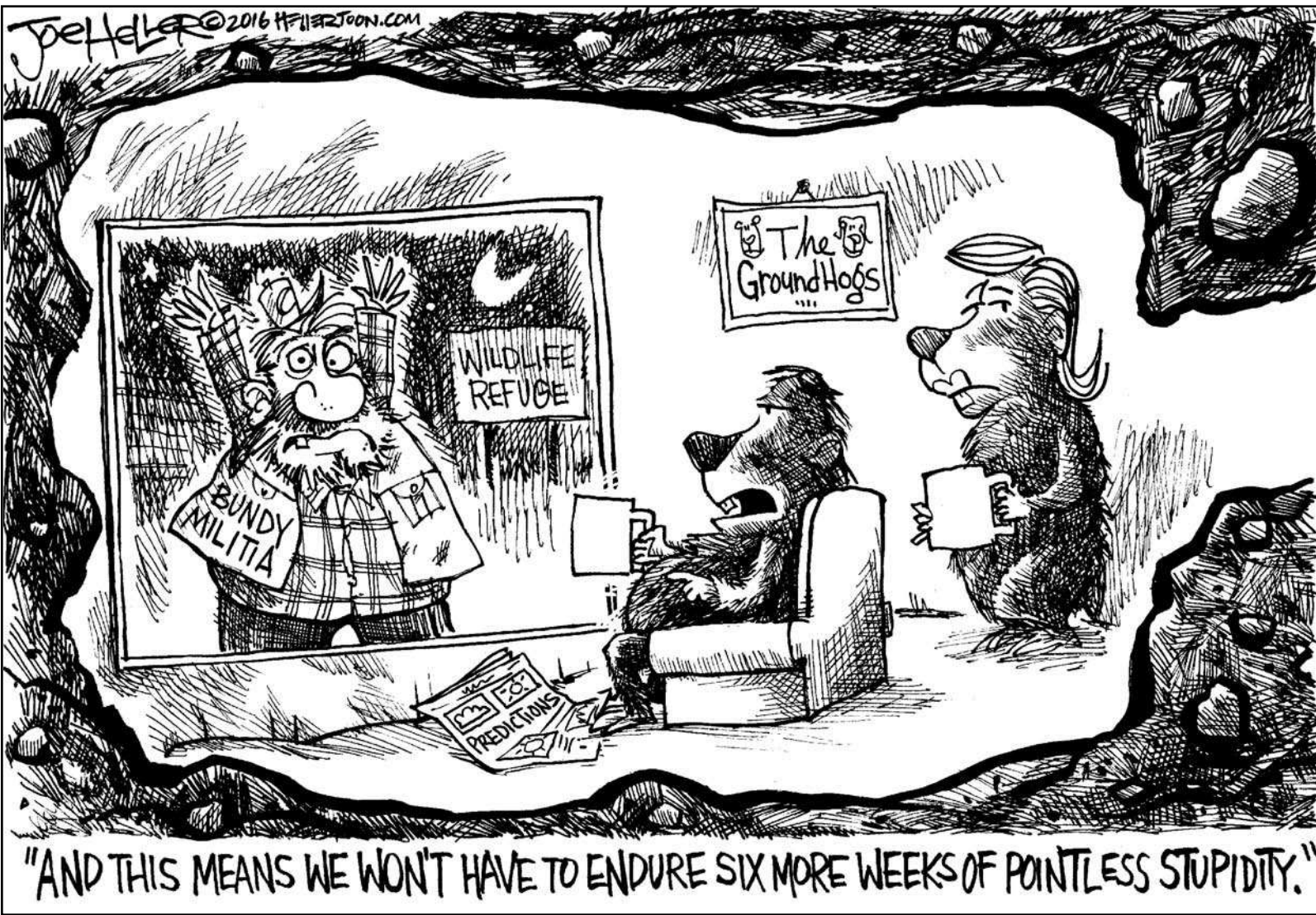


**Siuslaw News**  
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# Opinion



## YESTERDAY'S NEWS

### MOMENTS IN TIME The History Channel

- On Feb. 7, 1881, plea bargaining gains favor in American courts when Albert McKenzie pleads guilty to a misdemeanor count of embezzlement instead of a felony. Today, over 90 percent of criminal cases are resolved through plea bargain in many jurisdictions.
- On Feb. 5, 1917, Congress overrides President Woodrow Wilson's veto and passes the Immigration Act, requiring a literacy test for immigrants.
- On Feb. 6, 1928, a woman calling herself Anastasia Tchaikovsky and claiming to be the daughter of the murdered czar of Russia arrives in New York City hoping to claim the Romanov fortune. In 1994, DNA analysis finally showed that Anastasia was not a Romanov, but was in fact a Polish-German factory worker.
- On Feb. 1, 1951, the United Nations General Assembly condemns the communist government of the People's Republic of China for acts of aggression in Korea. It was the first time the United Nations condemned a nation.

- On Feb. 4, 1976, a 7.5-magnitude earthquake levels one-third of Guatemala City, killing 23,000 people and leaving 1 million others homeless. Roads and bridges leading to the area sustained extensive damage, making it difficult for help to arrive.

- On Feb. 2, 1980, details of ABSCAM, an FBI sting operation to uncover political corruption in government, are released. Thirty-one public officials were targeted. FBI agents had posed as representatives of Abdul Enterprises, Ltd., a fictional business owned by an Arab sheik.

