

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

(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.)

WHOPPER OF A SURPRISE, REALLY?

The traffic snarl at Highway 101 & 35th Street caused by patrons of the newly opened Burger King is no surprise at all to those that have eyes.

Opening day for most businesses usually produces a greater influx of traffic, whether on foot or wheels, but this is only a portent of coming attractions to the Florence area.

If you like traffic, just wait until the housing development (Three Mile Prairie just north of Fred Meyer) goes in, with the final count of proposed residences there. That little deal went from an original 54 residences to 196 with a further request to make it around 236, as understood from talking to the developer. I wonder how that got the OK?

What's really choice is that this development will be built (according to the soil report) on 88% Dune Sand (NRCS Soil No.44), 11% Yaquina Loamy Fine Sand (NRCS Soil No.140), and 1% Waldport Fine Sand — that's a lot of blowing sand up you know where, even for Florence!

Reading the total report on this development is mind boggling and really doesn't make building, or common, sense, but the

law evidently allows it.

Hey, the law is not supposed to make sense, it's supposed to make money for those that write it and those that apply it.

Speaking of the law, "Florence Police were very helpful in helping to direct traffic when things got really backed up," to quote the Oct. 2 article, of the traffic problem there. Makes one wonder if Florence Police will be constantly tied up helping direct traffic along Highway 101 for residents just to get on it from side roads?

As it is, there seems to be an increase of break-ins to cars & homes in the area but that's what progress brings folks. The really "Big Whopper" is on its way and we'll be paying for it on many levels!

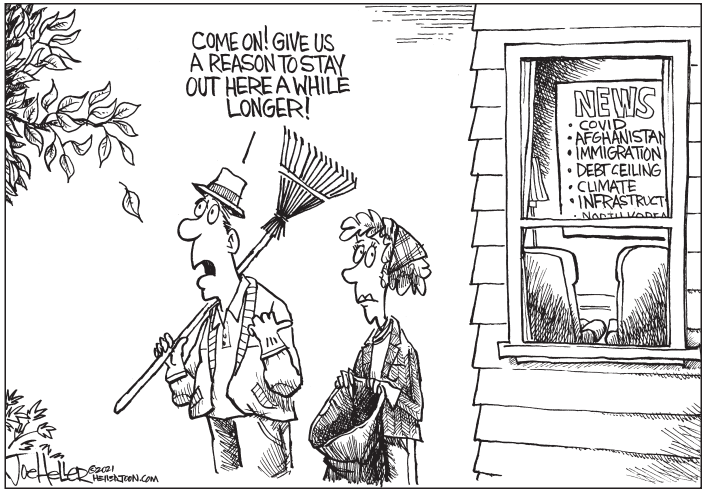
Remember, our current powers that be have the mindset that, if it doesn't move — annex and develop it.

We've got to make the change, folks, before it's too late.

— Jeff Gemutliche
 Florence

VOLUNTEER & CLEAN UP AFTER SUMMER

As fall is in the air and our summer visitors have headed home, the Woahink Lake Association invites the community to join us for our October, Bi-Annual Lake Clean-up. Residents around Lake



Woahink and others interested in preserving the health and beauty of Woahink Lake are asked to volunteer for this worthy project. Kayakers might also consider joining in our efforts to clean the shorelines of summer holiday litter.

The event will take place on Canary and Clear Lake roads on Saturday, Oct. 9, meeting at East Woahink Park at 10 a.m.

It should be easy to practice social distancing and the wearing of masks as needed.

We are always looking for more volunteers to assist us in this worthy project. If you're interested, please contact either John at jhncolwell@yahoo.com or Pat at briggs.pg1@gmail.com.

Hope to see you all there!
 — Margie Kelley
 Secretary, Woahink Lake Association

SPECIAL REQUEST

Dear Publisher Jenna Bartlett and Editor Chantelle Meyer,
 In the Sept. 29, 2018,

edition of the Siuslaw News, Editor Ned Hickson wrote an amazing editorial about domestic violence. It was poignant and brutally honest.

We are sure you, as women, are aware of the value of an editorial like this written by a man.

We are requesting that this article be reprinted in the Siuslaw News this October as part of the paper's ongoing support of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Thank you for considering this request. Keep up the good work!

