

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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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, OR. 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.

LETTERS

STANDING IS THE LEAST AN AMERICAN CAN DO
I applaud Jonathan Isaac, forward for the Orlando Magic for standing during the National Anthem while his teammates kneeled.
As a veteran, the least people can do is stand to recognize the sacrifices men and women in the military and their families have made to defend the blessings we have in this country.
For those who choose to kneel, it's a right we defended, but may I suggest one thing: "leave."
—Jay Straley
Florence

"The Left." At these times with the pandemic slowly arriving in our town, we have to accept the fact that our President and many Republican members of Congress have not accepted the fact that COVID-19 is real and killing individuals no matter if you swing left or right.
To be concerned about climate change is important. Air pollution across the world has been reduced in the past six months because people have not been driving a car, using public transportation or flying for business or pleasure. It is a very important issue but not at this present time.
We must first contain, then try to find out how to defeat the virus. The only way this can be done is to have a national mandate that requires a shutdown of all interior food establishments and social gathering places. Social distancing of six feet, and masks being worn at all times when in contact with other individuals.
Until we have a president who can get on the reality page, many more deaths will occur just because of his ego.
—Win Jolley
Florence

IF IT AIN'T BROKE
As a resident of Florence since the early 2000's, I consider myself a fair, middle-of-the-road citizen, making my own judgements depending on the issue(s) affecting one side or the other.
I have noticed lately there have been several Letters to the Editor with harsh criticism of our mayor, Joe Henry.
Florence is such a special little city and each time I'm out circulating in Old Town and also the outskirts, frequenting the many restaurants, outstanding active artists and artisan groups, the PeaceHealth facilities — it reinforces my fondness for our city.
Then, I turn on the TV and watch in sadness (and sometimes disbelief) the rage and destruction in so many cities that possibly don't have leadership with the ability to steer their cities fairly with strength. I can't imagine being a resident of some of these places.
One of my daughters is experiencing this and she is terrified. It makes one wonder, "How did this all start?" A disagreement between two sides of opinion that has evolved into harsh words being exchanged?
We Florencians need to do everything in our power to ratchet down the dialogue to ensure this recent "discussion" on global warming doesn't get too heated and disrupt our lives.
I'm so supportive of the decisions our Mayor Joe Henry and our City Council and Chamber in the beautification of our streets and park areas. My late husband and I used to travel in a Motor Coach. As we would go through one town/city after another, I would always think, "Would I like to live here?"
Then we hit Florence — and we've been here ever since..
So to me, the old adage fits: "If it ain't broken, don't fix it."
—Sue Hale
Florence

RISK OF VIRUS SMALL COMPARED TO LOSS OF LOCAL BUSINESSES
I know everyone is scared right now, and a lot of people are choosing to stay home. But the thing is — when we finally choose to leave home — there will be nothing to leave home for.
If we are not taking the initiative to support our small local "mom and pop" businesses, they will not be here when this pandemic is over.
Our fitness center, cinema, restaurants and stores need our support. Please consider the fact that out of 330 million Americans, we unfortunately lost around 150,000 due to this virus — which statistically is a relatively small number of 0.04 percent of the population.
If you can, use social distancing, face cover and come shop in our local businesses. If this is still not an option for you, please consider donating to your favorite enterprise.
We are all in this together.
—Liat Meller
Florence

CLIMATE CHANGE IS A CHARADE FOISTED ON THE ILL-EDUCATED
Mayor Henry's job is to ensure the city administration runs efficiently. Risible resolutions are not in the job description.
Michael Allen is incorrect that such resolutions are demanded by the electorate.
I believe "Anthropogenic Climate Change" is a charade foisted on an ill-educated public.
It damages the mental health of our young. When they can imagine no future, why not burn down the cities?
—Ian Eales
Florence

TO END VIRUS, POLITICAL INFIGHTING MUST END FIRST
I'm getting tired of our local political infighting — What some individuals call "The Right" against

good common sense in her defense of American culture.
I was astonished and saddened by the selective sensitivity of our newspaper of record in even entertaining the harsh prejudice of Mr. Greene whilst becoming a nit-picky Somerset Maugham to all things right-of-center.

meeting unleashed profanity.
Though Mr. Greene and Mr. Priesler are certainly well intentioned on their climate change theory, many do not agree, respectfully believing it is not manmade but is Earth's natural cycle of existence — which puny man cannot change independently, especially economically.
I appreciate their fervor, but am as concerned with their soft ideology as I am with the mistaken principles of anarchy in Portland disguised as civil rights. They are civil wrongs.
Florence has a long way to go in capturing unity as does America, but climate change is not a city council issue when we are concerned with COVID-19, businesses, transportation, roads, public safety and public works.
We are far from the principled unity of our Founders and their first amendment fairness, even in the Mecca of Florence.
God bless America.

—Sue Hale
Florence

Florence far from 'principled unity' of Forefathers

(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.)

When the Constitutional Convention ended, Ben Franklin was asked "Dr. Franklin, what have you given us?"
His famous reply: "A republic, if you can keep it."
At this point, I am not sure Florence, Ore., "can keep it."
In a recent guest opinion in the Siuslaw News and letters submitted by Ralph Nichols and Keith Kraft, each honestly enunciated the meaning of American values and traditions, openly giving their measured beliefs without criticism of those whose views have left America.
Nichols questioned Councilor Joshua Greene's intentionally impugning the fine character and solid reasoning of my friend, Sherry Harvey, who I feel has always made

GUEST VIEWPOINT By Joel Marks Florence

Those editorial contradictions do not make for unity.
Nor does Councilor Ron Priesler's goal of a "climate change proclamation" which, according to our sensible, astute Mayor Joe Henry, are bylaws protected by the Mayor's discretion.
And though Mr. Priesler and Mr. Greene attempted to bypass the rules of the council, after losing 3-2, someone who had tuned into the

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

Table with columns for various political figures and their contact information, including Pres. Donald Trump, U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, and State Sen. Arnie Roblan.