

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

PERKINS WILL PRESERVE OUR FREEDOMS, REPUBLIC

I recently had the opportunity to listen to Jo Rae Perkins give her vision for the State of Oregon and was very impressed with her knowledge and drive to make things better in this state (She is running against incumbent Jeff Merkley).
 I have been very disturbed of late listening to Mr. Merkley regarding his thoughts on defunding police and supporting the siege that has been going on in Portland for more than three months.
 It is surely time for a change.
 Some of the key issues that Jo Rae talked about were:
 1) Law and Order: They are essential for living a safe and promising future; anarchy should never be tolerated.
 2) Medical-health freedom: She supports the right to decide what type of healthcare is best for you and your family.
 3) Land: Better management of rangelands, forests and parks.
 4) Natural resources: Those closest to the land know how to properly care for these resources. Proper utilization will create opportunities for employment.
 5) Term limits: Limiting members of Congress to a combined total of 12 years.
 6) She supports the Second Amendment.
 7) Foreign policy: Stand by our allies, including Israel.
 8) Immigration: We must protect our borders, enforce immigration laws, end sanctuary states and cities, and finish the wall that will stop human, drug and sex trafficking.
 9) National defense: A strong defense is the best offense.
 9) Veterans: Our veterans deserve the best medical care from the provider of their choosing, with service-related care covered.

Our country is the country of freedom, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I will be voting for her to preserve our Republic.
 —Linda Payton
 Florence

KINDNESS OF A STRANGER

Many thanks to the honest and wonderful individual who took the money I left in the ATM to the police department along with my receipt.
 If everyone was as caring and thoughtful, we would have a much better world.
 —Lori Straley
 Florence

AGAINST OCEANA DRIVE ANNEXATION

Citizens of Florence should be aware of another attempt to annex a county road for what appears to be the benefit of a wealthy developer. A similar situation occurred a few years ago when the city annexed Rhododendron Drive.
 This time, the city is being asked to annex Oceana Drive from Rhododendron Drive to the property of a developer. If this is accomplished, the developer will add a significant number of homes to an already overtaxed sewage system and re-

quire maintenance to a road now maintained by the county.
 Should the annexation occur, people living on Oceana Drive will be affected in a number of adverse ways.
 I feel this policy of using annexation of a road to connect with "islands" of land farther out in the county should be of concern to city residents as much as those living outside city limits.
 Annexing a road to get to a remote island of land is an extreme way for any city to expand. It defies common sense and, in my mind, raises questions as to how developers and special interests manage to get city approval for such projects.
 —Joe Decker
 Oceana Drive

RENEWING SUBSCRIPTION BUT NOT COMPLETELY HAPPY
 We are renewing our subscription to the *Siuslaw News* but I am not happy with its Investigative Series.
 Many of us in Florence and surrounding community subscribe to the paper for local news and "goings on" not editorial ramblings. I am not at all happy with its negative articles about the mayor, city council and others.
 What happened to the police reports and other items that used to be included? And while I am expressing my unhappiness with the paper presently, I might add I don't care for the thinness (quality) of the paper material being used as of late.
 I do appreciate, however, the coverage given to military veterans and local organizations.
 —Barbara Cavarino
 Florence

FRESH VOICES NEEDED ON CITY COUNCIL

I would like to thank all of those at the *Siuslaw News* who were involved in writing the recent investigative series about what has been going on in our local politics.
 Since the articles angered those on the left and those on the right, I'd say it must be a pretty fair account.
 That being said, at this point I really don't care about who said what or who started it. What I do care about is that, over the years, I have seen an increase in divisiveness, political maneuvering and in-fighting in our local government similar to what is seen at the federal level.
 Councilors Joshua Greene and Ron Preisler will not be on the ballot this time but Joe Henry will be.
 I think six years of Mayor Henry is enough, especially since — by his own admission — he intends to govern in the same way that he has in the past.
 No thank you sir. I do not care to see more discord and stonewalling.
 It's time for a change.
 I want some new, fresh voices in our local government, and I feel Maggie Bagon, Sally Wantz and Jo Beaudreau are all excellent choices.
 —Kim Shields
 Florence

A VOTE FOR BOOMER IS VOTE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

I am the dad of a police officer daughter and I strongly stand by our law enforcement officers.
 I am supporting Boomer Wright for State Representative for many reasons — but especially because of his support of law enforcement.
 I grew up here, knowing and loving Boomer in his work in administration in our schools. He is a very special leader and positive problem solver. Now, more than ever, we need someone with his life experience, communication skills and integrity working for us in the legislature.
 And we especially need someone who supports and understands the importance of law and order.
 He would never vote to defund the police —and that makes me feel safer for my daughter, all police officers and my community.
 Boomer's website shows that he has the endorsement of Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs (ORCOPS) and also the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police and the Oregon Sheriff's Association.
 That says a lot.
 They must think he is the best for keeping us safe as well. Please remember to vote this election in support of people who support law enforcement and especially for Boomer Wright.
 —Rich DeSantis
 Florence

CAL AND BOOMER

Cal Mukamoto understands forestry as an insider with over 30 years of experience in the timber industry. He wants to keep the forest products businesses of Oregon running using stewardship and holistic approaches that encompass fish, wildlife, tourism and the science of ecosystems.
 He has proven experience helping businesses overcome challenges, including tribal enterprises. He notes in the *Siuslaw News* Voters Guide 2020 that improving the economy, tackling public health issues and developing strategies for supporting young people in vocational success will take leadership and the ability to work with others who hold diverse positions and beliefs.
 Boomer's remarks in the Voters Guide are lacking specific examples of how he would help businesses reopen or school resume. He says he wants what's best for students, but also does not want taxes, which can pay for educational programs and teacher salaries. Especially concerning is that Boomer is supported by Timber Unity, a special interest group that advocates leaving the legislature instead of hammering out tough legislation through negotiation and dialogue.
 Boomer was a coach, teacher, and principal, and Cal did none of those — yet Cal is endorsed by the Oregon Education Association and Boomer is not.
 —Ivy Medow
 Florence

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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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