

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)

STATEMENT ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

(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.)

Today (Oct. 11) is long overdue. I am proud that we can officially recognize today as Indigenous Peoples' Day in Oregon. I'd like to thank Reps. Sanchez and Alonso Leon who introduced the bill this session recognizing this important day, and everyone who worked so hard to pass the bill to make today a reality.

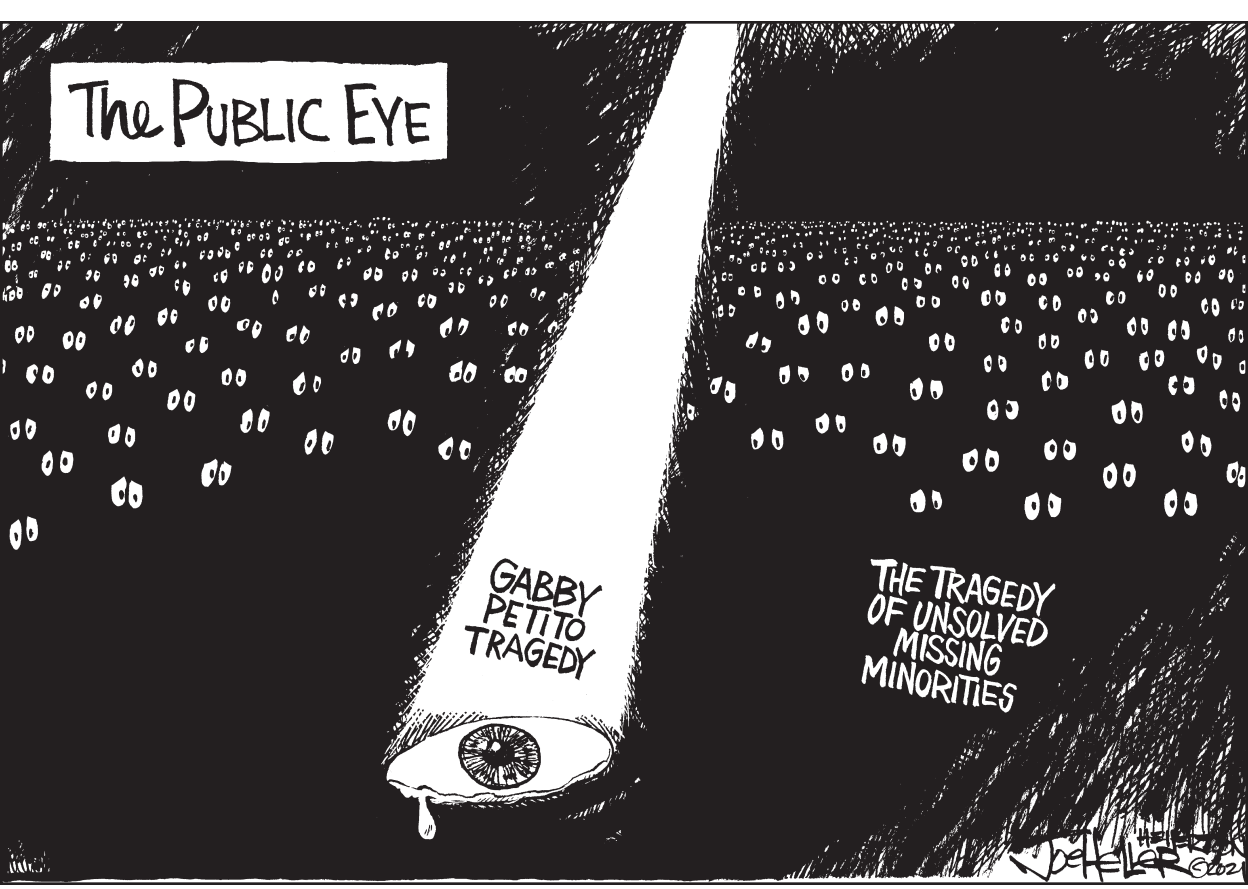
Oregon's Indigenous, Tribal and Native peoples have been stewards of our forests, fish, wildlife, lands and waters since time immemorial. Today, we recognize not only that historical and cultural heritage, but our continuing partnership with Oregon's sovereign

of Indigenous people is stained by racism, discrimination, forced removal and violence. We cannot change that past — but we can work together to dismantle the legacies of colonialism and racism just as they were built, brick by brick.

