

**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)



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## Siuslaw News

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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that are anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or documented will not be published.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](mailto:nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com)

**LETTERS**

**WHO BENEFITS?**

While we acknowledge a time to celebrate our newest addition [mural] to Florence on 126th and Quince, we should always esteem progress with certitude and community solidarity.

It is with great positive pride that municipal and state cultures exude happiness in their citizenry or at least the pursuit thereof. The question always is, who benefits?

Moreover, there are some distinct cautions for this emerald gem called Florence as a coastal mecca of Oregon. Now that good and courageous Mayor Henry and Councilman Greene disagreed to agree, the stealth hand of ever-increasing government has won slowly but inexorably.

A public concern is the ease with which our agreement will be dedicated for the next and the next and the next public-good project. As the day comes when the Florence gem beams brighter, finally and irreversibly growing in spite of city and chamber prudence, who will dominate? The people or the tax collectors?

I believe Florence's steady growth will result in bigger and eventually unmanageable local government, like our all-knowing state and federal helpers — unless someone contradicts the flow.

In order for business to really flourish, the city needs an annexation policy which will ensure capital investment as well as capital formation insuring consistency for corporate and small business America.

Home prices with competition could descend and average working wages ascend. The type of growth experienced in Bend could be duplicated with the proper philosophical mooring. This will also produce jobs, population, monetary flow and a thriving culture and economy.

However, if we continue policies which enable city hall over a privatization call, it is doubtful that the architects of pork will ever not belch satisfactorily. As the Latin states, "Cumi Bono?" i.e., who benefits?

Obviously, in the last great debate, it was unclear though many with special interests partook of the spoils and congratulatory plaudits.

The future is now.

—Joel Marks  
 Florence

**NEED BETTER CAMPING ENFORCEMENT ALONG JETTY**

I am thankful Lane County Parks and Recreation has jurisdiction over the North Jetty. The posted signage helps prevent overnight parking and camping.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the South Jetty; lots 6, 7 and and jetty itself.

The "honor system" doesn't work. On any given night, RV visitors ignore the posted "No Camping Past This Sign."

The Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area (ODNRA) and the U.S. Forest Service have designated these areas as Day Use only. The USFS maintains many campgrounds both north and south of

Florence.

Not all of the campgrounds are ATV recreation sites. I feel like these abusers of our public lands can — and should be required to — find a designated campground.

Surely there is an agency such as ODOT that should be able to control — with the help of Florence Police — the overnight parking in the wide area of road across from the Oregon Coast Humane Society road.

Not all of these vehicles are self-contained. Without a 24-hour gas station in sight, I have no doubt that the illegal activity of urinating on the rocks in that public space occurs more frequently than I care to think about.

The revitalization in Old Town and "Main Street" will be beneficial. But does Florence want to become the coastal town that offers free camping on our side streets, cubby holes and empty lots?

— Michael Fletcher  
 Florence

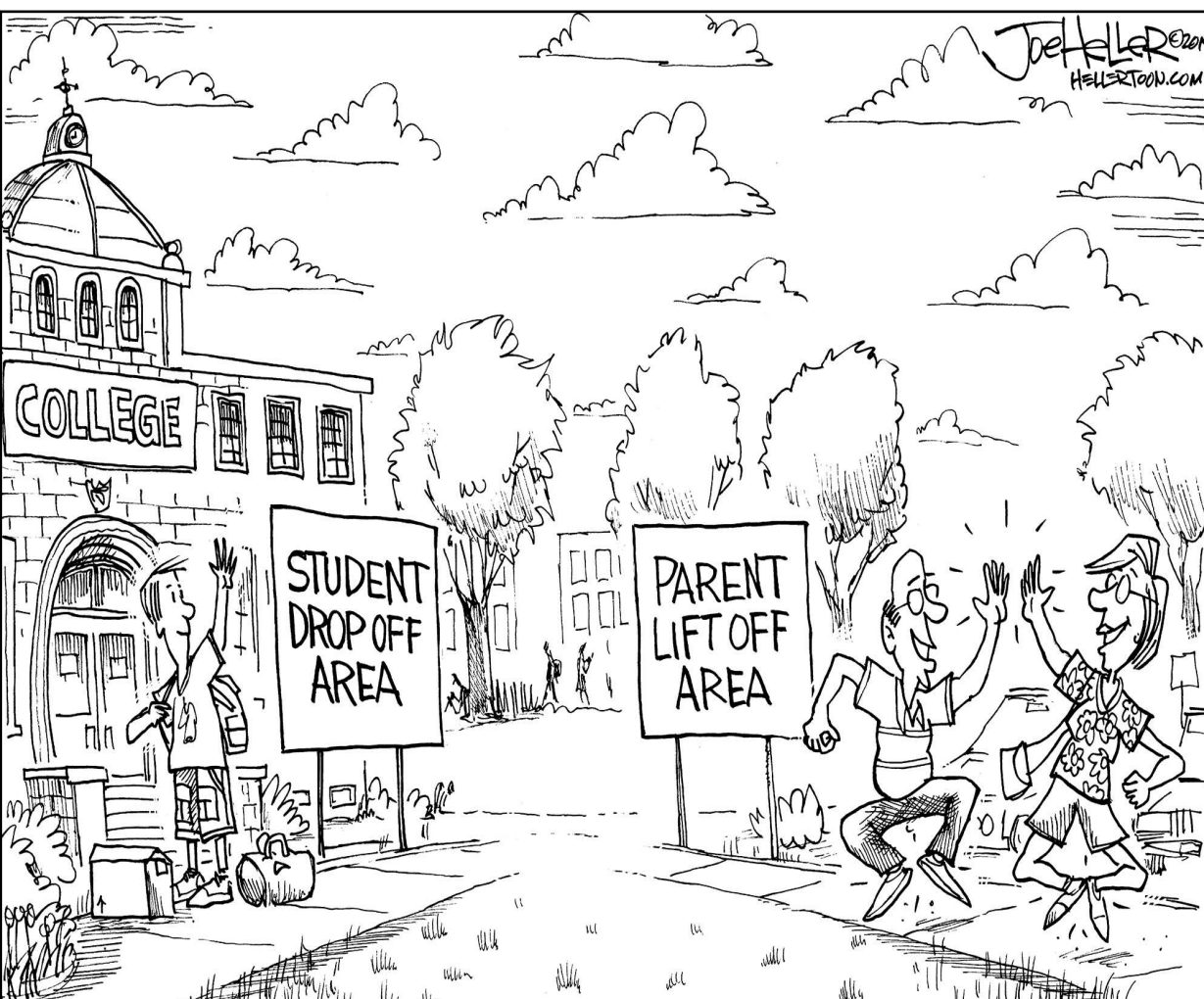
**BEST ECONOMY IN 50 YEARS FOR A REASON**

The whole rest of the world is in recession and negative interest returns are the norm everywhere else.

China has the worst economy in 35 years.

Meanwhile the U.S.A — your U.S.A — is having the best economy of the last 50 years with some of the best numbers ever.

Who are you going to vote for?  
 — Martin Cable  
 Dunes City



**WHERE TO WRITE**

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