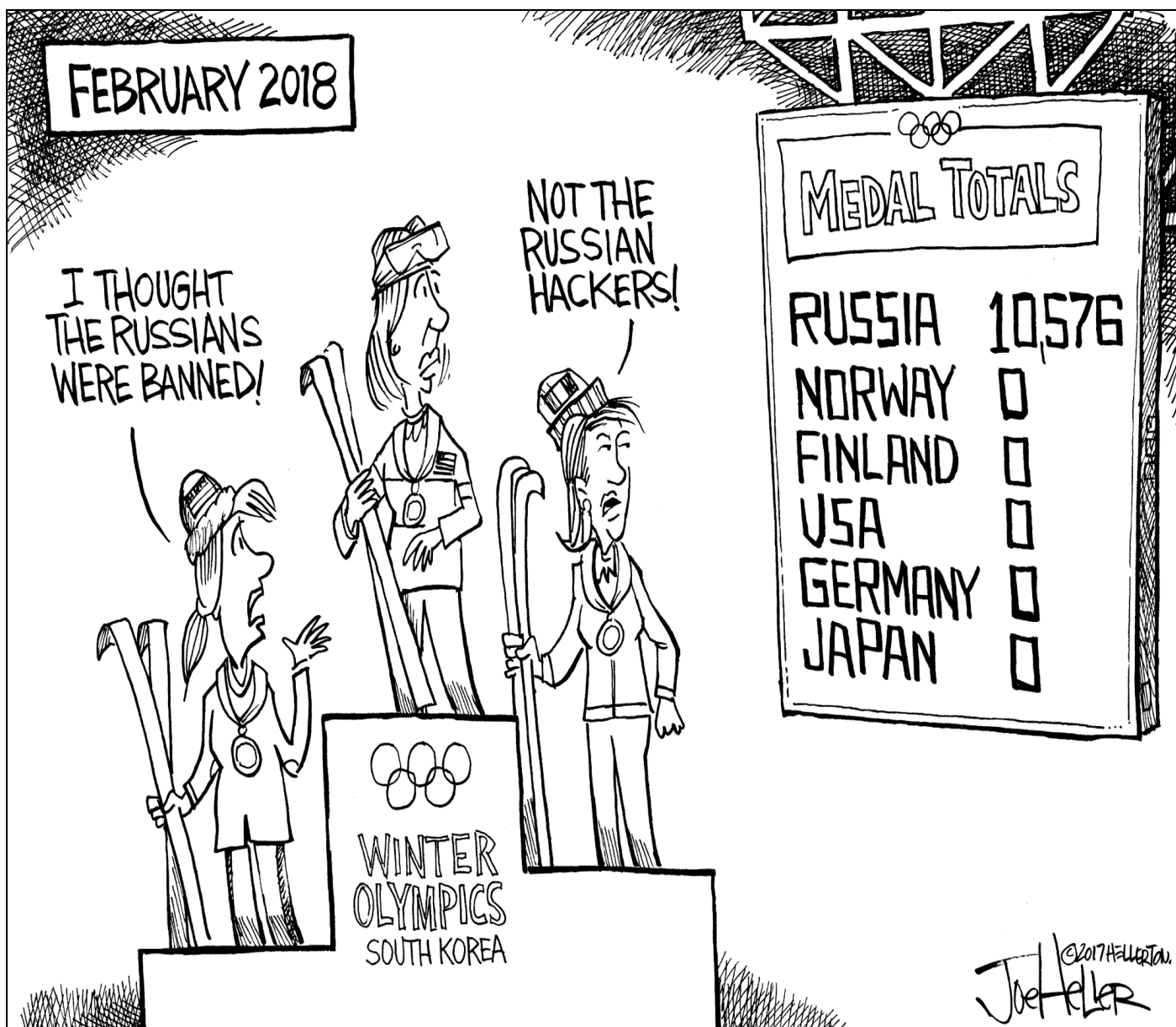


Siuslaw News
 P.O. Box 10
 Florence, OR 97439

Opinion



LETTERS

MAKING A BRIGHTER CHRISTMAS FOR TEENS

The 18th annual Tree of Giving at Siuslaw Glass & Mirror was a huge success. We want to thank everyone who participated in making this a brighter Christmas for the teens in our community.

It is appreciated more than you know.

—Angie Schafer
 Co-owner of Siuslaw Glass & Mirror
 Florence

SEXUAL HARRASMENT ACCUSATIONS NEED PROOF

It seems that we are having an overreaction going on concerning sexual harassment.

Yes, I know many will think me insensitive to the plight of the many women who have endured such despicable behavior.

Not true. However, what is not being done in these cases is subjective proof. As a fact, in many, there is no proof or even the identity of the accuser/accusers. We know from past cases that women have lied in rape and harassment cases.

There is no reason to believe that some of the current #metoo persons coming forward are not lying also. However, many a job or reputation will be ruined without having the most basic provision of our law system enacted: The right to face one's accuser.

I will say that I have no sympathy for the rightfully accused and there are many, as we have seen. But let us not cheer the swinging of the pendulum as some do without the rightful and just protections that our justice system provides.

