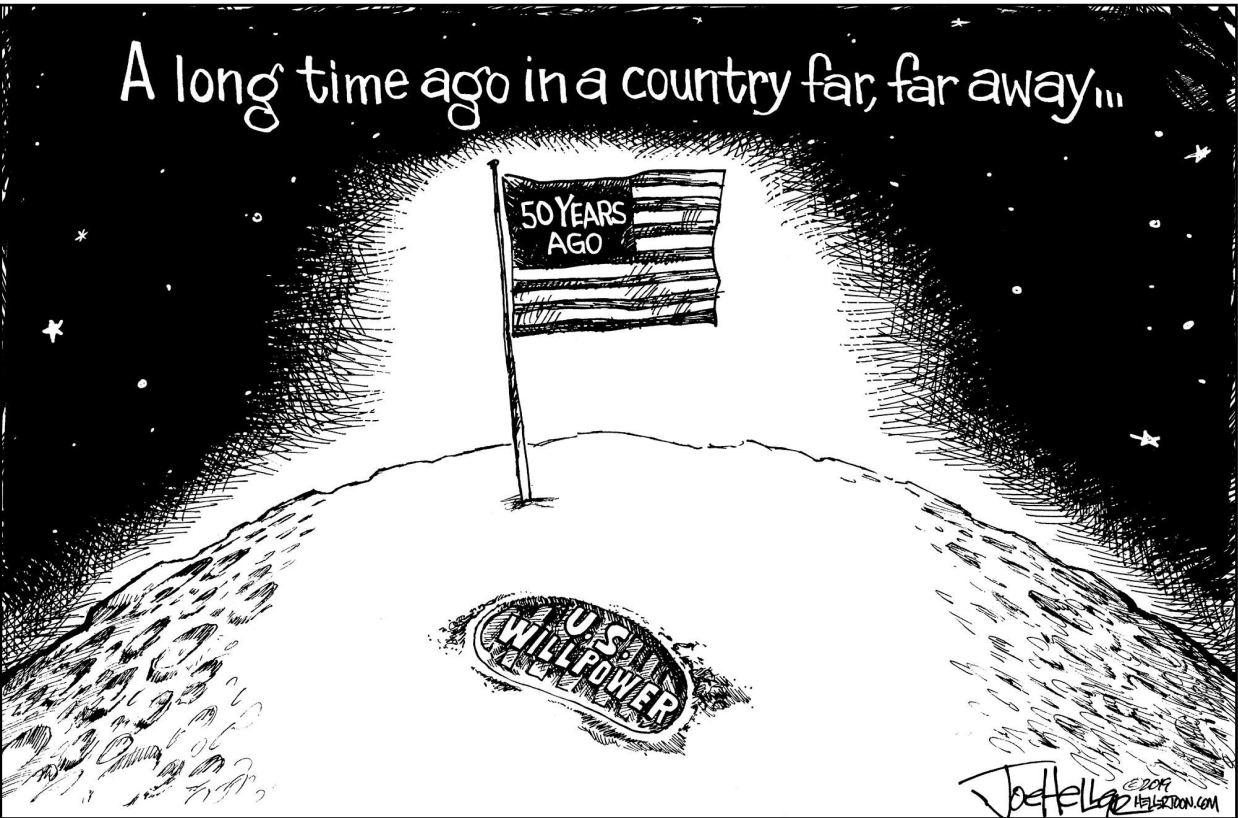


Siuslaw News
P.O. Box 10
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Opinion

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)



‘We came in peace for all mankind’

On this day 50 years ago, more than 600 million people from around the world were united in a common experience: To watch as the first humans set foot on the moon.

It was part of a journey that had begun eight years earlier, culminating in a 76-hour, 200,000-mile trek to reach the farthest point that humans had ever touched within our universe.

As Neil Armstrong opened the hatch of the Apollo 11 lunar module at 10:39 p.m. on July 20 and began descending the ladder toward the moon's surface, it didn't matter what language he spoke or political party he belonged to — and the only race that mattered as he created the first lunar footprint

was that of the human race.

As he took that first “small step” and uttered his now famous words referring to mankind's giant leap, the moment illustrated a couple of undeniable

Yet some 400,000 scientists, researchers and engineers worked in collaboration and solved what historians have called the “10,000 impossible questions” facing the mission.

drawing four bell-type curves. He labeled them Leadership, Threat, Economy and Talent, then said, “When you get all these lined up, you can't stop something really big from happening.”

Fifty years ago tomorrow, on July 21, the Apollo 11 began its journey back to Earth, leaving behind a plaque on the surface of the moon that reads:

Here men from the planet Earth first set foot on the moon—July 1969 A.D.—We came in peace for all mankind.

