks, free dental screening and follow-up care for students, free vision screening and weekly food bags to help families over weekends. We have a strong (and growing) network of volunteers who help with everything from mentorship, to student instruction, to planning cultural events for our students. Thanks to the support of the Florence community, Siuslaw Elementary is a great place to be an educator or parent — but, most importantly, it's a great place to be a kid.

—Mike Harklerode
Principal,
Siuslaw Elementary School

WE ARE BECOMING DANGEROUSLY MALLEABLE

Here is something I think noticeable. Since attaining the age where the actions of presidents became of interest to me, I have seen 12 come and 11 go. In no case among those

men have I seen a single one who did not screw up something once in a while. Being president is a very complex, very difficult job, frequently presenting problems never before addressed. Faults are inevitable. Yet, in today's politics, it seems the most ardent supporters of a president simply cannot accept that their guy is fallible. No criticism of any kind is valid. (In today's parlance, "fake news.") And I'm not talking just about the current resident of 1600 Pennsylvania; those who were true to his predecessor were just as certain! When, because of our passion for an idea, we surrender the capacity to think objectively and critically, to listen attentively to criticism and to evaluate that criticism honestly, we become dangerously malleable.

—Jimmie Zinn
Florence

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.

USPS# 497-660 Copyright 2019 © 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 GOVERNOR 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.ArniesRoblan@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