

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)



USPS# 497-660 Copyright 2020 © Siuslaw News

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

Siuslaw News

Office: 148 Maple St./PO Box 10 Florence, OR 97439
Office Hours: Monday to Thursday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday: 8 a.m. to noon

LETTERS

WAS THE EDITOR GONE?

How could the bastion of liberalism, the *Siuslaw News*, print the Guest Viewpoint from Ian Eales ("An American's Perspective," June 27)?

Our illustrious editor must have taken some time off.

It is amazing to see that someone else understands that the KKK was a democratic organization, and that "progressive liberalism" is promoting anarchy in our USA right out of the Marx-Lenin playbook.

—Martin Cable
 Dunes City

THANKS, SAM SPAYD

A few weeks ago, I was arriving at a local grocery store when I heard the annoying sound of that little red bell. I thought to myself, "It ain't Christmas."

But as I approached the donation stand, I noticed a brochure for "Christmas In June," which is a program started by Sam Spayd this year to help people who lost work due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Qualified local residents whose jobs were affected have received checks that they can use any way they choose.

I received one and chose to buy a high-pressure washer and long extension wand. The addition of these tools helped me get back on track washing buildings, walkways, driveways, roofs, gutters and more.

Once the coronavirus hit, work for me was slim to none. That was until Christmas in June, a positive attitude and my experience washing homes led me to being almost overwhelmed with work opportunities thanks to my new tools.

Thank you, Sam Spayd.

Your program worked for me; it changed my life and inspired me to be a better man.

—Alan Kyllö
 Florence

BE CAREFUL WHO AND WHAT YOU SUPPORT

In the recent letter from Judy Schwartz ("Standing In Solidarity For Equality," July 1), she gives the impression that she speaks for the Jewish community.

That is false. There is no Jewish community. Even a Rabbi doesn't represent the Jewish people except regarding the religion. The meaning of the term Rabbi is teacher. A Rabbi does not have the authority of a minister, a priest, even the Pope. Neither does Judy Schwartz.

In regards to Black Lives Matter, you would think it stands for the unfortunate incident in which George Floyd was killed, along with associated incidents.

If you think this, you are wrong. It is a catch-all for all sorts of radical organizations. I would like to inform Ms. Schwartz that the BLM organization's platform includes vile antisemitism and the associated hate mongers.

This is weird because the Jewish people were instrumental in the forming of the NAACP. The BLM organization's agenda is far different than the slogan.

Money given to them goes down a rabbit hole.

It's unfortunately a sign of the times; you have to be very careful who and what you support.

—George Goldsten
 Florence

PROPOSED HOUSING PROJECT HAS SOME PROBLEMS

For anyone concerned about the traffic on 35th Street and Rhododendron Drive, please review the documents for the Florence Planning Commission meeting set for July 14 on the City of Florence website.

The description of the proposal is for 101 low-rise, multi-family homes and 31 detached single-family homes to be added on a 9-acre plot in the area.

The plan calls for no changes to help the traffic flow in the area, despite the estimated 1,077-net new weekday daily trips.

I suggest the community looks at this development with a view as to the impact it will make in the area.

Let the city know of your concerns before this becomes a problem.

—Sandy Davidson
 Florence

ONLY BY WORKING TOGETHER WILL RACISM END

In response to the national focus and support of Black Lives Matter, starting on June 2, there have now been eight rallies and a Juneteenth celebration here in Florence.

Residents of this small community, along with cities big and small from all over Oregon, the nation and the world, are standing in solidarity and following the lead of the Black Lives Matter movement recognizing that systemic racism is prevalent in our country and must be addressed in every city.

Since that first rally on June 2, the Florence Police Department

chief successfully dispelled the rumor of outside agitators; officers continue to wave at rally participants when they pass by the intersection of Highway 101 and 126 and are responsive to any concern.

However, I have received no response to a request in my June 7 letter to the Mayor and City Council for a statement that Black Lives Matter, a review of the use-of-force policies, and measures to use common sense reforms to end police violence.

I made no mention originally of the Black Lives Matter demand to defund the police, but that is a conversation that needs to be addressed and defined as well.

With many Council meetings and committee meetings cancelled, the next Council meeting is July 20.

Is this when these concerns will be publicly addressed?

In the middle of a global pandemic, an economic crisis, a climate crisis and a racial justice crisis, is Florence just going to hope it all goes away?

After a month of rallies right here in Florence and more to come, the health and safety of our citizens should not be a political debate.

Only when we work together as a community, support each other and recognize that systemic racism is *real* can we have a prosperous, healthy and safe community for everyone.

—Beverly Sherrill
 Florence

NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO PUT OTHERS AT RISK

On July 3 and 4, I held a ceramic studio sale with a "thank you" to all those people thoughtful enough to wear a mask, just as I was doing, to protect each other from COVID-19.

These are true community members. I define community as a group of people who care about each other.

Then there was the very different group in Old Town, demonstrating with no social distancing or masks.

Demonstrate for whomever you want — that's your right. But you don't have the right to put others at risk with your behavior.

If Florence gets new cases of COVID-19 in two to three weeks, it will be due to those kneeling at the altar of divisiveness rather than that of community.

—Mike Schwartz
 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 un-sourced 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

<p>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</p>	<p>U.S. REP. PETER DEFazio (4TH DIST.) 2134 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515 202-225-6416 541-269-2609 541-465-6732 www.defazio.house.gov</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>U.S. SEN. RON WYDEN 221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg Washington, DC 20510 202-224-5244 541-431-0229 www.wyden.senate.gov</p>	<p>STATE REP. CADDY MCKEOWN (DIST. 9) 900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301 503-986-1409 Email: rep.caddymckeown@oregonlegislature.gov</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>