

Siuslaw News
P.O. Box 10
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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

GLAD FOR EMAC DISSENTERS

With interest and exasperation, I have read the articles and letters about climate control, global warming and lately the EMAC not showing up.

I applaud those who stayed away and hope they really were voicing their opposition to establishing an official climate policy.

If you want facts and figures about all that is going on in the environment, I encourage everyone — including our City Council — to read "Apocalypse Never," a book written by Michael Shellenberger.

He's touted as a "Hero of the Environment."

His credentials are impressive and I feel he should be required reading for anyone looking for answers on climate change.

You'll be surprised.

On the other hot topic, the City Council should be ashamed for even considering the Benedick annexation. The way the *Siuslaw News* has covered it, including one paragraph saying no one can speak on the topic and then another paragraph saying the council will consider testimony and evidence, it makes the council look very unprepared and confused.

Consider the home owners that will be impacted by this move and stop trying to hoodwink us all.

—Juanita King
Florence

IS COUNCIL IS AUTOCRATIC, NOT DEMOCRATIC

By virtue of granting power to the Mayor to appoint members to committees, the governing body of the city of Florence is defined as autocratic.

To make the city council democratic, appointments should be made by majority vote of council members. Power-hungry individuals prefer autocracy, true servants of the people want democracy.

—Bill Durst
Florence

STALIN'S STRATEGY ALREADY AT WORK IN WASHINGTON

"You will never defeat America militarily... you must bankrupt her."

So said the Socialist leader of Russia, Joseph Stalin, soon after World War II.

The Democrats have the House, the also control the Senate with 51 votes including the Vice President's vote. They also have the Presidency.

The Democrat Party is now in total control of what America does. We're told President Biden wants a lot of money, not millions, not billions but *trillions* for this and/or that. \$1 trillion here, \$2 trillion there, and on and on — all of which we have to borrow as we are deeply in debt at present.

My grandchildren's grandchildren will be paying off what we are

rolling up in debt..

Think back now to what Stalin said.

Anyone see a comparison ?

—Tony Cavarno
Florence

SUPPORT IN THESE CHANGING TIMES

Maybe city councilor reports should be presented at the beginning of council meetings so they can be heard and considered before the taxing work of the agenda has taken its toll.

Councilor Wantz had some great ideas for the Environmental Management Advisory Committee (EMAC), which seems to be struggling to find its sea-legs after new appointments have been made.

Facing new community demands, and learning the new constellation's temperament and culture, are normal parts of group activity. Certainly the committee should not be disbanded!

Instead, coaching and strategizing for perseverance in the face of difficult conversations and difficult topics is in order, as was suggested by ex-officio Wantz.

I hope the city council can hear her ideas again, with fresh ears.

—Ivy Meadow
Florence

STOP POLITICIZING EVERYTHING

The activist proponents of the theory that human activity causes the climate to change radically in the near future are nothing if not persistent. We could have a spirited debate about the nature and effects of a changing climate, but whatever side you are on you would have to view the issue on a global basis.

Because of the divided nature of the entire country today, "climate change" has become a very hot button and divisive issue. Moreover, due to some of the outlandish prognostications on this topic over the past 20-30 years, these dire predictions have become suspect.

Apparently, some of this activist contingent have become members of the City of Florence Environmental Management Advisory Committee (EMAC). They currently want to form a "subcommittee" specifically to address this issue. I referred to the description of the EMAC committee on the website of the city and found that nowhere does it empower the committee to tackle "global" issues.

It was not formed, nor intended, for that purpose. The desire of this group seems to be to have the City of Florence sign on to some nebulous goals and steps to reverse what they see as ominous climate trends.

As food for thought, here are just a few other things the City could endorse: nuclear power generation; increased logging to use our natural resources; outlawing cannabis

stores; no "prevailing wage" construction projects to save a lot of money; employers hiring only U.S. citizens; outlawing government rebates for electric cars; reopening the lumber mill on Hwy 126 near Mapleton; etc., etc.

These may be important and supported by certain groups of people for various (and well intended) reasons, but the City would and should not weigh in on these.

The bottom line is to let our City elected officials and City government employees tackle those things they CAN address and solve. If certain people or groups need to advocate for specific causes, find the appropriate venue.

In any event, it would be great if we could refrain from politicizing everything.

—Ralph Nichols
Florence

ACTIONS OF ABSENT EMAC MEMBERS CHILDISH

Let see if I have this correct.

Certain members of the EMAC committee did not attend the last meeting, therefore there was no quorum and no vote. The committee doesn't meet again until *after* the city council discusses the workplan.

So, if you can't win — if you have nothing to base your argument on except your opinion — you just refused to do the one job you have?

At best, I would define that as childish.

After coming within 120 votes of losing re-election, our current mayor came out with a statement last November how he was going to strive to "bridge the gap" and make an effort to "reach out to the community."

Months later, in spite of 100's of (unread) letters of protest, the annexation and the firm denial that climate change is a thing, in spite of the majority of the community's opinion on the matter, our local government will do as *it* sees fit.

If they can't win, all they care about is that the "other" side doesn't win either.

Apparently, that's what passes for local government.

—Edward Gunderson
Florence

IMMIGRANT KIDS NEED HELP AND SO DOES GOVERNMENT

There are 19,502 incorporated cities in the United States.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if each city would host one immigrant child and pay for his or her bus ticket to their city?

Each city could then help find parents, other relatives or a host family. The kids need the help and so does the government.

—Gene Olson
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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