

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)



Remembering our 'Day of Infamy' is becoming more important than ever

September at age 98, leaving Don Stratton, Lou Conter and Ken Potts as the only former crewmen remaining

I also came to know how the morning was filled with as many acts of heroism and sacrifice as moments of unimag-

with gaming systems that center around violent acts of war, the lessons learned from the sacrifices of the past are in danger of becoming diluted by pre-packaged and rewards-driven "acts of valor."

Underscoring this is the gradual and inevitable silencing of those voices who lived through that infamous day in our history.

As a result, the lessons learned from those sacrifices in our past aren't digging nearly as deep a groove in the minds of our children and our culture as they once did.

And history forgotten is history bound to repeat itself.

As the voices of Pearl Harbor grow silent, it is more important than ever that we ensure the black tears slowly surfacing from the USS Arizona are never forgotten — nor the reason for which they continue to be shed.

From the Editor's Desk

Ned Hickson

from the 337 men who survived the attack on the battleship

As a child, I was only peripherally aware of the Vietnam War and even less so of the Korean War, which ended before I was born. Yet, as the last shot was being fired in Vietnam, I already knew what Pearl Harbor was.

I knew how a quiet Sunday morning was transformed into a fiery nightmare by Japanese planes — and how, in less than nine minutes, more than 900 men became entombed in the wreckage that now rests like a shadow below the harbor's surface.

Over the years, images in textbooks, commemorative issues from publications like *Time* magazine and stories captured in movies impressed upon me the virtues of valor.

At the same time, and perhaps more importantly, those images and stories that surface each year — much like the slowly recurring "black tears" of oil that still bubble to the surface from the USS Arizona — serve as a reminder of the ultimate price demanded by a world at war.

In an age when many entertain themselves

Today, Americans are remembering the sacrifice made by the 2,403 servicemen killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor some 78 years ago, along with the 1,178 who were wounded. Last year's remembrance marked another somber occasion: It was the first time a USS Arizona survivor wasn't present for the 7:50 a.m. commemoration of the more than 900 servicemen who remain entombed in the battleship.

All told, only three crew members from that morning attack remain alive today as the few remaining voices from that horrific "Day of infamy" grow quiet.

Lauren Bruner, the second-to-last sailor to escape the sinking USS Arizona, died this past

LETTERS

REACH OUT, TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER

This time of year is when you will undoubtedly receive many requests from nonprofit organizations. The ways our community steps up to help others consistently reminds me of why we live here: we reach out and take care of each other.

Many of you have followed First Step since we began our housing program in 2018 and we are grateful for your support and generosity.

We have more good news: one of our families has graduated into a home. They are very happy as they were our first family who moved out of a tent, into a trailer, took care of their debts and are now moving on with their lives.

We could not have done it without our community's support, the hard work of the family and our volunteers.

A helping hand is sometimes all that is necessary to make a difference in the life of another. It is the heart-felt outreach to members of our community

that makes a huge impact.

May you enjoy a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,
 Kathryn Lenox

Board Member, First Step.

—Kathryn Lenox
 Florence
 First Step Board member

(Editor's note: For more information about the nonprofit First Step program, visit www.firststepcommunity.com.)

TRY CONTROLLING GLOBAL POPULATION, NOT TEMPERATURE

Enough with the politicalization of "global warming." It is a naturally occurring event we can't control. However, having my 10-year-old granddaughter being told that the world will end when she is 22 years old can be controlled.

Enough with the plastic straws and bags. Before you get rid of them, get rid of disposable diapers for kids and adults, along with tampons and feminine pads that will never break

down in a landfill.

Get rid of all the sanitary plastic wraps and containers and go back to brown paper and cardboard — but don't dare cut down a tree.

The real gorilla in the closet is 7.7 billion carbon dioxide and methane-spewing humans and their meat supply.

In 1950, there were 2 billion; today, we are heading toward 10 billion. A lack of resources combined with overpopulation has already terminated many civilizations around the world. This was the underlying cause spreading the Black death that killed 70 percent of Europe.

We have a far better chance of controlling global population than we do global temperature.

—Martin Cable
 Florence

(Editor's note: According to the World Health Organization, the Black Death (i.e., Great Plague or Black Plague) of the 14th century is estimated to have killed between 30 and 60 percent of Europe's population.)

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Siuslaw News

Published every Wednesday and Saturday at 148 Maple St. in Florence, Lane County, Oregon. A member of the National Newspaper Association and Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association. Periodicals postage paid at Florence, Ore. Postmaster, send address changes to: Siuslaw News, P.O. Box 10, Florence, OR 97439; phone 541-997-3441; fax 541-997-7979. All press releases may be sent to PressReleases@TheSiuslawNews.com.

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

DEADLINES:

Wednesday Issue—General news, Monday noon; Budgets, four days prior to publication; Regular classified ads, Monday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Monday noon; Display classified ads, Friday 5 p.m.

Saturday Issue—General news, Thursday noon; Budgets, two days prior to publication; Regular classified ads, Thursday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Thursday noon; Display classified ads, Wednesday 5 p.m. Soundings, Tuesday 5 p.m.

NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

In Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$79; 6-month in-county, \$56; 10-week subscription, \$25; Out of Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$102; 6-month out-of-county, \$69; 10-week subscription, \$35; Out of State — 1-year subscription, \$134; E-Edition Online Only (Anywhere) — 1-year subscription, \$65.

Mail subscription includes E-Edition.
 Website and E-Edition: TheSiuslawNews.com

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

WHERE TO WRITE

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
 Comments: 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
 FAX: 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.caddyckewon@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