

## Standard online reader survey



Q: Which local government do you think is run better?

CITY 58%  
COUNTY 42%

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### City administrator talk should wait

#### TO THE EDITOR:

It was with regret I read the article in the *Southern Standard* that the mayor was seeking to hire a new city administrator.

The last four years during which Mr. Bill Brock has served in that position, has been a breath of fresh air.

Some six years ago, under the cover of darkness and secrecy, former McMinnville Fire Chief Kevin Lawrence was fired. It was a firing nobody wanted to take accountability for. It was at that time I began to speak out regarding the city administrator position.

I suggested perhaps it was time for McMinnville to have a full-time mayor. The mayor would be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the city with a greater involvement from the city board.

Those who had a say decided not to allow the citizens to have a voice as to whether they favored having a full-time mayor

or another city administrator.

The city board chose to name Mr. Brock as interim city administrator. Having spoken of favoring local citizens for leadership positions, I was curious as to how it would work out.

Mr. Brock has done a very good job of seeing to the day-to-day operations of the city. He has done so without seeking personal publicity or attempting to overshadow the work of the mayor and city board.

If city leaders decide to continue having a city administrator, they will be hard pressed to find an individual to perform the job as Mr. Brock has.

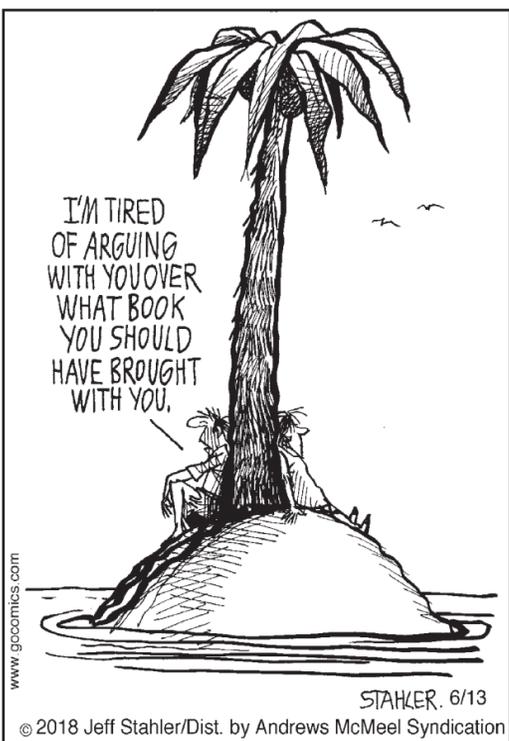
It's my hope the discussion of a new city administrator would be put on hold until after the elections this year. It amazes me that some would seek to move our city backwards instead of continuing moving forward.

David H. Hill  
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## WRITE A LETTER

Members of the community are encouraged to write letters to the editor

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ARIZONA @ THE STATE



### Trump-Kim Summit historic

President Trump's close encounter with the third Kim came off pretty much as planned in Singapore last Tuesday, for Trump and Kim that is. However, heads were shaking and brows were furrowing in other places. And they are apt to be bumfuzzled for some time, as the devils in the details get sorted out in the USA and North Korea.

Running up to the Singapore Summit was the Trump demand, "Complete, Verifiable, Irreversible, Denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula. While the acronym "CVID" made for a catchy soundbite for media and pundits, the question was and is "When will all that happen?" Previous experience with Kim Jong Un's father, grandfather, and Kim himself, does not inspire confidence in expecting different results this time around.

That's why we need to heed President Ronald Reagan's sage advice: "Trust, but verify" all along the way, lest we be duped again. Still, politics remains "the art of compromise." And surely, that includes international politics, where war and peace may hang in the balance. The stakes are especially high in the current case of the USA versus North Korea.

First, both nations have large, lethal means of conventional warfare. Moreover, both nations have nuclear weapons, and have threatened to use them as a last resort.

To paraphrase General of the Army and 34th President of the United States Dwight D. Eisenhower, "In a nuclear war, the living will envy the dead." As a soldier and statesman with experience in the horrors of war and the happiness of peace, his words are worth heeding more now than when he said them so strongly, so long ago.

The enormity of nuclear war was part of what guided President Eisenhower's policy of containing Communism where possible around the world. That policy of containment, warts and all, continued to guide a succession of American presidents, Democrat and Republican, for decades to come.

In his own inimitable way, President Trump has taken a bold, historic step toward peace with North Korea. It is also a vital step back from the nuclear abyss that threatened to engulf both Koreas and beyond. So, if Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim can follow through on their respective parts of the Singapore Summit deal and co-write a new, more peaceful and productive chapter for both nations, can't the rest of us just "Give Peace a Chance" for a while and see what happens?

