

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)



LETTERS

**I'M GREEDY, SELFISH...
AND I SUPPORT PUBLIC ART**
I realize that the title seems oxy-

moronic, but hear me out...
Why do so many cities have public art? Because it draws tourists and new residents. If this didn't work, the practice would have been abandoned long ago. Public art has many centuries of success all over the world. This success is quite evident, even if our mayor just doesn't "buy it."

We already attract a lot of tourists, thanks to this wonderful slice of heaven that is our home. But ask any retailer in Old Town, and I wager that nary a one will say that they have too many customers in Florence.

This is where my self-professed selfishness comes in. I'm in my retirement years, probably similar to many of those reading here. As I age, I will depend more and more on assistance from others: doctors, nurses and hospital staff; restaurant owners, chefs and service staff; grocers and the many specialists and personnel; in-home care; carpenters; electricians; plumbers...

The list goes on and on.
(My apologies if I didn't list your profession. You *also* matter.)

Where will these valuable workers come from? It certainly helps to provide a dynamic and encouraging public environment.

Honestly, it does not even matter if I like the art. What matters to the inner greedy, selfish me is that it attracts and retains the people who will be able to assist me in my declining years.

Personally, I'm a little hot and cold about the products resulting from our local Public Art Committee. The murals are turning out amazing; great addition for our town. The hand-painted seals are many bits of wonderful whimsy; another plus. The metal statue in front of the Senior Center... kinda "meh" on that one.

I only have one suggestion moving forward: The PAC should partner with employers in Florence to discuss the tastes and commonalities of the artist candidates they are trying to hire.

Public art is a great way to assist in getting and keeping the folks we all need.

Support our PAC.

—Rob Welles
Florence

IT'S OK TO DISAGREE, BUT NOT TO ATTACK

I was reading the *Siuslaw News* article "Florence City Council Still Preoccupied With Public Art," (July 20) about the recent City Council Meeting on July 15.

It sounds like some members of the Florence City Council, including Mayor Henry, are being bullied by people who do not like the mural that PUD agreed to have put on its property, and do not understand the concept of public art as a marketing tool.

Be that as it may, it should not be okay to attack our leaders, (or anyone for that matter), publicly or otherwise, because we disagree with them.

Vote them out next time if it's the

town's will, but let's help them get on with their jobs for now by checking our own behavior.

If people are coming into Ms. Lucio's place of business and griping about council business — be it the mural or any other matter — she might want to consider redirecting their remarks to the public comment time at the next City Council meeting.

A statement such as, "I appreciate your concerns but please respect the fact that I am at work now and it's not appropriate for me to discuss city business here," seems fitting in such a situation.

This "City in Motion" has a wheel stuck in the rut over that mural. Let's hope that this is the biggest problem we ever have to deal with — and let's get back to other matters requiring attention.

—Ivy Meadow
Florence

MURAL SAYS WE ARE VIBRANT, DIVERSE

I am a fan of our new mural.

It is all the things I hope our town can be: Bright, colorful, welcoming, innovative.

For me, the mural says we are not just a sleepy old coastal town; we are a vibrant, growing community that celebrates diversity — not only in our residents but also in our expressions of art.

I appreciate the effort of all those involved in public art and hope the swirling controversies will not rob you of your passion for this project.

—Jane Conkling
Florence

We are the architects of our own demise

In response to Michael Allen's letter ("Resolution To Address Climate Change," July 20), the Paris Accords have between 0 and 8% probability of making a 0.1°C reduction in the global temperature at a cost of trillions. The ROI is *zero*. The U.S. has reduced its "carbon footprint" percentage more than any other signatory.

Wind energy installations in Europe have stalled due to the permitting process and bureaucratic impediments, validating Ronald Reagan's maxim: "If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it."

A recent study shows that Northern Hemisphere wind velocity has been decreasing for the past 40 years, down more than 30 percent in some areas. The researchers speculate it is a combination of rising temperatures and ever-increasing urban heat islands disrupting natural flow. Another study shows that down-wind farms suffer a reduction in output, requiring ever more land to maintain output. Offshore wind offers some promise, at least until neglect and a 100- or 1,000-year storm wipes them out.

The earth has been warmer in the past with less CO2 than today; the

earth has been cooler in the past with more CO2 than today.

CO2 was largely ignored based on mathematical work done at Harvard and the British Meteorological Office in the 1950s said that CO2 has very little greenhouse effect as it is swamped by water vapor.

GUEST VIEWPOINT By Ian Eales Florence

Not until the Thatcher government began pushing nuclear energy to break the coal miner unions in the 1980s was CO2 mentioned as a problem.

Recent decades uncovered artifacts buried under several feet of snow and ice: Norwegian longboats, Ötzi the Ice Man, Greenland ruins. Either the earth was warmer then and subsequently cooled, covering the artifacts — or builders were extremely enterprising, digging down to bury them.

"Yo, Sven, ve'll have der last laff ven dem crazy Greens find dis in one thousand yars..."

An event similar to the 1257 Lom-bock Island volcano, the proximate cause of Viking Greenland abandon-

ment, would drop global temperatures significantly. A more severe event such as the Yellowstone caldera would cause more severe cooling.

If we are not to suffer the same starvation and global calamity, we will need massive amounts of energy to heat our cooled home. Solar and wind power output will be drastically reduced. If we have abandoned fossil fuel generation, we are signing our death warrant.

Urban Greens agitate for massive regulation while their very behavior contributes massively to increased energy consumption: Alexa, mobile phones, computers, etc.

Data centers require an ever-increasing share of global energy to store selfies, tweets and texts. We are the architects of our own demise.

(Editor's Note: NASA has gathered in chronological sequence the most important events in the history of climate change science. This list of milestones includes major influences external to the science itself. The timeline goes back to 1800 listing CO2 levels, temperatures, etc. It is available online at www.history.aip.org/climate/timeline.htm.)

WHERE TO WRITE

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