- On Feb. 3, 1998, a U.S. Marine jet flying low over the town of Cavalese in the Italian Alps severs a ski-lift cable, sending a tram crashing 250 feet to the ground and killing 20 people. The pilot and navigator destroyed a videotape that had recorded their flight. They were court-martialed for obstruction of justice and dismissed from the Marines.

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## LETTERS

### Open lands

When I drove up the North Fork Road, I see roads that I worked on in the 1960s that are either gated or barred. I do not see why the government has the right to bar public access to land that is public domain.

I have to agree with the protest at the wildlife area near Burns, Ore. I agree with the letter Richard Beers wrote ("Indian Creek Land Scoping," Jan. 16).

When I was a logging superintendent for Bohemia Inc., I stopped at a gravel pile where there was a group of men standing around. There were four vehicles parked nearby. I asked why it took four rigs to do the job at hand. One fellow said, "If we don't put the miles on the rigs, the government will downsize us."

The only place that you can still go that there aren't a lot of the roads gated or blocked is the Elliott State Forest.

The land that has been taken out of the timber industry, because of a bird, is taking jobs out of the state.

Virgle Bechtold  
 Florence

### More about the walk-in clinic

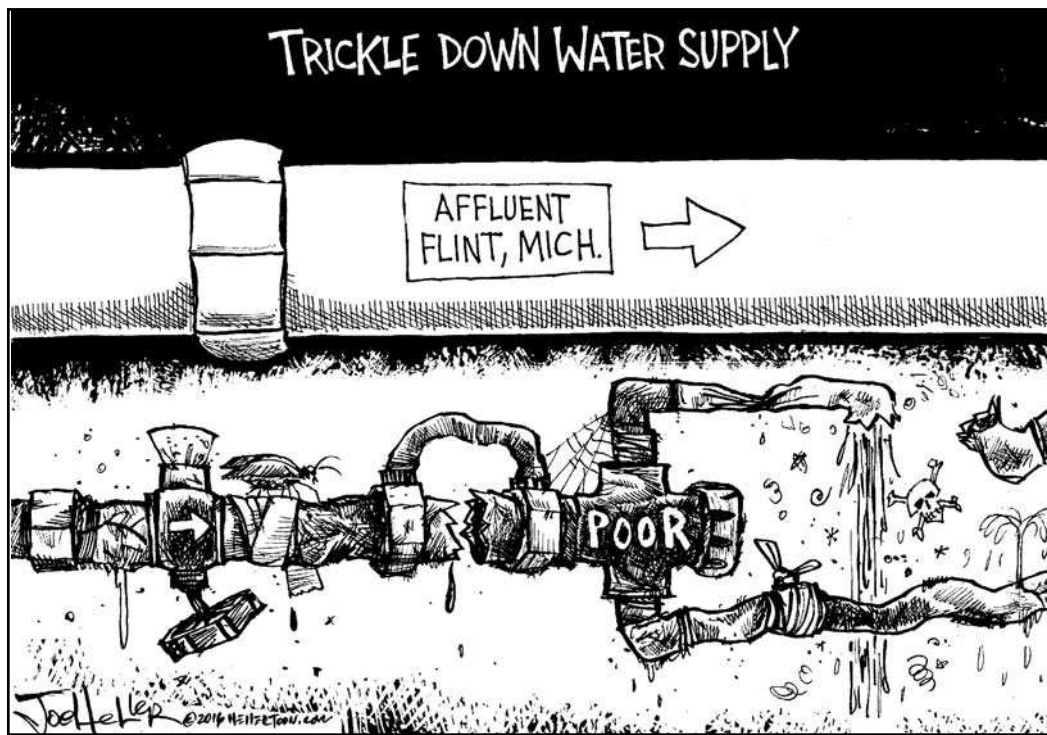
Regarding my Letter to the Editor in the Jan. 16 Siuslaw News about the local Walk-In Clinic: Two important features of our Primary Care Walk-In Clinic were cut due to length and I would like to resurrect them now.