GUEST VIEWPOINT
By Oregon Gov. Kate Brown
Monday, Oct. 11, 2021

Tribal governments as we work together towards a more just and equitable future. Oregon's historical treatment

No matter where you are in Oregon today, remember, you are on Indigenous land. Today, we pay our respects to the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon, and honor all the Indigenous peoples who have long called these sacred lands their home. We are grateful to be here today.



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.)

POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

It is my sincere hope that the City of Florence can cooperate and collaborate with Raymond Furr/Leaven No Trace in order to reduce and prevent marine debris in the Siuslaw and surrounding waters. I hope both can find common ground by creatively developing solutions to the problem of marine debris as well as non-biodegradable trash accumulation and litter. NOAA's Marine Debris Program awards funding for new projects and is just one example of potential opportunity. I am sure that there are also other avenues for funding, and I strongly encourage both the city and Raymond to develop a team, apply for a grant, and get to work. As a start, the City of Florence should recognize Raymond's contributions thus far and be willing in earnest to become catalysts for positive environmental change.

I want to thank Raymond and Leaven No Trace for doing the dirty work of not only cleaning up the trash, but of raising awareness. The trash bags with faces effectively both horrified and inspired; it is shocking to be made aware of the huge amount of litter, yet inspiring to witness such an effort being made on behalf of our land and water.

You have made me more aware of the amount of trash that I take to the curb each week and how much of what I buy at the grocery store is packaging, not food. The city and the county should be putting you on the payroll, not throwing you in jail. I hope that the city will be more receptive to your efforts and work with you in the future. Again, thanks. Maybe your filters on the drains weren't perfect, so let's see Public Works do better.
 — Lynn Untz
 Florence

CEILING FOR A REASON

There has been talk about the need to increase the debt ceiling so that the U.S. will not default on its obligations. However, the current bills were provided for by prior authorizations and would already be included in the calculations. The debt ceiling debate is only linked to future spending. The Congress is looking for permission to add on the \$3.5 trillion onto our already unsustainable debt. Encourage our representatives to not approve the additional debt. Ask them to use the funds that have already been authorized but not used.
 — Sandy Davidson
 Florence

POLICIES DO ALIGN WITH BIBLICAL SCRIPTURE

Regarding Marshall Denton's Letter to the Editor ("Christians Rise Up," Oct. 9), this country was not founded on Judeo-Christian values. The

founding fathers were clear on separation of Church and State. Although the majority of the signers were members of one of a variety of Christian faiths, many of them were Deists. A Deist generally believes that God created Nature, but that God did not have any involvement in the decisions of government or our daily workings. It is also necessary to point out that one of the reasons for the Revolutionary War was that the Colonists wanted the freedom to practice any religion they chose and not to have their religion dictated by the government. In addition, let's keep in mind that not all Republicans are Christians, and not all Christians are Republicans, as implied by Mr. Denton. He states that Democratic policies do not align with Biblical scripture. I would argue that Democratic policies are close to scripture in a number of areas, like welcoming immigrants, helping alleviate poverty, feeding those who do not have food and attempting to mitigate the damage being done by climate change. These challenges, among many others, will be addressed in President Biden's and the Democrat Party's Build Back Better Act. Republicans, since the 2016 election of the former president, seem to have obstruction, disruption and chaos as their ideology. They continue with the Big Lie that the 2020 election was stolen from Trump.
 — Marybeth Marengo
 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:
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 - 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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