

**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

### SHOW OUR BEST SIDE

Now that the Democrat Club of Florence has an office at 309 Laurel and the Florence Republicans have one at 1751 12th, the citizens of Florence have a unique opportunity to demonstrate an environment of mutual respect and tolerance.

Unlike Portland, Seattle and Eugene, Florence is known for people supporting each other in times of need independent of ideology and volunteering for organizations that make Florence a better place.

There is a good chance that the "Hate is Bad" and "Be Kind" signs held at the 126 and 101 intersection will be put to the test when "Keep America Great" signs start to appear this election season.

Let's respect these offices and our neighbor's property. Don't put vandalism and intolerance on display in Florence.

—Sherry Harvey  
 Florence

comes the lingua franca of political discourse; when ideology supplants reason; and when the free exchange of ideas is shouted down by vitriolic attack?

I would suggest that what happens is a once great and united nation begins the inevitable slide toward chaos and eventual irrelevance.

Listen up you right-wing zealots, pay attention you leftist commies; keep this up and suffer the consequences!

—Jimmie Zinn  
 Florence

### 'IT WAS ONLY SIX BLOCKS'

The other day as I was going to the post office I met a friend who is politically my opposite. In the conversation that followed, I referred to "that mess in Portland" to which he replied "It was only six blocks."

It was six blocks where the rule of law was suspended and as a result people were killed and injured, businesses destroyed and jobs lost.

The fact that it happened at all demonstrates the failed leadership of both the mayor of Portland and Governor Brown.

Until we stop buying into the divisive rhetoric that pours from the media and hate groups, we will not see an end to the chaos.

In the words of Benjamin Franklin, "Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters."

Tyranny is on our doorstep and as Thomas Jefferson said, "All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people

of good conscience to remain silent."

Think carefully about the life you want when you vote in November.

—Bruce Jarvis  
 Florence

### THIS COUNTRY HAS BEATEN DOWN MARXISM BEFORE

I was dismayed when I saw that the rocks at the north jetty were defaced with BLM graffiti.

If you want to stand behind BLM do so but don't deface property that you don't own. For those who feel that BLM is a beacon of light in the darkness, do some research on this organization.

It hasn't anything to do with anyone's skin color nor do the protests have to do with George Floyd's death or supposed police brutality.

Take some time to research BLM.

You'll find that Patrisse Cullors and Alicia Garza, co-founders of BLM, have admitted to being Marxists. Patrisse Cullors was a protégée of Eric Mann who was an agitator for Weather Underground, a domestic terrorist group in the 1970s. Be careful with whom you align yourself.

If you decide that Marxism is what you want, there are at least five countries which may accept you. The United States of America was founded on the belief that all men are created equal and that Almighty God is at the helm — and we plan to keep it that way.

This country has beaten down Marxism before and, God willing, we will do so again.

—Pamela Richardson  
 Florence

### LISTEN UP RIGHT-WING ZEALOTS AND LEFTIST COMMIES

Reading and watching the news these days has been so very educational. For example, I have learned that all Democrats are really closet Marxists, trying to destroy the country, and all Republicans are blatant fascists, amassing guns to overthrow democracy.

What happens when anyone who disagrees with us becomes an enemy; when we listen only to those who tell us what we want to hear; when name calling and personal insult be-

## Nonprofit after school programs fill gaps for families

**(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.)**

Childcare and youth organizations like the Boys & Girls Clubs and YM-CAs across the state, have stepped up to provide emergency childcare for families in need since the beginning of the pandemic, filling the gap caused by the closure of in-person learning at schools.

As communities and industries across Oregon begin to return to work this fall, and schools remain closed to in-person learning, families will continue to face impossible decisions regarding their ability to balance their work schedules and their expanded role in their child's education.

Our organizations have extended hours, shifted focus, and adapted to the rigorous, and expensive emergency childcare criteria to ensure youth and staff stay safe. We stepped into this work without government funding to cover the increased costs.

We have been tirelessly fundraising and grant writing to keep childcare fees affordable to ensure that our working families can access care. Our staff show up every day with a smile and reassurances to our children who are feeling the fear and uncertainty

from the pandemic.

The government has gone to great lengths to allocate funds and provide much-needed support to industries, education, communities and individuals who are struggling through this unprecedented crisis, but those who are stepping into the risk of providing critical all-day care for working families have been forgotten.

As we continue to provide relief funding for industries and companies

### GUEST VIEWPOINT

**By Chuck Trent**  
 Executive Director  
 B&G of Western Lane County

that have been severely impacted by COVID-19, we must also prioritize the importance of funding for childcare, youth workers, and ultimately our children.

On July 28, Governor Brown announced that she is releasing \$28 million to be distributed to all public schools under the Governor's Education Emergency Relief Fund (CARES Act) for mobile hot-spots, computers and technology, online curriculum and teacher training.

All noble causes, but isn't there money from other sources of funding, such as the \$121 million in ESSER funds Oregon received that is ded-

icated to helping schools adapt and respond to COVID impacts?

Youth development and childcare organizations have stepped into the risk of the pandemic to allow parents to return to work and keep our local economies open. We need relief now to continue childcare services and to support students in their education while schools remain closed to in-person education. Childcare workers deserve to be paid for the risk being taken, our employees need additional training, and we need access to improved IT infrastructure and technology to support distance learning. It makes sense that some of the ESSER funds could be allocated towards social service organizations that are filling the gap.

The state's economic recovery depends on the childcare sector; without childcare parents are unable to return to work.

We need your voice to encourage our elected officials to include childcare in the funding packages. Funding schools is important and funding organizations that are taking care of youth during out-of-school time is equally important.

Together we make it possible for working parents to retain their employment and get our economy going again.

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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:  
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## WHERE TO WRITE

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| <b>OREGON GOV. KATE BROWN</b><br>160 State Capitol<br>900 Court St.<br>Salem, Ore. 97301-4047<br>Governor's Citizens' Rep.<br>Message Line: 503-378-4582<br>www.oregon.gov/gov  | <b>STATE SEN. ARNIE ROBLAN</b><br>(DIST. 5)<br>900 Court St. NE - S-417<br>Salem, OR 97301<br>503-986-1705<br>FAX: 503-986-1080<br>Email: Sen.ArnieRoblan@oregonlegislature.gov |
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