

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)



Just another day of flags at half mast

shootings has already outpaced that with 255 incidents since Jan. 1, averaging more than one mass shooting a day.

This is according to the Gun Violence Archive

should count.

If you are a gun owner, you probably assume I say all of this as an argument against gun ownership.

However, that would be hypocritical since I, too,

yell "Fire!" in the middle of a crowded theater.

There are common sense rules that come with all freedoms in order to assure that those freedoms are not misused or manipulated to the detriment of others.

The current number of mass shootings in America — and acts of gun violence in general — has us on a trajectory for the deadliest year since ...

... 2016, which was the first time the number of mass shootings in a single year (382) topped the number of days in that same year.

It's time we stop focusing on the division between who does and doesn't — or who should and shouldn't — own guns, and instead recognize that the current laws and rules regarding our Second Amendment right are being misused and manipulated — to the detriment of us *all*.

From the Editor's Desk

Ned Hickson

(GVA), a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization that defines mass shootings as "an incident in which at least four people are shot, excluding the shooter."

I realize there is some controversy over this number, which some gun proponents argue is inflated by including those wounded and not killed, as well as shootings that occur in relation to gang and domestic violence.

I would argue that anyone who has been a victim of gun violence — wounded or killed, gang member or family member —

am a gun owner.

I'm also a motorcycle owner and realize that the days of riding helmetless without any formal training or certification are long gone. That's because laws and rules were changed and adopted in order to decrease the number of senseless deaths that occurred each year as a result of not having any real oversight or personal accountability.

While I fully support the Second Amendment, I also support the First Amendment — but understand that free speech still doesn't allow me to

LETTERS

KEEP UP CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

The feature, "Dangers, rewards of crabbing," (Aug. 3) by *Siuslaw News* intern Victoria Sanchez was local, educational and composed nicely.

Effective use of photos, interviews and quotations made good reading for both longtime residents and newer folks alike. My wife and Enid and I have enjoyed Novelli's award-winning [clam chowder] entries in the annual Florence Area Chamber of Commerce chowder contest in recent years.

We encourage the Novelli family and Victoria Sanchez to keep up their valuable contributions to the community.

—Ken Deibert
 Florence

CAUSE OF OUR OWN DEMISE

While one might agree generally with Mr. Eales' view ("We Are The Architects Of Our Own Demise," July 24) that U.S. energy policy needs revision (though certainly not in the ways he implies), his comments on climate change are filled with errors of fact and interpretation.

In my view, the most serious problem in his statement relates to the role of greenhouse gases (GHGs) as casual agents in global warming.

Mr. Eales cites research done in the 1950s at Harvard and in Britain concluding that "...CO2 has very little greenhouse effect as it is swamped by water vapor."

More recent research agrees with these nearly 70-year-old findings that water vapor accounts for the largest share of warming. Based on a 2010 study by NASA scientists and the Fifth U.N. Global Climate Change (IPCC) Report, water va-

por accounts for some 50 percent of recent warming — but persists in the atmosphere for only about eight days. CO2 accounts for 20 percent of warming and persists for 30-95 years.

Methane and other GHGs account for about five percent of warming and persist for 12 years.

By these more recent results, water vapor is 2.5 times more important in warming than CO2. But the key item being overlooked is the persistence of the various GHGs in the atmosphere.

Water vapor lasts only about eight days. CO2 and other GHGs continue to augment warming for decades. Water vapor doesn't accumulate in the atmosphere but the other GHGs do.

And that is exactly the point.

Human actions generate new GHG emissions faster that they dissipate from the air.

So atmospheric CO2 has reached 415 parts per million this year, the highest level estimated in more than 800,000 years with a continued rise in average global land-sea temperatures.

Worse, atmospheric water vapor and the GHGs are positively related (per NASA research). Higher levels of GHGs are associated with higher water vapor levels.

We may well be the cause of our own demise, as Mr. Eales suggests, but certainly not for the reasons he proposes.

—Darius Adams
 Florence

TERM LIMITS IS BEST WAY TO 'DRAIN THE SWAMP'

For the "swamp" to be cleaned we first need to get rid of the old critters that have swum around in Congress and the Senate for years. We need to implement term limits

for those in both houses. Our President is elected to a four-year term, which gives him/her time to learn how to be a president. If all goes well, and if re-elected, the president can serve one more term and try to put his/her policies in place.

By comparison, Senate members are elected for six years without any term limits; those in Congress are elected for two years without any term limits. That is why, over the years, we have had the following members serve and thrive for decades in the same silty swamp:

- Daniel Inouye: 53 years
- Storm Thurmond: 47 years
- Robert Bird: 51 years
- Ted Kennedy: 47 years

Currently, we have some serving in Congress who are I think are out of touch with our present reality:

- Richard Shelby: 85 years old
- Dianne Feinstein: 86 years old
- Mitch McConnell: 77 years old
- Nancy Pelosi: 77 years old
- Richard Shelby: 85 years old
- Chuck Grassley: 85 years old

This is where term limits need to come into to play. I do not think anyone in the Senate or Congress should be able to serve more than 24 years — or even 18 years. That would give them time to learn the workings of Washington and how to communicate with those from the right and left.

Then, we would have a better chance of getting rid of special interest groups and lobbyist who have so much influence imbedded into the our government swamp because of decades-long relationships.

We need young voices and new ideas infused into our government on a regular basis.

—Win Jolley
 Florence

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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

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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

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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 503-986-1080 Email: Sen.ArnieRoblan@oregonlegislature.gov
U.S. SEN. RON WYDEN 221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg Washington, DC 20510 202-224-5244 541-431-0229 www.wyden.senate.gov	STATE REP. CADDY MCKEOWN (DIST. 9) 900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301 503-986-1409 Email: rep.caddymckeown@oregonlegislature.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	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

