

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)

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Siuslaw News

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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:

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that are anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or documented will not be published.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

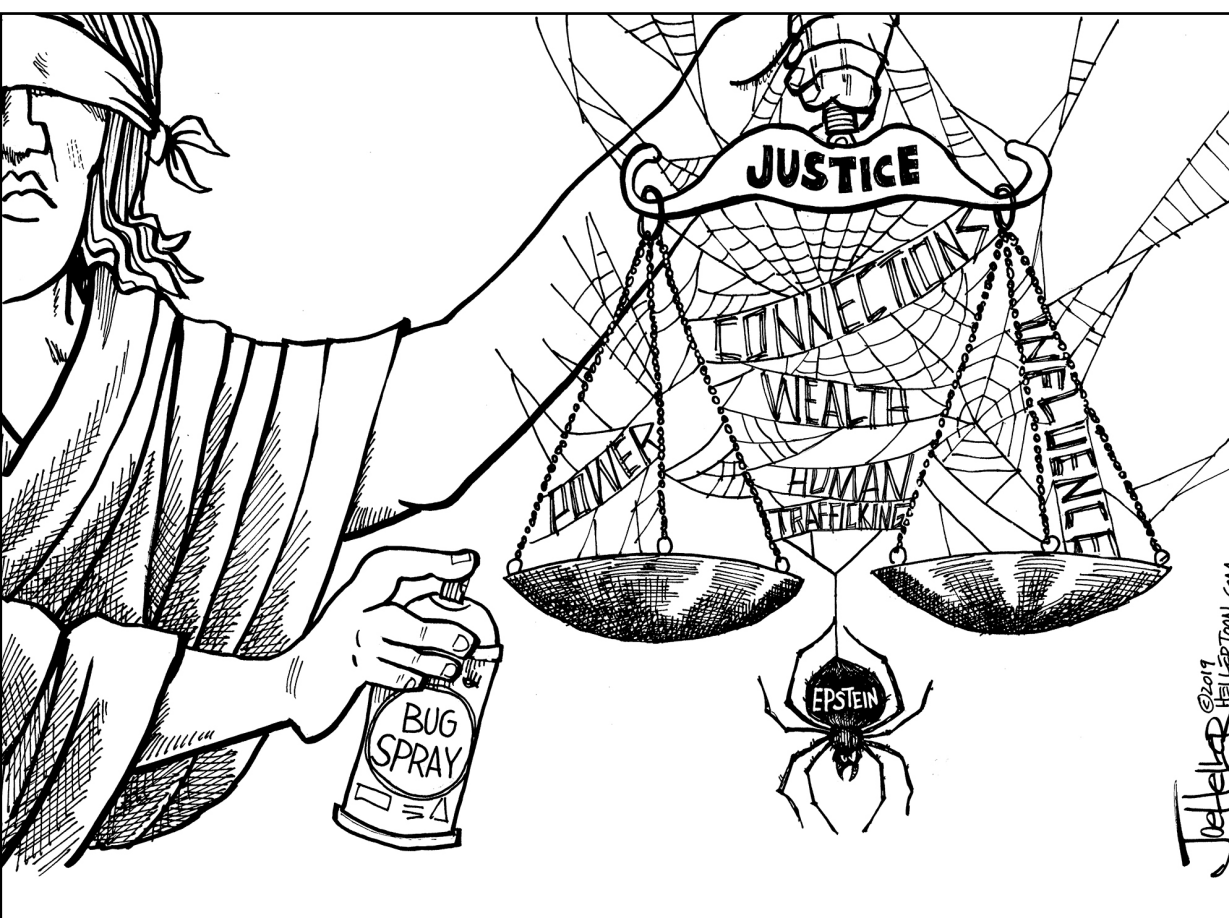
Candidates themselves may not use the letters to the editor column to outline their views and platforms or to ask for votes; this constitutes paid political advertising.

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 | 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 |
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221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg
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202-224-5244
541-431-0229
www.wyden.senate.gov | STATE REP. CADDY MCKEOWN
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202-224-3753
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541-465-6750
www.merkley.senate.gov | WEST LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER JAY BOZIEVICH
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LETTERS

DUTY IS NOT TO PRESERVE PARTY BUT PEACE, FREEDOM

"Neither the fanatics nor the faint-hearted are needed, And our duty as a party is not to our Party alone, but to the nation, and, indeed, to all mankind. Our duty is not merely the preservation of political power but the preservation of peace and freedom.
 "So let us not be petty when our cause is so great, Let us not quarrel amongst ourselves when our Nation's future is at stake."
 — President John F Kennedy.
 —Edward Gunderson
 Florence

SILENT NO MORE

For years, I took pride in calling myself a part of the "silent majority." I did not stand on the street corners with signs, did not speak up when confronted with radical socialistic statements, did not take the time to get the facts — I just sucked up the biased reporting being fed to us and did not speak out against radical left efforts to take away our freedoms.
 When I was a kid we started each school day standing and saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. We all stood and saluted when the flag passed in a parade. However, the last 20 years have seen the stripping away of honor and reverence for our American freedoms. We now have at least two generations of young people who have not really been taught to be proud of what America and the U.S. Constitution stand for, nor have they really been taught the price this country and its people have paid for these freedoms.
 In the words of Thomas Jefferson, "All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent."
 As for the mural, I am not sure

We must let our fellow citizens know they are not alone in their concern for the direction our country is going. It is time to be heard not just in word but in deed as well.
 Display the American flag at your home or business and on your car; contact your elected officials and make your concerns known; wear an American flag patch on your jacket; take time to get the facts on issues that concern you and contact your representatives.
 If you are thinking this is a bit much just remember: Freedom isn't free. The most simple thing can have a large impact. To that end, I have been taking small rocks and painting an American flag on them with the words "Freedom Isn't Free."

When I see a veteran and thank them for their service, I hand them a rock. In addition, I leave them where ever I go. It's a simple thing but the response and feedback has been excellent. I have chosen to be silent no more and I hope others will find a way to join me.
 With deepest respect for all our rights under the U.S. Constitution,
 —Bruce Jarvis
 Florence

Murals will always be 'ghetto art'

I realize far too much has been written about the murals currently being done in a prominent location in town. With that said, I must weigh in on the subject. I am sure the selected artist is of high expertise as I also expect of high moral character.
 Florence is a beautiful Oregon beach town. I completely approve of the direction the current city government has taken us. Under the direction of Mayor Joe Henry, the future appears to be bright.

how it made it through the public input process and especially if the "artist's concept" was included.

From my point of view, murals have always been — and will always be — "ghetto art." They originated in inner cities, on the sides of freeways and in some of the most unfortunate and lower-class portions of our country.

Why our lovely beach town would want to emulate an inner-city ghetto is beyond my imagination.

If somebody knows how to set up a "Go Fund Me" site, I would like to be the very first donor to contribute the first donation of \$50 to hire a contractor to re-side and repaint said buildings ASAP to save us from further embarrassment.
 —Robert Russell
 Florence

Great trip on new Florence-Yachats bus service

I saw the advertisement for the new bus service to Yachats. My friend and I went over to the bus stand at Grocery Outlet to catch it. It leaves at 11 a.m. and comes back at 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, and costs \$2.50 each way (\$5 round trip).

The bus is nice, clean and has room for bicycle and wheelchair transport. The bus parks at the Log Church and you can walk any place in town from there. We had lunch at Ono and stopped in every gift shop. There's also a nice market there. You don't have to worry about parking, and the bus driver, Al, was very nice.

It was a great trip over and back and one I'd encourage others to take.
 —Bea Maury
 Florence

