

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

SUPPORT, CELEBRATE OUR LOCAL MOVIE THEATER

I wanted to give Michael and Susan, the owners of our wonderful local movie theatre City Lights Cinemas, a very big Thank-You for throwing such a fun fifth-year anniversary party for all of their members.

It was such a thoughtful thing to do and a great time was had by all. Friends and I were at the 3:30 p.m. showing of the great movie classic, "Some Like it Hot" on Aug 8.

The theatre was packed and what a huge difference to see this gem of a movie on the big screen. The theatre was full of laughter during the whole movie.

It was so fun to be treated to the movie and also popcorn and a beverage. How lucky we are to have such a wonderful movie theatre here in Florence.

I can't imagine our nice town not having this amazing movie theatre, as I know this was the case just over five years ago.

So, thank you Susan and Michael for moving to Florence and saving the day by opening City Lights.

I encourage everyone to become a member and support our lovely movie theatre and art house. There are great benefits to becoming a member as well.

May we always have the City Lights movie theater.

—Karen Orobey
Florence

EXTRAORDINARY MUSICAL ADVENTURE ABROAD

I would like to say thank you to all of the Florence community and everyone who donated and supported my travel and participation with the Oregon Ambassadors of Music (OAM). It was an extraordinary experience — an amazing adventure.

The reality moment started in June, when about 300 kids (band and choir) had to meet up at Oregon State University to audition, then practice all of the music that was given to us in May. The goal at pre-camp later in June was to play the music altogether — at our best — in just three days. Our band worked from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. at pre-camp. We were excited, tired, but ready for departure from Portland on our flight to Europe.

During my two-and-a-half weeks in Europe, I had the privilege to perform with the OAM in seven different countries. We spent about 2 to 3 days in each

country, where the sightseeing was amazing and we received a great history lesson. We visited England, France, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, Italy and Germany.

Each country was beautiful in its own way, but my overall favorite was Crans Montana, Switzerland, because of its very welcoming people and breathtaking sunsets.

My second-favorite would be the rail climb to visit Zermatt and see the Matterhorn.

The hardest part of the trip was the time change; at least for me it was. When we were in London, the change was 8 hours ahead. That changed again when we crossed the English Channel from London to France on a very big ferry. That added one hour to our 8 hour time difference!

Overall, what I got out of this trip was the determination to wake up super early, practice patience and work hard together. The result was coming back with bunches of new friends.

After two weeks of crazy bus rides, successful performances and unforgettable memories, we all finally began the return home.

I am very grateful to Mr. Chris Rowbotham, Siuslaw High School, for being my teacher and band director since the 6th grade. He gave me confidence, helped me focus and supported me for many months while I practiced for OAM.

My trip was amazing and I learned a lot. It was a dream come true!

Thank you, Florence!
—Lizbeth Garcia Galvan
Florence

STOP DESTROYING EACH OTHER AND OUR COUNTRY

Let's all stop trying to destroy this country. The mass shootings are not due to lack of gun laws; rather, we have gun laws that are not being enforced.

If we wanted laws to get the guns off the streets, that would have to have been done many years ago. We have people being killed due to the color of their skin or religious beliefs, but we also have people of color killing other people of color because of the colors they wear.

We spend more time trying to determine if the killing is a "hate crime." I think any killing is a hate crime. We should be trying to determine what can be done to prevent more killing.

The rhetoric from our elected representatives and the media do nothing but create more hate.

This includes the president, "The Squad" of four and other officials on both sides of the aisle. These people use crime to blame the other side, not to work together to improve things.

No one is willing to work with the other party because it may boost that party's favorability. Meanwhile, the media keeps the pot boiling, just as they did during the "Zoot Suit Riots" of the 1940s — just to get headlines.

Eliminating bias and hate on social media would be much harder than doing away with assault weapons. Taking down statues of Southern generals which no one paid attention to prior to them being taken down does nothing but stir up people who consider this an insult to their heritage.

If we don't stop all this hate, we can get ballcaps made with "M.A.D." on them: "Make America Destroyed."

—Robert Smith
Florence

APPRECIATE THE EFFORT OF ART AND ARCHITECTURE

In 1992, I and others built the ICM Restaurant. I was responsible for finding an artist (Mark Storaasli) to paint a mural on the front of the restaurant, as well as several sides. It was also my input as to what went into the murals.

I wanted all the local catch from all of our local fishermen displayed. Tourists used to line the docks to watch the boats unload all the fish depicted in that mural.

I missed my opportunity to have input on the Quince Street mural by not getting involved. I would have said it should represent Florence with images of commercial fishing boats, loggers in the woods and crab being cooked on the docks.

I am sorry to say this vision is gone and times are changing.

At first, I hated what had been decided for the Quince Street mural, thinking it had nothing to do with the vision of Florence... until I recently looked at it.

Now, when I go by, I enjoy the brilliance of the colors and I keep finding more things representing Florence and its future.

I truly appreciate the people making the effort to bring art and architecture to our town. It has been an uphill battle for them — and they could use some more support.

—Thomas Benson
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.

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