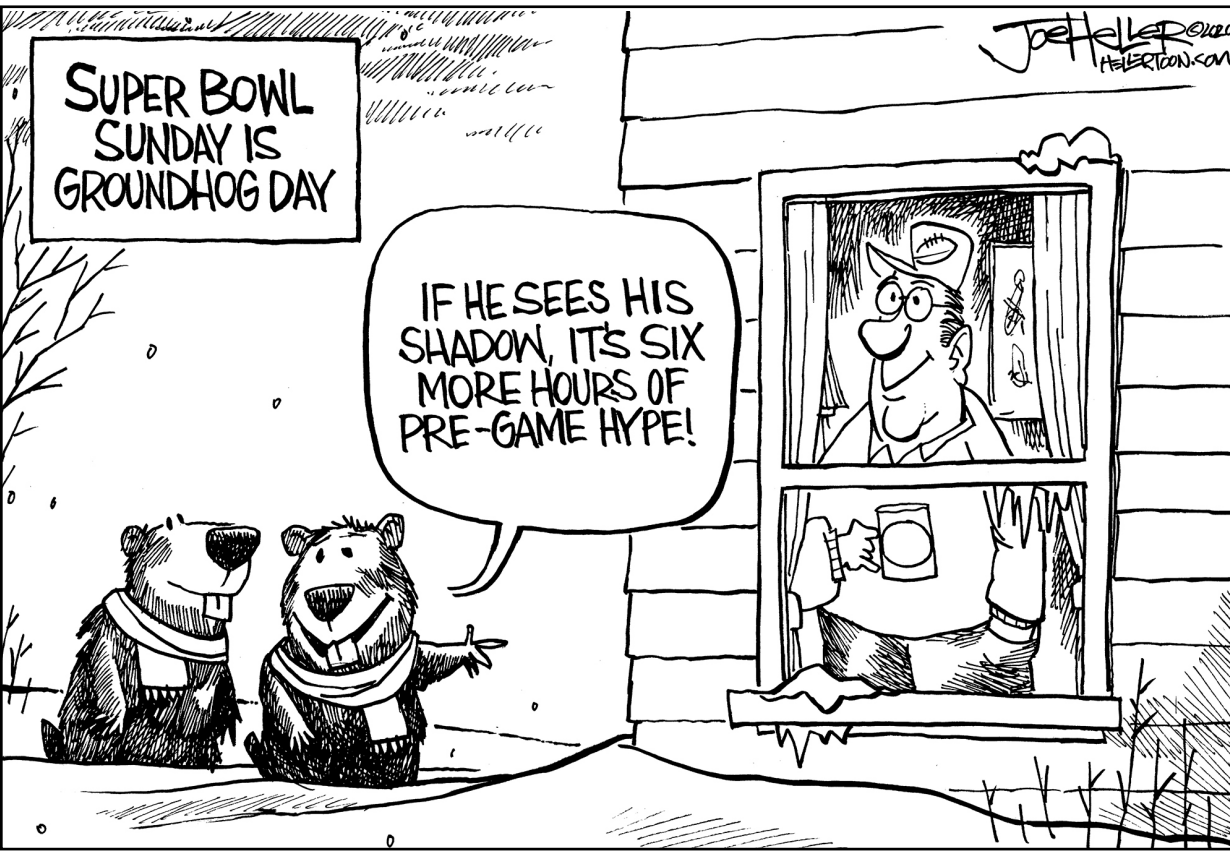


Siuslaw News
 P.O. Box 10
 Florence, OR 97439

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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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

ENVIRONMENTAL 'PROTECTION' OR 'PREDATION' AGENCY?

The headline read "Trump Removes Protections for Waterways, Aiding Developers" (*Register-Guard*, Jan. 24).

This report should have caused cognitive dissonance on two levels. First, it is the Constitutional duty of the Legislative Branch to legislate: to make and if necessary, amend the laws.

The duty of the Executive Branch is to enforce or carry out those laws.

In 1948, Congress passed — and President Truman signed — the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Then, in 1972, Congress and President Nixon felt it was important enough to expand the law as the Clean Water Act.

Under what Constitutional provision is President Trump granted the power to make changes to, or in this case completely nullify, a law that has been in effect for 72 years?

Second, the very name of the federal department charged with enforcing the Clean Water Act.

The Environmental Protection Agency implies that they should be working to safeguard lakes, streams and waterways.

Instead, at the behest of the

president, the agency is removing protections to benefit industry and developers.

To continue to be known as the Environmental Protection Agency is duplicitous. Perhaps the Environmental Predatory Agency would be more appropriate?

—Cris Reep
 Florence

DAANGEROUS TO CONTROL ART WITH LABELS

We have the right to like or not like art, but do we have the right to control art?

With art having so many faces and personalities, it's hard for us to put a label on it. In fact it's down right dangerous to label art because it's so much a part of each one of us.

There was a government that wanted to control art so they created two different types of art shows.

One show had 650 paintings, sculptures and prints by 112 artists, primarily locals. The other show was intended to show the more classical and "racially pure" type of art advocated by the government.

The government believed that the people would embrace their show and reject the other. They even labeled the local artist show as "Degenerate Art."

This story is true and happened in 1937 in Germany. The government was the Nazi Party and the people chose the "Degenerate" art show by 2-to-1.

What would we do if certain art was controlled today? With music being art, what would happen if we decided the "The Star Spangled Banner," which started as a poem written by Francis Scott Key, was not appropriate and was removed from the public?

The new Florence City Hall structure is art. Even our homes are expressions of art.

Would our Siuslaw River Bridge be art? Of course it would be.

Our local newspaper is a form of art with its writing, design and freedom to speak.

To control art is nothing but a trap, invented by those who need to label others' views.

We need to embrace all art, whether created by a pre-schooler or senior citizen — and labeling it with disparaging views isn't constructive.

We have the freedom to say what we want but do we have the right to destroy others' dreams?

What's next? "Degenerate Music?" The Nazi Party already did that also.

—Greg Carlton
 Florence

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.)
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Washington, DC 20515
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
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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 |
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313 Hart Senate Office Bldg
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125 E. Eighth St.
Eugene, OR 97401
541-682-4203
FAX: 541-682-4616
Email: Jay.Bozievich@co.lane.or.us |

