

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

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Siuslaw News

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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that are anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are un-sourced or documented will not be published.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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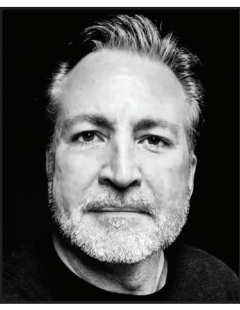
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Local sports — a return to a special kind of normal



you about local sports programs thanks to our new sports reporter Zeahna Young. The hope has been to bring as many folks as possible up to speed with Siuslaw and Mapleton athletics programs.

regarding athletics events. In the meantime, starting this Saturday, you'll notice our B section taking the first step in returning to its traditional focus on sports — a welcome sight to see.

ishments, journeys and achievements of our local athletes each week.

We're committed to providing you with sports coverage, particularly since — at least for now — fans won't be allowed to attend as part

of the current guidelines.

For that reason, we understand the important role we play

in bringing you the stories, images and coverage you need in order to keep up to date with our Vikings and Sailors.

We also understand that having the opportunity to attend those games on your behalf is not only a privilege but a responsibility we have as your local newspaper.

As the sound of cleats in the grass begins, we'll be there to bring you the stories — and celebrate the return of something we can all agree is a special kind of "normal."

From the Editor's Desk

Ned Hickson

Currently, Season Two includes football, cross country, soccer and, as of last week, volleyball for both Vikings and Sailors.

At the same time, as one might expect, schedule changes have been abundant as programs here as well across the region adjust to real-time challenges.

As always, *Siuslaw News* will continue to keep you updated on the latest decisions by the state, county and schools

However, we will be renaming our B section as "Sports & Leisure." We made this decision due to the constantly evolving nature of things, which will allow us to "go with the flow" while still providing a section that is both informative and fun to read.

Our hope is that, come this September, our B section will once again return to a "Sports & Recreation" section, highlighting the accom-

LETTERS

WE CAN'T REMAIN COMFORTABLE AND EXPECT POSITIVE CHANGE

In response to Joel Marks' Letter to the Editor stating that "America is Not Systemically Racist," (Feb. 24), you better believe it is.

This country was built on slavery and the repercussions from that institution continue to be felt today. Except for white nationalists who wear their supremacy with pride, most white Americans aren't even aware of their part in promoting a racist system.

I wasn't. It was only after feeling helplessly distraught after yet another Black American was killed under questionable circumstances that I began to look deeper. I still have a lot to learn, but I do know the moral imbalance in this country

can only be corrected with the acknowledgment of our complicity and participation in its correction.

To quote "White Fragility" author Robin Diangelo, "The racial status quo is comfortable for white people, and we will not move forward in race relations if we remain comfortable."

Perhaps when Americans are willing to educate themselves on the significant challenges of life as a minority in this country, real racial equality can become a reality.

Then America can live up to the moniker of "the land of the free."

—Carol Richards
 Dunes City

HUMANITY REQUIRES THE 'THREE CS'

Contemplating our humanity,

I opened Webster's New Explorer College Dictionary and found a dry line about apes, walking upright, and brain developed for speech and abstract reasoning.

But as a "root word," things become more clear.

Humanity: 1) The quality or state of being humane: compassion. 2) The quality or state of being human (the common humanity of all peoples).

Humane: 1) Marked by compassion, sympathy or consideration of others.

Brute strength is not what sets us above the other animals; it is our sole ability to contemplate our own spirituality.

We need the three "C"s: Comprehension, Compassion and Cooperation.

—S. B. Starlight
 Swisshome

Thankful for enlightenment from overlooked Black Americans

(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.)

As Black History Month comes to an end much too quickly, I am compelled to hold in great admiration two individuals: one whose discoveries gave us important medical treatments and the other for her keen insight into how a system of thinking comes to be.

How could an individual who has contributed to a discovery to treat gaucoma and cortisone — the steroid that blocks inflammation underlying so many prevalent conditions — go unrecognized?

The next time you receives a cortisone injection, you have Dr. Percy Julian to thank for it. Dr. Percy, born in 1899, earned a Ph.D. in chemistry. He investigated substances in common plants that are now used in treatments.

His grandfather had two fingers cut off because he dared to try to

learn to write. Dr. Julian's own pursuit of education and research also were met with roadblocks because of his color. But he persisted and we are so fortunate that he did.

While I have not read Octavia Butler's works, the words of this Black science fiction writer who has received a number of awards for her writings, have alleviated a

GUEST VIEWPOINT

By Nan Harvey
 Florence

conundrum of mine that has persisted over several years: trying to understand why there has been such a communication gap between segments of our society.

Butler's words put it simply. She says:

"All too often, we say what we hear others say: we think what we are told to think: we see what we are permitted to see and hear.

"To see and hear an even obvious lie, with repetition and pride,

are the keys to this (problem).

"To see and to hear an obvious lie again and again and again, to say it because we heard it, then to defend it because we said it and, at last, to embrace it because we have defended it, we become an echo chamber unto ourselves."

This explanation helps me to understand how a lie can be accepted. We expect the truth from our leaders and, before them, from our parents. Further, we expect it from what we see in print or any other form of media.

My life has been made richer by having been made aware of both of these Black thinkers.

How many more hidden Black geniuses are there, and what story would they have to tell about the roadblocks they had to surmount?

Is it too radical to think that such a group of people deserve some kind of reparation for the systemic thinking that has held them down?

I appreciate that a month has been set aside to enlighten the rest of us.