

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that are anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or documented will not be published.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

### WHERE TO WRITE

- |   |  |
|---|--|
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### LETTERS

#### THANKS FOR CONTINUED COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Thanks to the generous citizens' support in the Florence area during the veterans fundraiser held at Fred Meyer. Without the continued support from citizens and local businesses, our fundraisers could not continue.

Thanks from the VFW Auxiliary Post 3232 and VFW Post 3232.

—Sue Miller, President  
 VFW Auxiliary  
 Fred Burns, Commander  
 VFW

#### THANKS FOR SUPPORTING AREA VETERANS PROGRAMS

The VFW Auxiliary would like to thank all the residents of Florence and their families and friends for the support given at our Poppy drives.

We also wish to thank Fred Meyer for allowing us at their north and south entrances to distribute poppies.

We would also like to thank the Siuslaw News for giving the people of Florence information on all military and veteran events.

With the help of businesses and community members, we at the Auxiliary VFW have been able to give money to several organizations like Food Baskets for Kids, White City Veterans Home, Lebanon Veterans Home, The Dalles V.A. Veterans Home, Roseburg V.A. Hospital, VFW Service Dog Program, National Children's Home and more.

—Joe Miller, Treasurer  
 VFW Auxiliary Post 3232

#### GOOD LETTERS

I wish to commend both Ralph Ray ("Issue Isn't Climate Change

But Elitist Government," Nov. 9) and Matt Danielsson ("Avoid Hypocritical Approach To Government," Nov. 9) on their fine recent Letters to the Editor.

To add a bit of information to Ralph's concern (and mine) over diapers, an estimated 20 billion disposable diapers are added to landfills throughout the country each year, creating about 3.5 million tons of waste.

According to a report from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, disposable diapers introduce pathogens into the environment from the solid waste they contain (this was in 2016).

And I would be interested in meeting with Matt, although we may just sit around drinking coffee and agreeing with each other.

—Peter Vance  
 Florence

#### A TEAM TO BE PROUD OF

As a community, we be can be very proud of our Siuslaw football team. These young men and coaches started practicing four days a week last spring, practiced most of the summer, and have worked very hard to create the team we see now.

It is a team that made it to the playoffs for the first time in four years. To the young men and coaches of the Siuslaw Vikings football team, hold your head high.

Your community is proud of you!

—Bobbie Spencer  
 Florence

#### NO COFFEE BUT AGREE TO RESPECTFULLY DISAGREE

I very much appreciate Matt Danielsson's clarification ("Avoid Hypocritical Approach to Environment," Nov. 9) because it had

not been clear to me exactly who he had been accusing of hypocrisy, and I was relieved to read that he had not meant the folks holding signs on the sides of the road here in town.

So thank you, Mr. Danielsson, for clearing up that confusion.

I still don't understand, though, where the shaming mentioned in all three of his letters is coming from. All the signs, articles, memes — and yes — posts on social media that I have seen have been informational rather than accusatory.

I think most of us, no matter what our opinion of the current climate crisis, understand that folks today have to use the technology available today. As green options become available and affordable, I am sure more people will use them.

The point of the information I have seen is to tell folks why they ought to make greener choices whenever they can.

Still, Mr. Danielsson is entitled to his feelings. I am sorry he has experienced this shaming; not only is it counterproductive, but it is very wrong to blame someone for the choices they make when their options are limited (or nonexistent).

As for Mr. Danielsson's invitation for a civil discussion over coffee, I am afraid there isn't enough coffee in the world to convince me that an individual cannot have a global impact, and I suspect he is as strongly attached to his view that the opposite is true.

We will just have to agree to respectfully disagree on that one while we both continue to do what we can locally.

—Debra Walker  
 Florence

