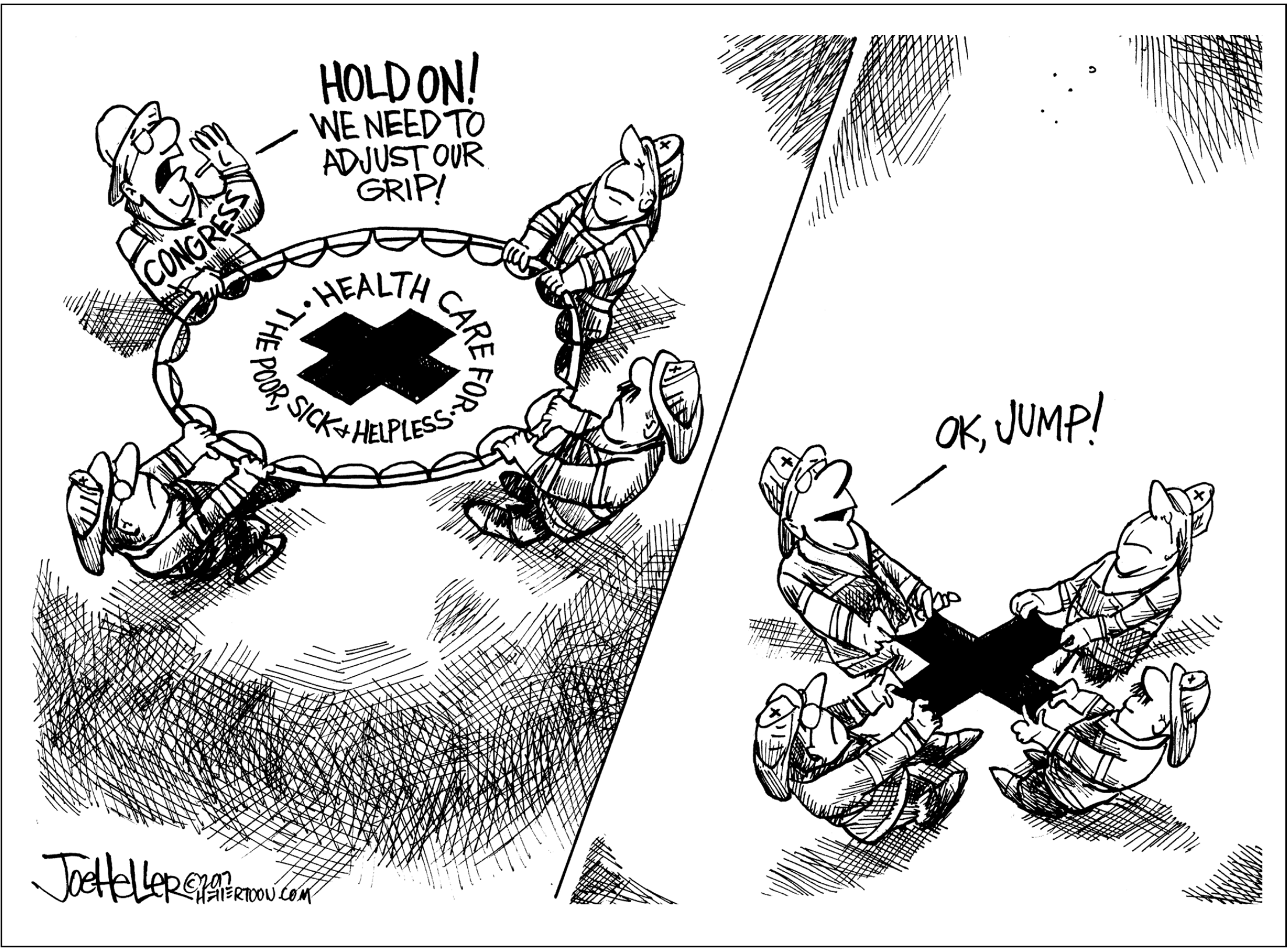


Siuslaw News
 P.O. Box 10
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Opinion

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.



