

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)



LETTERS

THANK YOU NEIGHBORS, FIRST RESPONDERS

I would like to extend a very large heartfelt thank you to all our neighbors, to the Oregon State Police, Siuslaw Fire and Rescue, volunteers of the Eugene Search and Rescue and the Western Lane County Ambulance District.

These people gave their time and energy to search for my mother who decided to go for a walk and fell on a late Friday afternoon (May 22).

Within 15 minutes of calling 911, I was contacted and interviewed by an Oregon State Police

officer and shortly after a Siuslaw Fire and Rescue officer.

At approximately 7:26 p.m. the call to volunteers with Eugene Search and Rescue was initiated.

After arriving from Eugene, a very methodical search was started in the Dunes City area of Woahink Lake. Mother was found at the bottom of a ravine approximately 30 feet below the road.

She had slipped through the underbrush.

I don't know how they found her, as people had been on that road all day long.

Other than hypothermia, a

sprained ankle, some bruises and superficial scratches she was taken to Peach Health Hospital where she is recovering.

Without the prompt response from neighbors who helped to eliminate possible places she may have been, as well as the various professionals involved, the outcome would have been very different.

I sincerely thank each and everyone involved.

—Jodi Brigrman
 Florence



Appreciating our 'dune to shining sea' inheritance

or anyone can walk onto any beach along the Oregon coast, at any time, without seeking permission or being obstructed by "no trespassing" signs, is almost as good.

As I've mentioned before (usually in a

even to an 8-year-old.

When our family arrived in Oregon several years later and discovered there were no privately-owned beaches anywhere along the coast, I knew it was something special.

as only including the "wet-sand" portion of the state's beaches as a public highway.

At the time, according to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, that meant that 112 of the 362 miles of beach property could be considered privately owned.

In response, The State Highway Commission, along with McCall and the Oregon legislature, introduced HB 1600 and HB 1601, which Associated Press reporter Matt Kramer thrust into the public commentary with stories about Oregon's "Beach Bill."

Kramer's articles appeared in newspapers throughout Oregon, prompting beachgoers around the state to get involved, raising awareness and turning up the political heat in the legislature — where Republican and Democratic leaders joined McCall in negotiating the bill.

As a result, the bill passed the Oregon Legislature in June 1967, and McCall signed the Oregon Beach Bill a month later on July 6 — assuring that no lines would ever be drawn again in the sand along Oregon's beaches.

I hope you'll take time to enjoy them during the months and years ahead.

Because thanks to West, McCall, bipartisanship and the Oregonians who came before us, it's more than an opportunity to enjoy our coast's natural beauty; it's your right.

From the Editor's Desk

Ned Hickson

quiet whisper), I spent my early years growing up in California before moving here as a teenager in 1980. As a kid, I was keenly aware that certain areas of beach were restricted because they were privately owned.

Fences, property markers and signs warning of potential prosecution for violators served as reminders that a line of privilege could be drawn in the sand.

During one sunny afternoon as an 8-year-old on Manhattan Beach, my carefree play in the surf unknowingly carried me over one of those lines and deposited me on someone's private beach.

From the deck of their three-story beach home I could hear someone yelling obscenities at me, ordering me to "get my _ss off their beach before I got shot."

Though I shrugged it off with the help of friends, the notion that someone would threaten to shoot me for drifting across an arbitrary line on a shore fed by the same surf shared by everyone seemed wrong,

Though McCall is credited with signing the official legislation in 1967, the notion of keeping our beaches free from privatization began as far back as 1913, when then-governor Oswald West and the Oregon legislature established the state's ocean beaches as a public highway.

The crafty move kept developers at bay for more than 50 years as Oregonians took ownership of— and no small amount of pride in — enjoying their beautiful coastline.

It wasn't until 1966 that the highway designation was challenged by William Hay, owner of the Surfsand Motel in Cannon Beach, Ore., who placed large driftwood logs to block off a section of the dry sand in front of his property. In addition, he set up tables with umbrellas and marked the area with private property signs.

That's when it was discovered that the highway designation established by West wasn't specific enough and could be interpreted

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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.

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