

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)

Lane County Lease good for North Jetty Park

(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.)

I'm very pleased the North Jetty Park community meeting conducted by Lane County Parks was so well attended with standing room only. Although the session started with the objections of those who want to retain free access to the ocean, it progressed to a meaningful discussion about the many benefits of Lane County Parks taking over, and recognition by many of the need for a parking fee.

There are many who deserve thanks for making this a very productive meeting. First and foremost I thank the residents from the Florence area who answered the call to attend the meeting.

Charlie Conrad from Lane County Parks is to be commended for his great job as moderator, especially explaining the role of the County Parks in the leasing

arrangement. Charlie has been in Florence for several previous planning sessions.

Brett Henry, Parks Manager, deserves thanks for reminding us of the Lane County Park Master Plan and its call for a volun-

GUEST VIEWPOINT By Michael Allen Friends of Florence RV Park

teer coordinator who will support partnerships and volunteers from our community. Volunteers, of which there are many in Florence, can provide the North Jetty Park with habitat rehabilitation, educational and interpretive opportunities.

I was glad to see a representative from the Department of State Lands in attendance so he could hear firsthand what needs to be done to fix the potholes in the short and long term.

I have high confidence that our local rangers led by Dan Anderson will do an excellent job of

supporting the North Jetty Park. Dan provided reassurance at the meeting that safety would be adequately addressed in a timely manner, a concern of many at the meeting.

Finally, I wish to thank Dan Hurley, Head of Lane County Public Works, and members of the Park Advisory Committee, including our own local Pat Bradshaw, for attending the meeting. They can provide positive feedback to the County Commissioners who will make the final decision to proceed.

As someone who worked on the Parks Master Plan Task Force representing the coast, hosted at Harbor Vista Park for a year, and formed the Friends of Harbor Vista Park, I saw firsthand how thoughtful Lane County Parks has been by involving local communities in the planning process.

A long term leasing arrangement by Lane County Parks at the North Jetty will be a great benefit to our community.

LETTERS

POLITICS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH OPINION ON ART

I beg to disagree strongly with Wednesdays edition of the Siuslaw News printing Judith Preisler's letter stating she was distressed to read Mayor Joe Henry chose to attack both Councilor Green and PAC Chairman Springer, who worked tirelessly to improve the appearance of the city through public art, further stating, "Politics has reared its head in the ugliest manor over this issue, and what a shame it is."

Politics has nothing to do with it. It is a matter of *opinion*. It is sad that, in this day and age, one can not express their opinion without someone from another side screaming "politics!"

Sadly it has become a daily occurrence.

As far as the so called mural goes, I would venture to say if we held a city-wide vote the major-

ity of Florence residents would say they see it more as graffiti than a work of art — especially when here is so much natural beauty in and around Florence that we can all be proud of rather than have to look the other way from when we passing it.

In conclusion, I would hope the PAC would heed the words expressed against their choice during the meeting held a few months ago and attended by citizens deeply concerned with their future choices.

—Tony Cavarano
Florence

MURAL CAN BE PROTECTED AGAINST GRAFFITI

In Michael O'Conner's Letter to the Editor "City Must Have Unlimited Funds" (July 3), he suggested that graffiti tagging was inevitable and costly.

While true that it's a problem with murals, there are products like Vandlguard that can

be applied to murals to protect the surface and allow it to be cleaned without damage.

I am doubtful PAC factored this into the mural on Highway 126, but they should do some research of products for future mural projects.

—Win Jolley
Florence

MAYOR JOE, YOU ARE NOT ALONE

After reading Lea Patten's Guest Viewpoint ("No Room For Bullies In Our Local Government," July 3) and Judith Preisler's letter to the editor in the *Siuslaw News* (Distressed By Discourse," July 3), it would appear some folks are attempting to empty their chamber pots on our mayor's head.

Just know there is a large group of us who appreciate strong leadership.

—Bruce Jarvis
Florence

Facts, not unsupported claims, should prevail

(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.)

I was dismayed and disappointed by the Lee Patten Guest Viewpoint ("No Room For Bullies In Our Local Government," July 3) in the *Siuslaw News*. Lea Patten claims that our Mayor, Joe Henry, has been unethical in his actions and statements with regard to FURA and the Public Art Committee (PAC) funding.

Some time back, I was on the City Council for eight years, so I am familiar with what the state ethics board views as unethical, how the council works and how FURA and Council Committees work.

Making claims about an elected official being unethical is a serious matter, especially when the facts are likely otherwise. Patton based her claim on the Siuslaw

News front page story "Councilor Conflict Dominates Discussion (June 29).

After having re-read the article several times, I found that, yes, there is conflict. But I also found nothing unethical about the

GUEST VIEWPOINT By Del Phelps Past Florence City Councilor

Mayor's actions or statements. I have great respect for the City Council members, the FURA members, PAC members, and the work they have done for our community.

I also must admit that I questioned the mural chosen for the PUD building, but now feel that, as it progresses, it is looking better than I thought it would.

The fact remains that when any member of a city committee makes statements in or on any public media, they must clarify as to who they speak for, i.e., the

committee (with committee permission) or themselves in their *own* opinion.

In my opinion, Mayor Henry was simply making it very clear as to what the council's prior actions were and what the rules are when any of the council, or FURA members, and/or any city committee members, speak via public media.

I am disturbed that this issue (public art) is dividing our community and city as it has. I hope and pray that all involved will step back and take the time to let calmer minds prevail.

We as a community need to come together and preserve all of the good we have accomplished in the past; going to war will not accomplish anything but hard feelings and destruction of all the good that has been accomplished.

Come on people, put this behind you and move forward together!

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, OR 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
Susan Gutierrez
Cathy Dietz
Ron Annis

Publisher, ext. 318
Editor, ext. 313
Multimedia Sales Director, ext. 326
Office Supervisor, ext. 312
Production Supervisor

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, \$79; 6-month in-county, \$56; 10-week subscription, \$25; Out of Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$102; 6-month out-of-county, \$69; 10-week subscription, \$35; Out of State — 1-year subscription, \$134; 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@oregonlegislature.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