

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

DON'T FLY FLAGS, SYMBOLS REPRESENTING HATE

I was impressed with the opinion of Ted Coopman who wrote in the July 7 edition of the *Register Guard* concerning hate, because it also affects us here in Florence as well.

Sitting in a local restaurant on Highway 101 watching the traffic, many were returning from the big dune buggy races in North Bend.

I assume this because many of them were flying the Confederate flag and the "Don't Tread On Me" flag side by side. On the front page of the next edition of *The World* newspaper from Coos Bay — big as life — was a photo of several dune buggies in the middle of a race, and all were flying the Confederate flag. In addition, some were flying the "Don't Tread On Me" flag and one had an upside-down American Flag (normally signifying a need for help).

This all reminded me of the Veterans Day Parade in Florence last year, when a Jeep went by flying the Confederate flag on the right side of the vehicle and three feet higher than the American flag, which was on the left side of the Jeep.

This is the opposite of American and military flag etiquette, which state that the American flag should always be positioned on the right side and higher than other flags. Another Jeep was carrying the "Don't Tread On Me" flag, which has unfortunately been adopted by some white supremacist groups since 2006. It became widespread after the Charlottesville incident in 2017 involving white supremacists and the death of an anti-racism protestor.

It is my opinion that organizers of these public events should be careful to weed out the flags and symbols that have been adopted by hate groups, such as Nazi, Confederate and other extremist organization hate symbols.

Only our communities, as a whole, can take steps to eliminate hate graffiti, flags and symbols from our buildings and from public events. Lest we forget that the Confederate armies led to the deaths of 200,000 men and boys; and lest we forget that the WWII invasions by the Nazi armies led to the deaths of over 60 million people in 38 countries including 405,399 Americans.

Lost to America in that war were 318,274 U.S. Army and Air Force

lives, 62,614 U.S. Navy lives, 24,511 U.S. Marines and 1,917 Coast Guard lives.

Let's not memorialize these former enemies and their atrocities by flying their flags on dune buggies and pickup trucks through our communities.

It hurts a lot of people.

—Gene Olson
Florence

HONORING THE PAST DOESN'T LESSEN OUR FUTURE

Kudos to Bruce Jarvis on his Letter to the Editor in the *Siuslaw News* ("Silent No More," July 13).

Thank you for saying what so many of us are feeling, and for your "reminder rocks" as a way of saying thanks and remembering our military/veterans.

America is the greatest country on the planet, and certainly worth the struggles to preserve it.

Most of us felt it was a privilege, honor and display of loyalty to recite the pledge of allegiance each morning before school. Acknowledging our flag was a reminder that we are all Americans.

It was also a great way to begin our school day. Those who would change our traditions, destroy our history are so misguided.

We should remember that honoring the past does not lessen our future.

—Dusty and Trish Rhodes
Florence

MURALS HAVE NO ORIGINS AS 'GHETTO ART'

In response to Robert Russell's Letter to the Editor in the *Siuslaw News* calling murals "ghetto art" ("Mural Will Always Be 'Ghetto Art,'" July 13), I feel compelled to disagree on multiple counts.

First, a fact: murals did not originate in the inner cities, as Mr. Russell contends. History shows us that painting on walls is an activity nearly as ancient as humanity itself, from indigenous petroglyphs, to the Lascaux caves and the sophisticated murals of ancient Pompeii, to massive public art works funded by the WPA during the Great Depression.

Even if they did, why should an art form be denigrated simply because of its origins? Are we to value only traditional Western art created mostly by white males under the patronage of other white males?

What about art from other regions and traditions?

Wonderful and inspiring works come from many unexpected people and places, not just "the usual suspects."

People can certainly like the mural or not based on their personal perceptions, and discussions will undoubtedly continue about how the design was selected and funded.

That's fair.

But to drag socio-economic topics into the discussion risks adding a very ugly element that may not be what Mr. Russell intended.

—Laurie Green
Florence

REPORT CONCLUDES CLIMATE CHANGE NOT HUMAN-CAUSED

Jyrki Kauppinen and Pekka Malmi just published a paper titled "No Experimental Evidence for the Significant Anthropogenic Climate Change."

The authors concluded that global temperatures are controlled primarily by cloud cover and that only a small part of the increased carbon dioxide is anthropogenic (controlled by man).

The study by researchers at Turku University in Finland found that the human contribution of a rise of 0.1 degree C in global temperatures over the last century is just 0.01 degree C.

Now, maybe we stop wasting money on global warming and start supporting solutions to more important problems.

—Frank Williams
Florence

(Editor's Note: In the interest of fairness, while it has its supporters, the paper "A New Finnish Study Finds No Evidence Of Man-Made Climate Change," has been criticized for not being peer reviewed and other climate scientists have refuted the conclusions reached by Jyrki Kauppinen and Pekka Malmi.

They argue that, in addition to not being reviewed by peers, the report fails to provide correct physical explanation, has not linked to — or cited — enough sources to support their claims and, although they denounce climate models, Kauppinen and Malmi use one themselves to prove their own points. To read the report, visit www.arxiv.org/pdf/1907.00165.pdf)

The caging of human rights

(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.*)

At a hearing July 12 on the Trump administration's immigration policies, Rep. Gerry Connolly, Democrat of Virginia, was appropriately livid:

"I never thought as a member of Congress — as an American — I would hear the testimony I heard today... as to the simple inhumanity that faces these children and families at the border. I don't really care what their motivation was — whether it was asylum or economic betterment — they're not to be treated as subhumans.

"You can talk all you want about whether the poor border control is overwhelmed. That makes no excuse for how we are treating children! If there's one basic value that ought to unite us as Democrats and Republicans — as Americans — it's how we treat *children*. Their children, our children — it doesn't matter. ... Children without soap,

children in filth — conditions that none of us would ever countenance with our own children.

"The equivocation, the enabling, the rationalization, is inexcusable. Is there no limit to what you will justify in this adminis-

GUEST VIEWPOINT By Mel Gurtov Prof. Emeritus of Political Science, PSU Deadwood

tration when it comes to the mistreatment of our fellow human beings? And do you have no shame about the fact ... it's all done in the shadow of the American flag?"

In answer to which, Donald Trump has said conditions in the detention facilities are "better than those faced by migrants in their home villages," and Mike Pence, after visiting a detention cage housing 400 men last week, praised the "compassion and care" migrants are receiving.

Pence agreed that in some cases conditions are unacceptable, but blamed the migrant population and Democrats. He reassured us

that the ICE raids on U.S. cities over the weekend focused on people who have "committed crimes in this country and represent a threat to our communities."

Meanwhile, Mike Pompeo has appointed a special panel on human rights to examine what it means "to say or claim that something is, in fact, a human right. How do we know or how do we determine whether that claim that this or that is a human right, is it true, and therefore, ought it to be honored?"

As if the answers hadn't been provided by the United Nations, international legal scholars and the U.S. government itself over 70 years ago.

So long as Trump, Pence and the rest of this inhumane, tone-deaf administration are in office, U.S. officials will have no right to lecture any other government on how it treats people within its borders.

It would be more appropriate to put a shroud over the Statue of Liberty until such time as America's leaders recover their compassion and respect for immigrants.

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
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, Thursday 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