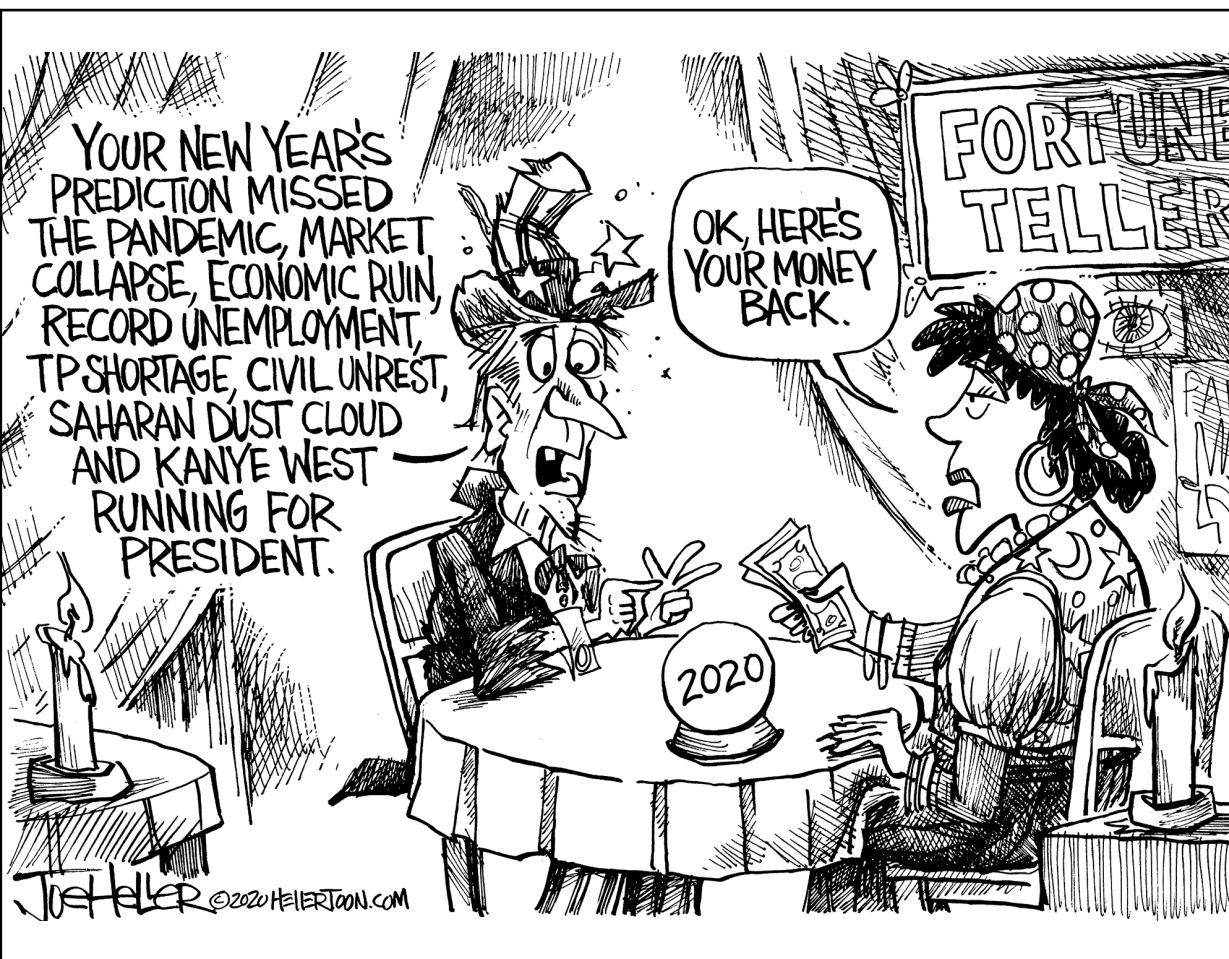


Siuslaw News
 P.O. Box 10
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Opinion

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)



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Siuslaw News

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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that are anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are un-sourced or documented will not be published.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

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What we really need to remember come November

(Editor's Note: Viewpoint submissions on this and other topics are always welcome as part of our goal to encourage community discussion and exchange of perspectives.)

Ian Eales' June 27, Guest Viewpoint ("An American Only, Belonging To No Political Party") should take his own advice and love his country, warts and all.