—David T. Eckhardt
 Florence

LESS INCOME MEANS LESS TIME TO VOLUNTEER

I'm responding to the recent Siuslaw News article "The

Economics of Volunteerism: Is Coastal Life in Jeopardy? Part V" (Dec. 13) because I'm aghast at the general lack of understanding of economic injustice in America, as well as in relation to western Lane County in particular.

We live in a country where three people have as much wealth as 165 million Americans (Gates, Bezos, Buffet). In less than a week, our representatives will vote on a tax bill absurdly being called "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act" from which I can't see where any jobs are created in this bill.

But the rich will get to hoard more of their unearned (Capital Gains) income, buy up more real estate, and either gouge renters or let their many vacation properties sit empty.

I don't understand why people can't make a simple connection: With less income for the working class, there is no time to volunteer, which is due to the need to spend more hours working in order to to pay rent, utilities, transportation, food, healthcare expenses, etc.

The beauty of lowering taxes for the rich allows them to fund whatever charities (nonprofits) they choose, and direct those funds as they wish. This leaves nonprofits as little more than tools to play against each other as taxes that had once been collected to help support them are eliminated.

As soon as the retirees pass on, there will be no volunteers left. Social Security will be sacrificed to the gods (the rich) and more pain will be dispersed down to the working adults and children.

Don't act surprised when the "tax bill" goes through. And don't think that we'll be saved by the next election — or the one after that.

Both parties work together for their financial contributors. If you are reading this article, chances are it doesn't include you.

Happy Holidays everyone.

—Mindy Stone
 Mapleton

STIGMA ASSOCIATION IS TAUGHT TO US

In response to the Siuslaw News article "Upriver Community Plans Future of Healthcare" (Dec. 9):

"... But when you say, 'mental health,' there's a stigma ..."

I believe you mean, when you say "mental health," there is a stigma because someone taught you to say that.

You will have to teach yourself if you want to stop.

Remember when we were taught rape/stigma? Remember stopping? Remember why?

Remember: It may help you overcome the need to repeat the above.

—Harold A. Maio,
 Retired mental health editor
 Ft. Myers, Fla.

MAKING FLORENCE A LITTLE BRIGHTER

I would like to say thank you to the City of Florence and everyone else that worked on the excellent lighting up of the Old Town Park area.

Everyone should take the time to drive down and walk through it. I think it's the best lighting project on the central Oregon coast.

You will be surprised how nice it will make you feel.

Thanks for making Florence a little brighter for us all.

—Don and Norma Saxon
 Florence

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.

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James Rand
Jenna Bartlett
Ned Hickson
Erik Chalhoub
Susan Gutierrez
Cathy Dietz
Ron Annis
Jeremy Gentry

Oregon Group Publisher 541-265 8571
 Publisher, ext. 318
 Editor, ext. 313
 Consulting Editor 831-761-7353
 Email: echalhoub@register-pajaronian.com
 Marketing Director, ext. 326
 Office Supervisor, ext. 312
 Production Supervisor
 Press Manager

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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.

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 Website and E-Edition: TheSiuslawNews.com

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, or letters from outside our readership area will only be published at the discretion of the editor.

POLITICAL/ELECTION LETTERS:

Election-related letters must address pertinent or timely issues of interest to our readers at-large.

Letters must 1) Not be a part of letter-writing campaigns on behalf of (or by) candidates; 2) Ensure any information about a candidate is accurate, fair and not from second-hand knowledge or hearsay; and 3) explain the reasons to support candidates based on personal experience and perspective rather than partisanship and campaign-style rhetoric.

Candidates themselves may not use the letters to the editor column to outline their views and platforms or to ask for votes; this 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 letter that doesn't follow the above criteria.

Send letters to:
nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com

WHERE TO WRITE

Pres. Donald Trump
 The White House
 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
 NW
 Washington, D.C. 20500
 Comments: 202-456-1111
 Switchboard: 202-456-1414
 FAX: 202-456-2461
 TTY/TDD Comments:
 202-456-6213
www.whitehouse.gov

Gov. Kate Brown
 160 State Capitol
 900 Court St.
 Salem, Ore. 97301-4047
 Governor's Citizens' Rep.
 Message Line:
 503-378-4582
www.oregon.gov

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden
 221 Dirksen Senate Office
 Bldg
 Washington, DC 20510
 202-224-5244
 541-431-0229
www.wyden.senate.gov

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley
 313 Hart Senate Office
 Bldg
 Washington, DC 20510
 202-224-3753/FAX: 202-228-3997
 541-465-6750
www.merkley.senate.gov

U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio
 (4th Dist.)
 2134 Rayburn HOB
 Washington, DC 20515
 202-225-6416
 541-269-2609
 541-465-6732
www.defazio.house.gov

State Sen. Arnie Roblan
 (Dist. 5)
 900 Court St. NE - S-417
 Salem, OR 97301
 503-986-1705
 FAX: 503-986-1080
 Email: Sen.ArnieRoblan@state.or.us

State Rep. Caddy McKeown
 (Dist. 9)
 900 Court St. NE
 Salem, OR 97301
 503-986-1409
 Email: rep.caddymckeown@state.or.us

West Lane County Commissioner Jay Bozievich
 125 E. Eighth St.
 Eugene, OR 97401
 541-682-4203
 FAX: 541-682-4616
 Email:
Jay.Bozievich@co.lane.or.us