

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)



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Assure you have a voice — register to vote Tuesday

I think we can all agree that these are not “normal” times for our nation, the upcoming 2020 elections nor what will be following in the four years ahead, regardless of who our next president is. I’ve spoken with a lot of folks who have told me that their distaste for the candidates — on both sides of the political divide — has soured them to the election process. I understand this. But I have always believed that our right to vote is not merely a privilege. It is also — and perhaps more importantly — an obligation we have as Americans. Over the years, I have gone to the voting booth or mailed in my ballot in support of candidates for different reasons. Sometimes it was because I connected with the ideals of one candidate over an-

other. Other times it was because I felt their vision for our country was better defined or more suited to the temperament of our changing world politically, economically or socially.

even many of the news sources that claim to be unbiased. I have to roll up my sleeves, dig in and do the work so that, come Election Day, I can do the

Americans first, with a vote that truly represents our country by its sheer volume of collective voices rather than by which side can shout the loudest. That is the expectation our forefathers had for each of us when they fought for our right to vote in a republic protected by the Constitution.

From the Editor's Desk

Ned Hickson

I have voted for Democrats, Republicans and Independents.

I even voted for Ross Perot (whatever he was.)

In each case, voting was a privilege I enjoyed because, no matter who won, I still felt our country would be in capable hands.

This time, I’m not so sure.

For that reason, this time it’s not about enjoying the privilege of voting as much as it is about accepting the obligation we have, as Americans, to educate ourselves and make an informed decision.

I can’t rely on spoon-fed rhetoric, headlines, carefully staged interviews, rants on social media or

right thing instead of the easy thing — and ensure my voice is heard when it comes to choosing someone who will represent my highest ideals as an American.

It also means I agree to accept — and live with — the results, no matter who is elected.

But having faith in that outcome is dependent upon the notion that as many of us as possible participate in that process. In recent years, it seems that the push for voter participation has been a partisan affair, with each side encouraging “their own” to vote — further dividing us.

Instead, we should be voicing our choice as

This Tuesday, Sept. 24, there will be a non-partisan group assembled at the Siuslaw Public Library to inform and register residents during National Voter Registration Day.

The event will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the library’s lobby.

This will be an opportunity to register or to update your voter information.

Please take the time to ensure you will have a voice through your right to vote.

No matter who you vote for, I support your choice — not as a Democrat, Republican or Independent.

I will support your choice as a fellow American.

LETTER

BUSINESS AT ‘GATEWAY’ SHOULD BE THE RIGHT FIT

From what I understand, Pro Lumber is moving from its present location at Highway 101 and Maple Street to where the Woodman’s Nursery was north of town (near Fred Meyer).

What information I have been able to find is the “Gateway” to Old Town will be at the junction of Highway 101 and Maple Street with some of the large vacated property

used as park land.

Now there is a proposal to put the Florence Yamaha motorsports facility (currently east of Florence on Highway 126) on the corner of our “Gateway” to historic Old Town?

I’m glad no one proposed a used car lot because it seems as though planners might have considered it. If those in charge want some sort of sports or recreation related business, why not a bicycle shop with

rental bikes which would be a small imprint? Better yet, why not a coffee/bakery shop?

One last thing about our new “Gateway.” I assume that what looks like a concrete arch is only in concept. If anything, I think it should be made out of large handcrafted timbers using old traditional construction methods in celebration of our logging past.

—Win Jolley
 Florence

Climate change is overwhelming unless we work together

The safe upper limit of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is 350 ppm (parts per million); anything above that puts the planet in a state of climate crisis.

Currently, we are at 415 ppm.

It is becoming more difficult to ignore the science behind our climate crisis: Stronger storms, bigger floods, longer and more frequent droughts, ruined crops, air and water degradation, melting glaciers and sea ice, endangered species and ocean acidification — all are increasing due to climate change.

It all sounds overwhelming until we educate ourselves about what we can do as individuals, communities, corporations and governments to mitigate global warming by 2030.

Ninety-seven percent of climate scientists agree that we need to begin drawing down greenhouse gasses

now. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to move our energy policies and economies around the world to sustainable climate levels.

GUEST VIEWPOINT

By Julia Tousley-Ritt
 Florence

I encourage young people in our area to learn more about climate science during a special Climate Awareness event Sept. 28 in Florence being held in conjunction with 350 Eugene.

350 Eugene is an affiliate of 350.org, an organization dedicated to helping raise awareness of — and organizing — action around institutions and policies driving climate change.

Wouldn’t it be great if one of our

young people from the Florence or Mapleton area was inspired to invent a way to repurpose plastics, save our bees, recapture carbon, develop renewable energy with cutting edge technology, or protect our coastal waters, rivers and streams?

The possibilities are endless when we work with coalitions of environmental groups to save our planet from this climate crisis.

(Editor’s note: On Sept. 28, a rally will be taking place hosted by FOR/Florence Organizes-Environmental Group and the Siuslaw Climate Alliance from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. at the corner of highways 126 and 101. It will be followed by a climate presentation by 350 Eugene in the Bromley Room of the Siuslaw Public Library. It is not a library-sponsored event.)

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