

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)

LETTERS

HOW DOES ATTACKING PEOPLE BRING US TOGETHER?

How sad City Counselor Joshua Greene feels he must vent by taking inaccurate and cheap shots at the local grassroots' Republican movement in our town.

Mr. Greene seems unhappy with the outcome of the 2018 election and portrays this as a "colossal disruption."

No, Mr. Greene, this was an expression of the will of the voters. You go on to say, "We public figures have to look at what we say and do from all sides and choose what brings people together..."

How does your attack on the Republican folks and the pro-life group bring people together?

You go on to condemn Sherry Harvey for reserving Old Town Park and ask the question, "So why on Bay on July 4?"

The answer to that is very simple; for the same reason the Democrats have reserved the same space in years past for July 4. Mr. Greene said in his Guest Viewpoint "... we need to be honest with ourselves and each other..."

How honest is it to write alluding to your position as a City Counselor and making judgment statements of lawful activities, then close your article with a disclaimer that all that was said is from a personal point of view when it clearly impacts otherwise.

—Bruce Jarvis
Florence

GREENE IS SPOT ON ABOUT COUNCIL'S POLITICAL DIVIDE

In the July 15 Guest Viewpoint by Joshua Greene ("Politics Should Have No Place In Our Local Government"), he was spot on when it comes to our city government's political divide and the small far-right faction in our city.

I did not venture into Old Town

on July 4 as to avoid the unprotected crowds that I assumed would be there. I am fortunate that I did not because I would have been outraged by the transparently far-right display in our public spaces.

If far-right members want to protect or present their agenda, they should go stand on street corners with their signs like everyone else — unless they fear they may not receive thumbs up and horn honks from passersby.

—Win Jolley
Florence

THANK YOU TO OUR LOCAL FACT CHECKERS

Thank you, Karen Mahoney, for your Guest Viewpoint ("What We Really Need To Remember Come November," July 16).

You took your time to fact check. You clarified Ian Eales' loose-use of language and facts regarding U.S. and world history.

Paragraphs 4–6 of your viewpoint regarding the founding of the Republican Party by northern Democrats, anti-slavery Whigs and anti-slavery Free Soilers, were revealing.

My ancestral family was staunch Republican because they were repulsed by ownership of human beings. Two great-grandfathers fought for the Union. One died.

They would be horrified by Confederate monuments and Confederate flags flying; they would be horrified that U.S. police forces have become militarized; they would be horrified that some police officers choose to behave as executioners.

They would be horrified by a lot more.

I was a registered Republican, following my family's path. I am a concerned patriot who loves my country and know that I must speak up.

Who are we? Americans mesmerized by the traumatized celebrity in the White House?

We can do better.

—Kathryn Damon-Dawson
Westlake

WELL-MEANING PEOPLE ARE BEING ENSNARED BY BLM

I would like to challenge the common paradigm and question progressive organizations acquiescing to the demands of Black Lives Matter. This corporation has nefarious funding from Open Society, the Ford Foundation, the Kellogg Foundation, JPMorgan Chase and many other foundations.

Open Society has used his money to disrupt democratically elected governments with "Color Revolutions" for the last 40 years. The BLM protests are just another "Color Revolution" to affect regime change in the U.S.

The movement for Black lives, which includes BLM, sends donations to ActBlue, which has donated \$120M to the "Biden for President" campaign.

When the founders of this corporatized organization claim to be Marxist, it should be understood that they are referring to a distorted philosophy that substitutes the class struggle with the race struggle. This is not Marxism.

BLM seems adored by the media and the Democratic Party and is not a threat to the 1 percent.

Once again, well-meaning people are ensnared into supporting a dead-end agenda.

—James Sherwood
Florence

YOU'LL HATE NEEDING A VENTILATOR

To those who believe mask mandates infringe on their freedoms, you are really going to hate the ventilator.

—Marybeth Marengo
Florence

What a difference a year can make

(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.)

This past Wednesday, July 15, marked the one-year anniversary of when I made a request to the Florence City Council to recognize the existential threat posed by rapid and escalating climate change.

During public comment one year ago, I asked city councilors to adopt a resolution that pledges to join forces with community, state and federal entities to address our climate crisis and, more importantly, create a commission that includes a wide range of interested parties in order to develop a comprehensive Climate Action Plan for the City of Florence.

Unfortunately, I received no formal response from anyone in city government.

Then in September, Greta Thunberg, the young climate activist from Sweden arrived on the scene calling for rallies and repeated Friday Climate Strikes. She was an inspiration to many across the country and in Florence, including me. Florence Organizes' (FOR) Environmental Group organized a big climate rally to educate and excite our citizens and I started weekly Climate Strikes at City Hall to garner action.

Later in the year because little was happening, I created the Florence Climate Emergency Campaign and started collecting signatures on a petition with the same

request made previously to our city government.

Later we joined with the national group Elders Climate Action to share and learn from other climate activists across the country. More recently, I discovered the 350 Oregon Central Coast and am looking forward to collaborating with them and other coastal communities.

GUEST VIEWPOINT By Michael Allen Florence

Because climate education is so important for the youth in our town who will become our future leaders, we added a second goal to our efforts, advocating for the Siuslaw School District to add climate to its curriculum in all subjects grades K-12, along with training opportunities for green occupations similar to what the state of New Jersey has done.

Friday, July 10, was our 43rd Climate Strike with still no formal response from the Florence City Council. In the realm of climate education there are many to take into account.

Members of the Campaign are researching what other local governments are doing to declare a climate emergency. They discovered 96 cities and counties across the United States that have made that step and are obtaining their resolutions.

Others are gathering signatures

for our climate petition bringing our total to 270 signatories. The signatories include a diverse group that includes city councilors, school board members, teachers, students, candidates for city and state offices, ministers, library patrons, business owners, environmental activists and a myriad of town residents.

Many have participated in Friday Climate Strikes at City Hall since the first one in September 2019.

Many sent comments to city councilors and Letters to-the-Editor at the Siuslaw News.

Our local community radio station KXCR responded with PSA's for our Friday Climate Strikes and an interview on Community Conversations about the Florence Climate Emergency Campaign.

There is still hope for the Florence City Council to act since, at an earlier work session, it was agreed they would make an environmental proclamation which may happen at the upcoming virtual City Council meeting on July 20.

This would be a good first step towards the resolution we are calling for in our petition.

The lesson learned here is that persistence and serendipity can pay off with big dividends.

Our struggles with COVID-19 should not be a hindrance but a lesson on how to react to a crisis.

Let's not make us wait another year.

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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.

Email letters to:
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