

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

(Editor's Note: Viewpoint submissions on these and other topics are always welcome as part of our goal to encourage community discussion and exchange of perspectives.)

CONSEQUENTIAL QUESTIONS

As a consequence of the news and recent letters on the issue of mandating vaccinations for health care workers, I wish to pose the following questions:

If a patient of a health care worker is infected by the worker, can that provider and/or the worker's employer be sued?

Could a criminal charge be made against the worker for reckless endangerment?

— Bill Durst
Florence

DOGGONE DUNES

It's heartening to see that kind people still exist. Two of the best helped us find our runaway dog Tuesday, Aug. 31.

As our walk at Munsel Greenway Park was ending, instead of coming to get leashed up, our dog took off and disappeared into the dunes.

As we frantically searched, we encountered a couple, asked if they'd seen our dog and explained what happened. Without hesitation, their reply was, "We'll help you look for him."

We went off in different directions and searched.

The story has a happy ending thanks to these caring people. They found and rounded up our dog.

We want to express our gratitude to these wonderful folks. We don't know who you are, but hope you see this and know we are deeply grateful for your help.

— Rosie and Greg Hill
Florence

A FOCUS ON THIS GREAT COUNTRY

As I sat down to write this Letter to the Editor, I was going to focus on what has been going on in this great country of ours in the past eight months with the stimulus packages, federal infrastructure spending, illegal immigration, inflation, human infrastructure and now with what is going on in Afghanistan and the loss of 13 of our soldiers, with no one to blame by this current president and administration. To say the least I am livid over all of it, especially since this country was doing so well in 2019 on a local and federal level and also on the world stage.

However, before I went any further, I sat down to read the *Siuslaw News* Opinion page from Aug. 25 and read the letter from Sue Hale, "Arrival of Cancel Culture?"

I never read the letters from Ms. Spradling or Mr. Denton that she refers to, but how right Ms. Hale was with her letter.

Since I am 79, I can reflect on a lot of life, like she has in her late 80s. After reading her letter, it reminded me of two other letters that I did read on Aug. 14 under Community Voices.

To that point, I want to thank Mr. Joel Marks for his article on "The Forgotten Man." It was so well written.

Since I was taught in my history class in school about President James Madison, it made me wonder if that is taught in school today? Mr. Marks, the newspaper should run your article every week as a reminder about how much logic and common sense

has gone out the window, especially in the past eight months.

Also, I wish to thank Pastor Ron Allen from the First Baptist Church of Florence for his column, "We Were Once Free Men."

He read from Galatians 5:1 and also stated how our country today is losing many of the basic rights that our Constitution of united independent states originally formed. As a matter of fact, people today rarely acknowledge that it is clearly articulated in the name of our republic and affirmed in our Declaration of Independence and our Constitution — the United States of America.

— Linda Payton
Florence

KEEPING TRIM LINES

Dear Central Lincoln PUD,

We've been living on the North Fork Siuslaw Road for the last six years. We've recognized your significant efforts to provide and maintain our power services.

Recently, my wife noticed and appreciated your extensive efforts to trim back trees that have had the potential to interrupt power, and perhaps, to cause a fire.

I'd been wondering for years if you'd inventoried or surveyed your lines on the road since trees that had fallen had cut power, usually briefly. We've been impressed by your rapid interventions to restore power.

I'm a former Californian and fought forest fires there in the sequoias and coastal redwoods 50 years ago. While it was sometimes harrowing, our crew's efforts can't be compared to the current state of the forest that has been massively affected by climate change.

Back in 1989, a friend in Alaska, the retired state forester, introduced me to the then-nascent problem of spruce bark beetle overwintering enabled by climate change. The explosive damage it was doing to our forests was rapidly causing widespread die offs and presenting the prospects of forest fires beyond one's imagination.

I visited Paradise in early 2019 and observed the devastation resulting from the Camp Fire caused by a PG&E (Pacific Gas & Electric Company) problem.

The current Dixie Fire, which has consumed over a half million acres, and destroyed over 600 homes, also started with a fuse failure after a tree fell.

The local public TV station in San Francisco had this story about the logistical circumstances that combined to result in that fire, which rages on, "Why It Took PG&E 9.5 Hours to Get to the Scene Where Dixie Fire Started." (Read it on www.kqed.org.) You might find it informative and helpful.