He apparently used a viral social media post "Educating-A-Liberal" to promote the view that the Republican Party was founded to counter the Democrats' plans to expand slavery in America: "EVERY American should REMEMBER this important bit of American history on this election day" part of the post read.

Fact checking begs to differ. The slavery issue was not a Republican vs. Democrat issue but a North vs. South issue that came to a head with the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act, which repealed the Missouri Compromise of 1820 — thereby giving the territories the decision to accept or reject slavery.

The Republican party was founded in 1854 by anti-slavery northern Democrats, anti-slavery Whigs and anti-slavery Free Soil-

ers. Sadly, the Republican Party has changed from grass roots, progressive, trust-busting, union supporting, New Deal expansion of rights to today's corporate control of government, tax-evading rich, election tampering and Jim Crow mass incarceration that keeps people of color off the streets and in for-profit prisons.

GUEST VIEWPOINT By Karen Mahoney Florence

Mr. Eales states that progressive administrations come to a bad end and curiously equates that as similar to the French Revolution (which ended in democracy), the Russian Revolution (now a totalitarian country openly befriended by Trump) and Nazi Germany (which was defeated by the Allies, and from whom Trump is now re-treating).

He was right that revolutions are the result in a loss of faith in their government, just as the American Revolution was a loss of faith in King George. That happens when

a government supports profit, control and expansion over the well-being of the population.

The gist of Mr. Eales' Guest Viewpoint is that Democrats are bad, progressives are bad and radicals are bad. Eales' support of Black Lives Matter amounts to sadness for a defiled monument and recognizing that "... millions of Americans can proudly trace their history back to enslaved ancestors."

These descendents are the protestors being vilified. They are the radicals trying to roll back generations of discrimination and incarceration.

They protest against racial retweets by the president, the police that terrorize them and shoot them in the back, the white nationalists, white-supremists and other alt-right groups that support and encourage hate and chaos while backing a president who rules with threats, childish name-calling and insults.

And also a president who meets lawful protests with tear gas and violence and threatens unlawful use of the military — things every American should remember this November on Election Day.

United we stand, divided we fall

(Editor's Note: Viewpoint submissions on this and other topics are always welcome as part of our goal to encourage community discussion and exchange of perspectives.)

As I sat with friends and family watching our safe and sane fireworks and celebrating the birth of our nation, I couldn't help but wonder if this would be the last time we would ever be able to celebrate this holiday.

We the people of the United States of America are living in a time of much civil unrest. Our nation is at a tipping point, being torn apart by those who hate our country and its history.

There are people who want — in no uncertain terms — to tear it apart and divide us. It is no longer about what political party you belong to; it is about what the future of our nation will be and its ultimate survival as a free county.

Do you really want Marxist groups like BLM, terrorist groups like Antifa and far left Socialists in the government like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to completely defund and dismantle the police, leaving millions of vulnerable people unprotected?

Do you really want our county to be a Socialist country?

Socialism has already been tried and failed in 52 other countries. What makes anyone think it would actually work here?

Do we want them telling us what we should say, what we should believe and what is right and wrong? Do we honestly believe that defunding, demonizing and vilifying law enforcement is the answer?

GUEST VIEWPOINT By Lois Worley Dunes City

Make no mistake about it, these groups are no longer asking; they are saying that, if we do not meet their demands and give them what they want, they will burn our country down.

They do not believe in individual sovereignty but, instead, want collective subjugation which, by definition is the action of bringing someone or something under domination or control.

They have hijacked the peaceful protesters and taken over with their own agenda.

Those of us who love our country didn't ask for this. I do not believe that this is what the majority of us want for our family's future.

It is time to open our eyes, draw a line in the sand and decide if we are going to stand with the Marxists, the mob, anarchy, political correctness, socialism, cancel culture, radicals and the "progressives" who hate America.

We are the greatest nation ever created and a gift from God that gives us liberty, freedom and the pursuit of happiness for everyone.

It comes down to what your principles and values are and what you believe in. Either you support liberty, all of the founding documents and all that this country has been through for over 200 years, or you want to see our nation fall and be ruled by Socialism.

It is up to each of us to make our own decision of how we want our future to look. I stand with America as it stands, even with all of its faults. At least for now we will still have the right to work on making things better for everyone of every race, color and creed.