LETTERS

AT THE MERCY OF OTHER HUMANS

This letter is in reference to Mr. Yelle's letter "Unnecessary Suffering" (March 8). Mr. Yelle is "spot on" regarding the huge number of baby boomers who, as we age further, could be diagnosed with Parkinson's, Alzheimer's or other debilitating diseases. This is a critical issue, particularly with our current administration's attempt to gut health care and

Medicare, as well as social welfare programs. There will be less help as we age. One issue Mr. Yelle is wrong about, however, is animal suffering. He stated, "We do not let our animals suffer — why do we make our people?" Most kind people are naive about the issue of animal suffering unless you receive news from animal welfare organizations. The cruelty is rampant. Factory farms and puppy mills are hell on earth. Domestic pets and farm animals are often not just neglected, but are beaten starved and forced to breed while being chained in backyards and forgotten. Kittens are thrown from moving cars or intentionally tortured, as well as dogs. It goes on and on. Animals and children are at our mercy. As we grow old and need more help, we will also be at the mercy of other humans. Let's get it right.

Linda Kanter
 Deadwood

CHANGE DOESN'T COME FROM THE TOP

I would like editor Ned Hickson's article ("Congress is Still Asking the Wrong Healthcare Question," March 11) in more papers. Put it on a link in your website so it can be easily emailed. He managed to simplify the healthcare conundrum into terms that help people ask more effective questions. In short, healthcare is not cost effective and there are people who have worked diligently for decades to keep it that way for their own profit. Change is not going to come from the top. It

needs to come from an informed electorate. For those people who believe such a change is impossible, they are supporting the beliefs that put us at the bottom of the list of healthcare systems of the 11 top industrialized countries in the world. What happened to "America First?"

Karen Mahoney
 Florence

(Note: Editorials are posted on the Siuslaw News Facebook page and website)

WON'T BUDGE ON NURSES ISSUES

I am a nurse at Peace Harbor Medical center and a member of the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) bargaining team. We are currently attempting to negotiate a contract with our employer, PeaceHealth medical system. We want PeaceHealth's corporate office to invest in our community the same way our community has invested in Peace Harbor's medical center. The local administration has been good to us. However, in bargaining, PeaceHealth negotiators from Vancouver haven't budged on our issues. Like physicians, it is difficult to recruit nurses to rural areas because of better pay in larger cities. We want to recruit and retain experienced nurses to care for our community. The cost of living in Florence is similar to surrounding cities, including Eugene and Springfield. Yet, our nurses earn 4.9 percent less than Scared Heart Hospital nurses. In addition, our community has few rental properties, which often means newly-hired nurses must commute long distances, live in campers or buy a home immediately.

Since November, we have met with PeaceHealth corporate negotiators six times and have made no headway. To learn more and support local nurses, consider attending a community meeting at the Florence Senior Center Tuesday, April 4, at 6 p.m.

Judy Thibault, RN
 Florence

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Siuslaw News welcomes letters to the editor as part of a community discussion of issues on the local, state and national level. Emailed letters are preferred. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed. All letters need to include full name, address and phone number; only name and city will be printed. Letters should be limited to about 300 words. 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, argumentative and anonymous letters or poetry will not be published. Write to: editor@thesiuslawnews.com

POLITICAL/ELECTION 'LETTERS' POLICY

Election-related letters must address pertinent or timely issues of interest to our readers at-large. The newspaper does not publish partisan letters that promote or endorse local political candidates based solely on their record, reputation and qualifications; this constitutes paid political advertising. Candidates themselves may not use the letters to the editor column to outline their views and platforms or to ask for votes. This also constitutes paid political advertising. As with all letters and advertising content, the newspaper, at the sole discretion of the publisher, general manager and editor, reserves the right to reject any such letter. The newspaper is particularly sensitive to organized "letter-writing campaigns." The newspaper reserves the right to reject any such letter. Write to: editor@thesiuslawnews.com

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Wednesday Issue—General news, Monday noon; Budgets, four days prior to publication; Regular classified ads, Monday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Monday noon; Boxed and display classified ads, Friday 5 p.m.
Saturday Issue—General news, Thursday noon; Budgets, two days prior to publication; Regular classified ads, Thursday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Thursday noon; Boxed and display classified ads, Wednesday 5 p.m. Soundings, Tuesday 5 p.m.

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