Thanks again for your fine work.

— Frank Smith
Florence

AMBULANCE SERVICE AIN'T BROKE

Thank you to Mike Webb for his thoughtful and rational Guest Viewpoint ("Why I Support Public Over For Profit When it Comes to Ambulance Service...") *Siuslaw News*, Sept. 1) with regard to privatization of Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD).

We have excellent service now and the WLAD Board of Directors have done a wonderful job.

As has been seen with privatization of prisons, without gov-

ernmental oversight, we get less qualified, underpaid and under-trained staffing. Abuses occur.

As the saying goes, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

— Marybeth Marengo
Florence

LET FREEDOM RING — BUT JUST FOR ME

As for the "Let freedom ring" resolution (or whatever it's called), proposed to the Florence City Council, why stop there? Why demand so little?

Why not refuse traffic lights and speed limits? They're not in the Constitution, and neither is the law of gravity, one I'm not fond of.

If we are going to pick and choose which laws we deem worthy to obey and which to discard because they are inconvenient, I am on board!

I completely agree with you — the world ends when I die.

Nothing matters but my instant gratification. Your logic runs rings around me! Let freedom ring!

Be careful on Highway 101, however. I'm going 70 mph, ignoring traffic lights and in the left lane because rules don't apply to me. Good luck.

P.S. I just read that Klickitat County Sheriff Bob Songer sent a letter to Washington's governor stating that he was a "Constitutional" sheriff (what ever that means), and would only observe the laws he saw fit — as in mask mandates. He then spent five days in the hospital and was released still on oxygen because of COVID-19.

— Edward Gunderson
Florence

YOU HAVE BEEN LIED TO

At the Dunes City Council meeting on Aug. 25 (*Siuslaw News*, Aug. 28, "Dunes City Hears About Water, Council Considers Masks"), Councilor Duke Wells refused Councilor Robert Orr's request for everyone to wear a mask by stating, "It's just how I was raised and who I am. I just feel like I have been lied to."

Mr. Wells, you have been lied to — by Sean Hannity, Tucker Carlson and the other "talking heads" on FOX.

Only FOX has politicized the pandemic. Only FOX declared the coronavirus to be a hoax, until more than 500,000 American's lost their lives. Only FOX has questioned the recommendations of the CDC to get vaccinated and only FOX has belittled the importance of wearing a mask.

Yes, Mr. Wells, you have been lied to. Time to change the channel so you get news instead of nonsense.

If you wonder why we are still in Florence and not back in Nashville, it's because your governor, Gov. Kate Brown, had the courage to require everyone to wear a mask, unlike Tennessee's Governor Lee, who has no backbone. His failure to issue a mask mandate has resulted in Tennessee to become No. 1 in the number of cases/population (156,000 cases per million people, according to www.worldometers.info/coronavirus), while Oregon is at No. 48 (67,000 cases per million).

Wear a mask, stop the virus from spreading, do what's right for your neighbor and community.

— Mark Riebau
Nashville, Tenn., and Florence

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The *Siuslaw News* welcomes Letters to the Editor and Guest Viewpoints as part of a community discussion of issues on the local, state and national level. 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.

Email letters to cmeyer@thesiuslawnews.com

TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION:

Letters must address pertinent or timely issues of interest to our readers at-large. In addition:

- Letters reflect the opinion of the writer. The *Siuslaw News* cannot verify the accuracy of all statements made in letters. Authors should ensure any information is accurate, fair and not from second-hand knowledge or hearsay, and include sources where possible.
- Letters have a suggested 300-word limit and may be edited for grammar and clarity.
- Authors must sign their full name and include their street address (only city will be printed), as well as a daytime phone number and/or email address for verification. The person who signs the letter must be the actual author. *Siuslaw News* does not accept anonymous Letters to the Editor.
- *Siuslaw News* will not print form letters, libelous letters, business promotions or personal disputes, poetry, open letters, letters espousing religious views without reference to a current issue, or letters considered in poor taste. Letters also may not be part of letter-writing campaigns.
- Writers are limited to one published letter every two weeks.

TO SUBMIT TO THE SIUSLAW NEWS:

Emailed submissions are preferred. All letters need to include full name, address and phone number; only name and city will be printed. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed.

The newspaper, at the sole discretion of the publisher and editor, reserves the right to reject any letter that doesn't follow the above criteria.

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