

**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)



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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that are anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or documented will not be published.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

## The enduring reasons we thank Mom



that is — or has the potential of becoming — a cheese-like substance. My wife, on the other hand, understands there are complex emotional issues at work, and that, in spite of my good intentions, the likelihood of me being able to resolve such issues is akin to having a

myself, it was clear that my wife's insightfulness is something that only comes with motherhood. It's a bond that starts during that first nine months, when mother and child reach a special understanding that if Baby doesn't stop using mommy's bladder for step

breast milk to the human species, we'd all be nursed by monkeys.

And remember that breast pumping came after nine months of losing control over most of her bodily functions, including — but not limited to — food cravings. These cravings came as a direct result of Baby's needs inside the womb, even though, in many cases, those needs could gag a contestant on *Dumpster Diver*.

Keep in mind that during this process, she was still merrily preparing for Baby's arrival by hanging borders, assembling mobiles, making trips to the doctor — all while visiting the bathroom once every three minutes.

So, make sure to give a big "Thank You" to all the wonderful mothers out there, especially those who are celebrating their very first Mother's Day this year!

You know who you are. If you don't, you might try turning down that breast pump a notch or two...

### From the Editor's Desk

Ned Hickson

bomb successfully deactivated by a goat.

Thanks to her motherly intuition, my wife was able to explain to me that what our daughter says — and what she really *means* — are two completely different things.

As I understand it, this is the first step to becoming a woman. Being a man, I am no stranger to this concept.

However, I was in denial when it came to my daughter. Mostly because I didn't want to admit that she is growing up; time is slipping away. Though I kept this realization to

aerobics, mommy will eat a raw jalapeno.

In this way, even before birth, a child learns Mom will endure physical or emotional discomfort if it means providing a valuable life lesson; because that's what Moms do best.

Endure. If you don't believe me, then I have two words for you: Breast Pump. True, not every mother utilized this torture device, but the mere thought that she *could have* is reason enough for a child to be respectful.

Truth be told, if it were up to fathers to provide

### LETTERS

#### CITY STAFF IS GOVERNING RATHER THAN COUNCIL

Recently at a Florence Urban Renewal Agency (FURA) meeting, a curious action and vote took place. The controversial mural issue arose and the case was made by a well spoken member of the committee.

She wondered why the total funding was changed from \$125K to \$83K a year. Many on the FURA committee, as well as City Council, seemed confused as there was no previous notice — just a stroke of the staff management pen.

This procedure puts the employees in charge of the employer being the City Council. It also short changes those who voted for the mural at a different monetary level, as well as the public.

Not a good sign; not a good precedent; not the way to run a ship. However, we have seen this movie before on multiple occasions including the procedure used at the original mural public meeting at the FEC favoring passage.

Benjamin Franklin rightly said at the Federal Convention, "I have lived long Sir and the longer I live the more convincing proof I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of men."

In the case of Florence, it seems the city staff is governing instead of the elected officials. May this flaw be corrected soon or we will get government by and for the *unelected* officials.

It is now time for our elected officials to assert their prerogative of decision making. Every one of our fine city council are good people, but need to take charge before Florence grows and then it will be too late in the game..

Yes, Mr. Franklin had the right idea: "God governs in the affairs of men", when unelected officials don't intrude.

God bless America.  
 —Joel Marks  
 Florence

#### MARK BOREN IS THE LEADER WE NEED AT LANE ESD

I am confused. I have seen Nora Kent's name on the ballot a

lot lately. The position for Board Member on the Lane Education Service District is a very important position.

I want someone with the most experience. Mark Boren has that experience and understanding. He has worked in the education field, even for Lane ESD.

He was an instructional Assistant in Special Education for 15 years and a training officer for Lane ESD. He has volunteered widely in his community as a volunteer fireman, a sports coach, the Lane Community College EMT Advisory Board, Northwest Christian University Advisory Board for ethics and leadership.

He also served as the Booster Club President in his community. Obviously, Mark Boren is a leader and able to work well with many. His time serving and working in these definitely makes him the best candidate for the Lane ESD board.

I will be marking my ballot for Mark Boren.

—Laurie Curruthers  
 Florence

### WHERE TO WRITE

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