

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

IF YOU LIVE OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS, YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN

Early Wednesday as I was leaving home, I saw a man with a bicycle and a small yellow trailer at Highway 101 and Grand Avenue (south of the bridge) with paper strewn everywhere. When I circled back he was gone but I picked up a large pile of opened mail and a package. I took it to the Florence Police Department and was told to call the Lane County Sheriff's Office because I found the mail outside of the city limits — even though a lot of the mail had Florence addresses. I wasn't given an opportunity to give a statement, description or talk to a police officer. It was suggested I take it to the post office, which I did. It's not the first time I encountered this problem; even though your address is Florence, you work there, own a business there, shop

and donate and support Florence events, have kids and grandkids who go to school there, you can't get help from local police if you live outside the city limits. If you do, better keep your eyes open and learn to protect yourself because city police can't.

—Larry Bouchet
Florence

SHOW GROCERY STORE CART RETURNERS SOME RESPECT

I have witnessed a troubling situation several times in the parking lot of local grocery stores. It concerns young men and women who retrieve shopping carts for the store. These young people are out there on a daily basis in the heat, cold, rain and even snow, running after carts and trying to secure them before they hit a vehicle. This is especially true at Fred Meyer. Most of the time, they are run-

ning after carts left by people too lazy to return them to the corrals available throughout the parking lot. I have also seen shoppers lunge carts towards workers when they aren't looking, and also watched drivers speed through the lot and nearly hit workers. I even saw one man flick a cigarette out his truck window at a worker. They deserve as much respect as any other employee. I talk with them quite often and they are well-mannered and polite. In order to keep them, as well as other shoppers, safer, speed signs and/or some speed bumps should be installed to slow traffic. If you haven't done their job or walked in their shoes, don't judge them — treat them as if they were your own children out there.

—SueEllen Smith
Florence

Scotch Broom rules should be enforced equally

(Editor's Note: Viewpoint submissions on this and other topics are always welcome as part of our goal to encourage community discussion and exchange of perspectives.)

On May 22, the Siuslaw News published a press release regarding the Florence City Code that prohibits property owners from planting and growing invasive species such as Scotch Broom. Since the Scotch Broom was introduced here in Florence, it has spread up Highway 101 to Astoria and Highway 126 all the way to Eugene. Scotch Broom is identifiable by

the bright yellow flowers this time of year. While not seen so much on residential properties, they are growing in huge quantities on government-controlled and corporate

GUEST VIEWPOINT By Eugene Olson Florence resident

properties in and around Florence. The largest groves of Scotch Broom can readily be seen on the vacant properties surrounding Spruce Point on Ninth Street, on the

golf course and port properties on Kingwood; at the entrance to Waste Management; the Humane Society property on Rhododendron Drive; the property across the street from the Florence Events Center; the Port of Siuslaw in Old Town; and under the water tower on 35th street.

It seems those properties ignore city code, allowing Scotch Broom to expand underterred. I would like to request the City of Florence require its own local government and commercial property owners to abide by the same rules as the rest of us and rid their properties of Scotch Broom.



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Jenna Bartlett
Ned Hickson
Susan Gutierrez
Cathy Dietz
Ron Annis
Jeremy Gentry

Publisher, ext. 318
Editor, ext. 313
Marketing Director, ext. 326
Office Supervisor, ext. 312
Production Supervisor
Press Manager

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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@oregonlegislature.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	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