First, I have seen both PA Emily Pfaff and Dr. Clare Brien in Walk-In for issues that I wanted to follow-up on with each one, respectively, and have done so simply by requesting to be seen by them at the time of check-in with the Flow Specialist.

This option to request the walk-in provider of your choice is always available — if the provider is in the clinic that day. That being said, the Walk-In works best when each patient sees the next available provider and that's how I usually use it. However, it is nice to have the direct continuity of care available when needed.

Second, when I checked in with a severe shoulder problem, the Flow Specialist checked her computer, said Dr. Weinstein in Orthopedics had an opening and sent me directly there. Another time she said Dr. Howison had a cancellation and I could see him instead of waiting for a walk-in provider.

Being able to monitor all the other physicians'



schedules allows the Flow Specialist to note those cancellations and fill them with walk-in patients. That provides efficiency in the Walk-In Clinic and throughout the PCP Clinics.

These two features are critical to patients receiving optimum primary healthcare on a same-day walk-in basis. I will say once again, it is only because of the determination and total commitment of Nena Harvey and her staff that we have this first-class, same-day medical care right here in Florence.

Bob Horney  
 Florence

### Asking for a healthy climate

Many people, including scientists, agree that our climate is being disrupted by human-caused pollution. Certainly everyone agrees that polluted air is not healthy. That is the bad news.

The good news is that Oregon legislators established a policy in 2007 to reduce greenhouse gas pollution in the state to 75 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

The best action going forward to help Oregon achieve this goal is to encourage legislators to pass the Healthy Climate Bill during the upcoming 2016 legislative session. This bill discourages pollution from utilities and large industrial facilities, and would create investment and jobs in renewable energy and transportation.

This Healthy Climate Bill would enable Oregon to join the other western coastal states and British Columbia in powerful action to reduce the amount of carbon in our atmosphere.

Please contact your state legislators and encourage them to support this bill, and join the Rally for a Healthy Climate on Feb. 3 at noon on the Capitol steps in Salem.

Karin Radtke  
 Yachats

### Work on Rhody Drive

We recently had portions of Rhododendron Drive resurfaced between 35th Street and Heceta Beach Road and from Ninth Street to Sea Watch.

Now, we have construction near the corner of 35th Street and Rhody, which I am told is a city-wide storm water drain system that goes across Rhody. Why was this not addressed before the resurfacing?

I know the bump in the road where the pipe was laid will create a problem in the future, as will little potholes and fissures already forming on the areas that were resurfaced on Rhody that will soon become larger in the near future.

What I thought was interesting is that the worse section of Rhody from Sea Watch to 35th Street was not addressed. Why are we getting inferior work on our city roads?

Win Jolley  
 Florence

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Siuslaw News welcomes letters to the editor concerning issues affecting the Florence area and Lane County.

Emailed letters are preferred. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed. All letters should be limited to about 300 words and must include the writer's full name, address and phone number for verification.

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.

Libelous and anonymous letters as well as poetry will not be published.

All submissions become the property of Siuslaw News and will not be returned.

Write to:  
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