— Jack and Laure Davis
 Florence

(Editor's Note: Thanks so much for the suggestion, Jack and Laure! I reached out to Ned and got permission to rerun his editorial. He was thankful to be included in recognition for this month, as domestic violence awareness is important to his own story. I invite the community to read the following Guest Viewpoint and consider how we can commit to each other.)

Ending abuse requires a commitment to each other

(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 wasn't until becoming a father that I realized how a childhood of witnessing verbal and physical abuse by the men in my family — specifically, my father and brothers — had impacted me and left wounds which had never truly healed.

I know this because I occasionally saw reflections of my father and brothers in myself as I fought to avoid making the same mistakes with my own children.

As much as we want to tell ourselves we can choose not to take any baggage with us on our journey through life, there is no getting rid of it completely — only a conscious decision to leave it circling on the carousel.

Ultimately, it is always somewhere. Circling. Waiting to be claimed.

This is especially true for young men in their teens and early 20s, when they are defining themselves and establishing their place in what is still a male-dominated culture — all while simultaneously trying to understand the intricacies of communicating with those they love.

Even as a teenager some 35+ years ago, I can tell you that appearing tough and "manly" among your peers while still holding on to the part of you that is thoughtful and caring feels contradictory to what we're taught about being a man.

The stereotypical definition of manhood was in movies, advertising and music: Being a man means being in control.

In charge.
 In command.

Of life and our relationships. Seeking true equilibrium is even more difficult today because, unlike 35 years ago, the unhealthy stereotypes that define "manhood" are relentlessly perpetuated through social media and the near-constant presence of advertising that sells body wash, music, movie tickets, clothes

GUEST VIEWPOINT By Ned Hickson

Former Editor of Siuslaw News
 Originally Published Sept. 29, 2018

and video games by depicting what it looks like, sounds like and feels like to "be a man."

It is baggage our culture has been carrying for generations, repackaged and presented in more ways than ever before.

The fact is, being a real man *does* mean being in control.

But not of others; it means being in control of yourself enough to understand, acknowledge and accept your strengths as well as your weaknesses.

It means never using your strength — physically or verbally — to harm the women in our lives, whether it be your wife, girlfriend, co-worker, mother, daughter or neighbor.

A real man provides protection, safety and acceptance; a weak man dishes out pain, insecurity and denial.

In either case, they are reflections of our inner self. The question is: What kind of reflection do you want to see when you look in the mirror each day?

Every year, our local Siuslaw Outreach Services (SOS) assists literally hundreds of victims of domestic abuse, including 299 in 2017. In addition, SOS provided shelter for

1,358 victims of abuse that year, including 13 victims of sexual assault.

As wonderful as our community is, it isn't immune to domestic violence against women, children and men.

There's no denying that the cultural threads of domestic violence are woven into the fabric of our society.

Though we have made strides in some areas by recognizing and discussing matters of physical and verbal abuse, that baggage is still out there circling on the carousel.

On Sunday, Florence recognized the start of Domestic Violence Awareness Month with an End Domestic Violence march presented by SOS.

Whether you are a survivor of domestic abuse or want to show your support for those who are, I hope you participated — either in the march itself or by showing your support along the sidewalks as the march winds its way through Old Town.

As a culture, each of us must make a commitment to avoid claiming the baggage that perpetuates violence on our families and each other; as a *community*, we must make a commitment to each other to support — and when necessary speak up for — our friends, family members and neighbors who we suspect may be victims.

Most importantly, to end the cycle of domestic violence, we must be willing to carry on with that commitment well beyond the last, crisp evening of October.

Note: Victims of domestic abuse can call the SOS hotline at 541-997-4444; abusers seeking help can call SOS at 541-997-2816.

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Siuslaw News

Published every Wednesday and Saturday at 148 Maple St. in Florence, Lane County, Oregon. A member of the National Newspaper Association and Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association. Periodicals postage paid at Florence, Ore. Postmaster, send address changes to: Siuslaw News, P.O. Box 10, Florence, OR 97439.

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NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

In Lane County — 1-year, \$84; 6-month, \$61; 3-month subscription, \$37.50; Out of Lane County — 1-year, \$107; 6-month, \$74; -month subscription, \$50; E-Edition Online Only (Anywhere) — 1-year, \$65; 6-month, \$35; 3-month, \$15. Ask about our senior discounts.

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 Monday to Thursday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
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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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