

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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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that are anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or documented will not be published.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
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
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202-224-3753
FAX: 202-228-3997
541-465-6750
www.merkley.senate.gov | WEST LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER JAY BOZIEVICH
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Moving into 2020 and 130 years of Siuslaw News



crete resolutions aside from the usual — and ongoing — intentions of eating healthier, exercising more and procrastinating less (something I invariably keep putting off).

However, a trip through the past serves to reinforce the unique responsibility and privi-

to continue striving for your trust and partnership on these pages each week.

"Integrity" is a term that has come into question within the realm of journalism far too often over the last few years, particularly at the national level where the need to be "first" with in-

tions we'll have together on the phone, through emails, visits here in the office or while waiting for a cup of coffee.

It's these conversations that build trust and partnership — and the integrity I hope you will feel is reflected on these pages with each edition.

Over the course of the past year, we've seen some changes here at *The Siuslaw News*, including a new page design and a bigger presence online.

The changes were made to improve what we do as your community newspaper.

Some day, when another editor for *The Siuslaw News* is reading through and organizing the archives of our history, like me they will be moved by the same sense of responsibility and privilege that now rests in past archives, as well as the archives yet to be written.

From the Editor's Desk

Ned Hickson

lege we have, as a newspaper, to be the keepers of the past, chroniclers of the present and initiators of conversation for the future — all while serving as a reflection of our community's hopes, challenges and accomplishments at this particular moment in time.

That being said, I'm not making a resolution as much as offering you our resolve, as your community newspaper,

formation is sometimes more important than the responsibility of providing facts and context.

And while we aren't perfect, we certainly try — even if it means holding a breaking news story to make sure the information is complete and not based on speculation, assumption or rumor.

As we head into 2020 and our 130th year of the *Siuslaw News*, I look forward to the conversa-

LETTERS

GAS GOUGING AGAIN

Once again I find myself complaining about gas prices here in Florence.

Over the years, the price of gas in Florence is often 10c/gal cheaper than the price in Eugene; Currently, we are currently paying an average of 23c/gal more than Eugene.

In the whole of western Oregon, it is easier to count the towns with more expensive gas than Florence than those with cheaper gas. Towns that generally have more expensive gas are now cheaper.

There may not be collusion between fueling stations but there is certainly no competition amongst them; if no station drops its price the others seem to be happy to keep the status quo.

Next time you are buying gas, ask why we are paying more than most of Oregon. Better yet, send an email to customer service of the gas station's head office.

Maybe a few complaints will show that gouging does not make happy customers.

—Frank Keavy
 Florence

'TALKING POLITICS' IS PART OF EVERY AMERICAN'S RESPONSIBILITY

Lets talk politics — but who cares you say?

All citizens should.

A review of civics, which is the study of the rights and duties of citizenship, can be found on the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website (www.uscis.gov/citizenship/learners/citizenship-rights-and-responsibilities) which reads: "Citizenship is the common thread that connects all Americans. We are a nation bound not by race or religion, but by shared values of freedom, liberty and equality."

And then, it continues to say that all U.S. citizens have a voice in how our nation is governed. However, along with the many benefits there are also equally important responsibilities:

"Rights include the freedom to express yourself, freedom to worship as you wish, right to a prompt, fair trial by jury, right to vote in elections for public officials, right to apply for federal employment requiring U.S. citizenship, right to run for elected office, freedom to

pursue 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Those responsibilities include supporting and defending the Constitution; staying informed of the issues affecting our communities; participating in the democratic process; respecting and obeying federal, state and local laws; respecting the rights, beliefs and opinions of others; participating in our local communities; paying income and other taxes honestly and on time to federal, state and local authorities; serving on a jury when called upon; and defending the nation if the need should arise."

If we ignore "politics" and assume or "trust" that elected officials are doing what is best for us by participating in the democratic process? Are we assuring we have a voice in how our nation is governed if we stay on the sidelines?

To pursue "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" we must take our rights and responsibilities as citizens seriously.

It is time for every citizen to "talk politics."

—Beverly Sherrill
 Florence