Given the awful alternative of war, I certainly hope so.

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#### MY TURN

THOMAS B. VAUGHN



### Foul language is everywhere

Perhaps because I am so helplessly enamored with Turner Classic Movies and its magical old films, I am one of those Americans who has found herself more enraged than normal by the, shall we say, "challenges" to our public manners posed by both Roseanne and Samantha Bee.

We have Roseanne Barr, a TV star of the right, sending a disgusting insult to a respectable African-American political leader. We have Samantha Bee, another spoiled TV darling, this time of the left, throwing the most disgusting word for any woman against the president's daughter.

All right, you say, you don't like it (I don't), but is there anything more to do than "grin and bear it"? Well, yes; in fact, I think we might pause for a moment and see to what depths we have sunk with such language.

Let's start with what our wisest forefathers thought about the social purpose of manners and how we express ourselves in a moral universe. Here are some words to ponder from 18th-century British statesman, author and philosopher Edmund Burke:

"Manners are of more importance than laws. Manners are what vex or soothe, corrupt or purify, exalt or debase, barbarize or refine us, by a constant, steady, uniform, insensible operation, like that of the air we breathe in."

In short, bad manners lead to insult, and insult leads to hatred, and hatred leads to violence. Good manners, whether genuine or not, make it possible for humans to live together.

Such philosophers, of course, could hardly have seen where we were

headed with social media, which can encourage anonymous hatred for "the different," or cable television, with fewer of the constraints of broadcast television networks, or the breakdown of society into rabid political party differences.

They could not have foreseen how a beautiful language like English could be so easily decimated by men and women of little moral sense, or how the worst foul language now gains the most celebrity.

What I find interesting -- and what has garnered virtually no attention -- is the way swearing has changed since my youth.

#### COLUMNIST

GEORGIE ANNE GEYER



In the '50s, '60s and well into the '70s, swearing was largely expressed in ravings to -- and against -- heaven, against hope, against God and even Christ Himself.

By my reading, public swearing began to change in the late 1960s with the youth rebellion centered around the Vietnam War. Vietnam damaged America's historical view of its innocence, and what came out was a change in the nature of its cursing.

American cursing became centered on the most vulgar parts of the body and its functions. If this doesn't tell you how low we've sunk in the use of our beautiful language, what possibly could?

The widespread criticism of both Roseanne and Samantha are hopeful. The disgust among many Americans for this debasement of our language is encouraging. But do we care enough to turn it all around?

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#### JUST A THOUGHT

LISA HOBBS



### I'm not sneaky when I record

I'd like to address an issue -- for lack of a better word -- resulting from the recent unpleasantness that occurred during the county Health and Welfare Committee meeting on June 12.

Specifically, I was asked if I was the one that secretly shot the video and then placed it online. It depicted a commissioner's back and was held down low. You really couldn't make out any of what was going on. It was no better than an audio recording.

When I was first asked, I didn't think much about it. I answered it honestly and went on about my day. Once I had time to think about it, I was slightly offended to think anyone would accuse me of doing something so sneaky.

For the record, I am not the one who did that. I would never do that.

First, if I had wanted to video the meeting, my camera would have been sitting on a tripod in the room for all to see. I don't do sneaky. I do record audio for future reference, if needed. To do that, I push "record" and sit it right in the middle (or as close to it as possible) of the table and walk back to my seat. Everyone sees me do that.

Also, if I had a video recording of that meeting, I would not send it to anyone or place it on Facebook. I don't work for Facebook. I'm not emotionally invested in Facebook. I know some people would die without Facebook in their lives, but I'm not one of them. I don't need its validation.

Much like the pictures I take and the articles I write, any video I take would be presented to my editor for his consideration. I would have gone with his determination on what to do with it. Whatever he decides, I go with.

I would like to say my years as a reporter have been uneventful, but that's just not the case. I've had angry people at wrecks threaten to assault me, one firefighter threaten to confiscate my camera (no authority whatsoever to do so and we both knew it), death threats from an article I wrote, false accusations by one person attempting to get me in trouble at work (I still do not know why), etc. The list could go on and on of unpleasantness. However, this was my first occasion to be verbally insulted during an open meeting by a county commissioner.

I did have one city alderman threaten to get me fired if I didn't stop writing articles that did not meet his approval. If memory serves, he said he'd hate to see a single mother be jobless but that was entirely up to me.

That conversation was in private. My reaction wasn't what he wanted to hear -- an outright negative and request denied.

He did make an attempt the very next morning to get me fired. That was years ago, and I'm still here. He's no longer an elected official.

Standard reporter Lisa Hobbs can be reached at 473-2191