

Opinion

Continued
from A4

Thank you, Mr. Tomeny, for your 'Investigative Series' rebuttal

(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.)

It is Sunday afternoon and I just purchased the Saturday edition (Oct. 24) of the *Siuslaw News* to get the local news and, of course, read the Letters to the Editor.

What a wonderful and truthful Guest Viewpoint by Mr. Tomeny, who said so many of the things that I have been feeling since reading the 14 installments of the "Investigative Series." After reading that series, it was very very evident to me that there was someone out to "get" Mayor Henry for sure.

My husband and I retired to Florence in 2000 from Grass Valley, Calif., and were excited to return to the coast after spending most of our lives in Santa Cruz, Calif. We had fallen in love with Florence after vacationing here for many years. We immediately subscribed to the *Siuslaw News* so we could be informed about the happenings in our city.

It did not take long, however, to see how left-leaning the paper was and, as conservatives, were very disappointed.

We were hoping for a more fair and balanced paper. We were in

hopes that they did not follow all of the big syndicated papers. One thing that we really noticed was how many "Letters to the Editor" were written every week, and how most of them were written by liberals.

We were appalled, so we decided to write a letter in rebuttal to one that we had written. A week went by and it was not published. Another week went by and it still was not published.

It was well-known to us that the editor at that time (cannot remember his name) was blatantly liberal.

Another week went by and our rebuttal still was not published. By this time I was furious, so I went down to the office and asked to speak to then-publisher John Bartlett, who I had met at functions in town. I liked him and felt that he would be fair.

He said that he would take care of it and the next week both of my letters ran.

I will give Ned Hickson credit for trying to be more fair and balanced with the Letters to the Editor section.

Thank You.

But yes, Mr. Tomeny, you are sooooo right about the liberal block that had control of the city council for years and years. When they lost it in 2018, they could not stand it. Kind'a like Hillary will never accept the fact that she lost the 2016 elec-

tion. And true to the liberal left, they will never go down without a fight — whether warranted or not, like councilors Joshua Greene and Ron Preisler. When I read about those two in the Investigative Series I was livid.

GUEST VIEWPOINT By Linda Payton Florence Resident

In 2010, my husband and I got the "wanderlust bug" and moved to Idaho, mainly because it is a Red State, but made a decision to move back to Oregon in 2015 to care for a critically ill sister that desperately needed our help. Because of her care, we did not have much time to pay attention to Florence politics until after her passing in November 2018.

Fast forward to 2020 and election time again. We decided to meet the candidates whenever we could so we could ask questions about their "plans" for the state and city. I was very impressed at what Mayor Henry, along with many others, were able to accomplish for this city in the six years that he has been in office.

Sorry Mr. Preisler, but after reading your Letter to the Editor in Saturday's paper too, I could not help but take all of what you said with a grain

of salt.

Now, it is time to complete our Ballots.

One thing that disturbed me about mayoral candidate Jo Beaudreau is that, when she was recently interviewed on a local radio station and was asked what she would do about funding as Mayor, her reply was "oh, I don't know much about funding."

This city has a \$6 million budget, so in my mind the mayor had best know something about finance and funding. The mayor is part of the process as to where this money will be spent.

Ms. Beaudreau may be a nice lady and should be given credit for her volunteer work, but is she really qualified? Joe Henry does have a financial background and in my experience is a very fair and honest person.

As far as the other city council openings, I am wary about voting for Maggie Bagon because, in her opening remarks at the recent meet-the-candidates event at the FEC, she stated that she would like to see if the city could use some of the property it owns north of town and turn it into a homeless camp.

No way. Can you imagine all the problems that would arise over that idea? After hearing from and talking

with write-in council candidate Margaret Wisniewski, I was impressed with all that she had to say. She is new to Florence and I feel could come with an open mind and be a good team player on the council. She also has a financial background.

To round out this Guest Viewpoint, I must reference Frank Smith's "Who to Believe" Letter to the Editor in that OCT. 24 edition as well.

As I mentioned, I was at that meet-and-greet the candidates as he, and no one was allowed into the FEC without a mask. In addition, the sanitation process went on all the time. In his letter, Mr. Smith stated that Dick Anderson did not show leadership during the Lincoln City fire.

Not true.

He was all over that city every day helping out wherever he was needed. And I do not blame Boomer Wright for not answering his questions about climate change referencing the fires in California/Oregon/Washington. Those fires had absolutely nothing to do with Climate Change but had a lot to do with poor forest management.

I know a lot about Paradise, Calif., after going there for many years to visit friends. That forest, which surrounded the whole city, has been a tinder box for many years because of poor forest management.

Jo Beaudreau brings the qualities, decency we need in our mayor

Jo Beaudreau was one of the original members of the Public Art Committee (PAC). We created a robust plan with the vision of having diverse artworks that are on a world-class level.

We saw how over the last 30 years many small towns did historical themes specific to their local history. Since that had become common place, we wanted to do something new and yet exciting.

Jo learned a great lesson in her experience serving and helping create this complex City program with multiple legs. She truly comprehends city policy and how the "sausage is made."

She continues to serve on PAC and understands that appointing

volunteers must be based on their skills that best serve the committee's vision and goals. The process can be exciting and rewarding when guided by the right leader.

She also has witnessed the demise of unity and the manner in which the Mayor and two councilors decided to decimate the infrastructure and block all funding of PAC by deprioritizing the program in a goal-setting session — not as an agenda item in a public meeting. Six members of the committee left mostly due to the mayor's bullying and the hostility which was becoming apparent to all. Sometimes you have to suffer a loss to appreciate the wins.

That experience would make

most folks bail. Instead, Jo doubled down and decided to change the leadership by running for Mayor.

That is a sign of strength and decency.

GUEST VIEWPOINT By Joshua Greene Florence City Councilor

A program I have been inspired by is the "Amazing Women Project" whose goals are to inspire, educate, enlighten, create role models and open doorways for young women in all nations. They are dedicated to strengthening and uplifting the status of women around

the world and creating a balance of power between men and women as a pathway to greater peace and prosperity for all.

These women, with the emergence of their new ideas and styles of leadership, guided by their hearts, will transform the base of power while acting in service to our community. These initiatives are worthy of our consideration as we look ahead.

Jo Beaudreau is part of the next wave of volunteers to our community. She is a collaborator, a listener, which is what we need now at the leadership level. We have mostly women as department heads at the City.

Erin Reynolds is an excellent

CEO and she has the support of a team made up primarily of women running the show. I think having Jo Beaudreau, Sally Wantz and Maggie Bagon would calm things down and get back to the alignment that is needed to get things done and bring some joy back to the job of running the city.

She wants to get all of Florence online with high speed fiber. It is a challenging goal and COVID-19 may aid us in that accomplishment. We realize how important fast connectivity is for education, emergency services, healthcare and access to the world for jobs.

Vote nonpartisan, decency, collaboration and honesty in our leaders.

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