As we reflect on the 50th anniversary of achieving the impossible, we need to ask ourselves whether the next small step we take will unite us through leadership, economy and talent — and if that unity will be the fleeting kind created by a common threat, or a lasting peace for all mankind that comes through sharing a common goal.

From the Editor's Desk
Ned Hickson

truths about our species.

The first is that when we are at our best, the impossible becomes possible.

To truly appreciate the magnitude of obstacles that needed to be overcome in order to achieve the first moon landing and safely return astronauts Buzz Aldrin, Michael Collins and Armstrong, you only have to look at the iPhone in your pocket.

Today, within that handheld device, you wield more computer processing power than the entire NASA space program had in the 1960s.

Which brings me to the second undeniable truth about mankind: To live in peace together, we must either be united in a common threat or common goal.

In 1972, after the completion of the final mission in the Apollo program, about 30 NASA leaders met for a few days at Caltech to review what had been accomplished and how they had achieved the challenge of the century.

Armstrong was the last to speak, walking quietly to the chalkboard and

LETTERS

RESOLUTION TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

After many long and frustrating attempts at getting action from federal, state and local governments regarding our climate crisis, I presented Florence Mayor Joe Henry and the Florence City Council with a formal request at the July 15 city council meeting.

In it, I referenced a study released by the Rocky Mountain Institute that shows that pledges from cities, businesses and individuals throughout the world would enable us to reach two-thirds of the Paris Climate Agreement goals.

I requested that our mayor and city council produce a resolution that pledges to join forces with community, state and federal entities to address our climate crisis; I also requested that the mayor designate a commission that includes a wide range of interested parties in order to develop concrete actions for the City of Florence to take.

The study conducted by the Rocky Mountain Institute, a renowned renewable energy organization in Colorado, concluded that pledges by cities and business add up. I hope the mayor and city council also believe in their own power to effect change and follow my request.

Action on the climate crisis is way past due.

— Michael Allen
Florence

NOT IN HARMONY

I just returned home to Florence last Saturday. I'd been in Los Angeles for two weeks. I flew into Eugene, got in my car and drove back to the Oregon coast.

After crowded freeways and urban sprawl as far as the eye can see, the drive through the trees and along the Siuslaw River filled my mind with beauty, and LA became a distant memory.

I had crossed the last bridge, cruised past the casino and made the last curve coming into town when... oh my — I was taken back.

The mural; I had completely forgotten about it.

Before I left, I had begun accepting it as part of our town, a bit busy for my taste but bright and colorful.

Now it looked out of place. It reminded me of Santa Monica or Venice Beach — definitely not in harmony with the beauty I had just driven through.

—Jeff Ashmead
Florence

THANKFUL FOR OUR LOCAL CINEMA

When my wife and I were deciding on a retirement location, we were drawn to Florence by three things: the marvelous library, Peace Harbor hospital and the Florence Events Center. Since moving here some 21 years ago, we appreciate these facilities more and more.

A few years back, the shuttered movie theater in the Grocery Outlet shopping center was rejuvenated as City Lights Cinemas; had it been there under the current owner, we would have added it to the list.

As a retired engineer and data junkie, I keep meticulous computerized personal financial records and, in looking back at what we have seen at City Lights Cinemas, found we don't often attend the Hollywood blockbusters. We do, however, attend

less well-known screenings like the artistically recreated Van Gogh characters in “Loving Vincent” and the refurbishment of a classic formula 1 racing car in “Ferrari 312B”

This week, we attended “Bikes of Wrath,” the story of five Aussie cyclists who decided to travel the path the fictional Joad family took in Steinbeck's “The Grapes of Wrath.” Steinbeck paints a picture of the Joad family leaving their dust bowl farm in Oklahoma in search of the promise of jobs in California. Instead of a broken-down jalopy piled high with all their worldly possessions like the Joads, the Aussies set out pedaling the same route.

Sixty-some years after reading Steinbeck's Pulitzer-prize winning novel, I still get teary remembering his vivid descriptions of the hardships facing these Depression-era migrants. Throughout the movie, folks the cyclists met read short excerpts of the book. I was struck how little some things have changed.

The Oklahoma refugees from the dust bowl faced a string of hardships and were met with indifference and outright hostility along their journey. And these were from fellow American citizens. The attitude of “we've got ours... too bad about you” existed then and has not yet perished.

You need go no further than to peruse the Letters To The Editor in this newspaper to see that some in our own community would have felt right at home, urging the Joads to move on.

So thank you, Michael Falter at City Lights, for bringing this thought-provoking film to Florence.

—Ken Janowski
Florence

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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

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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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