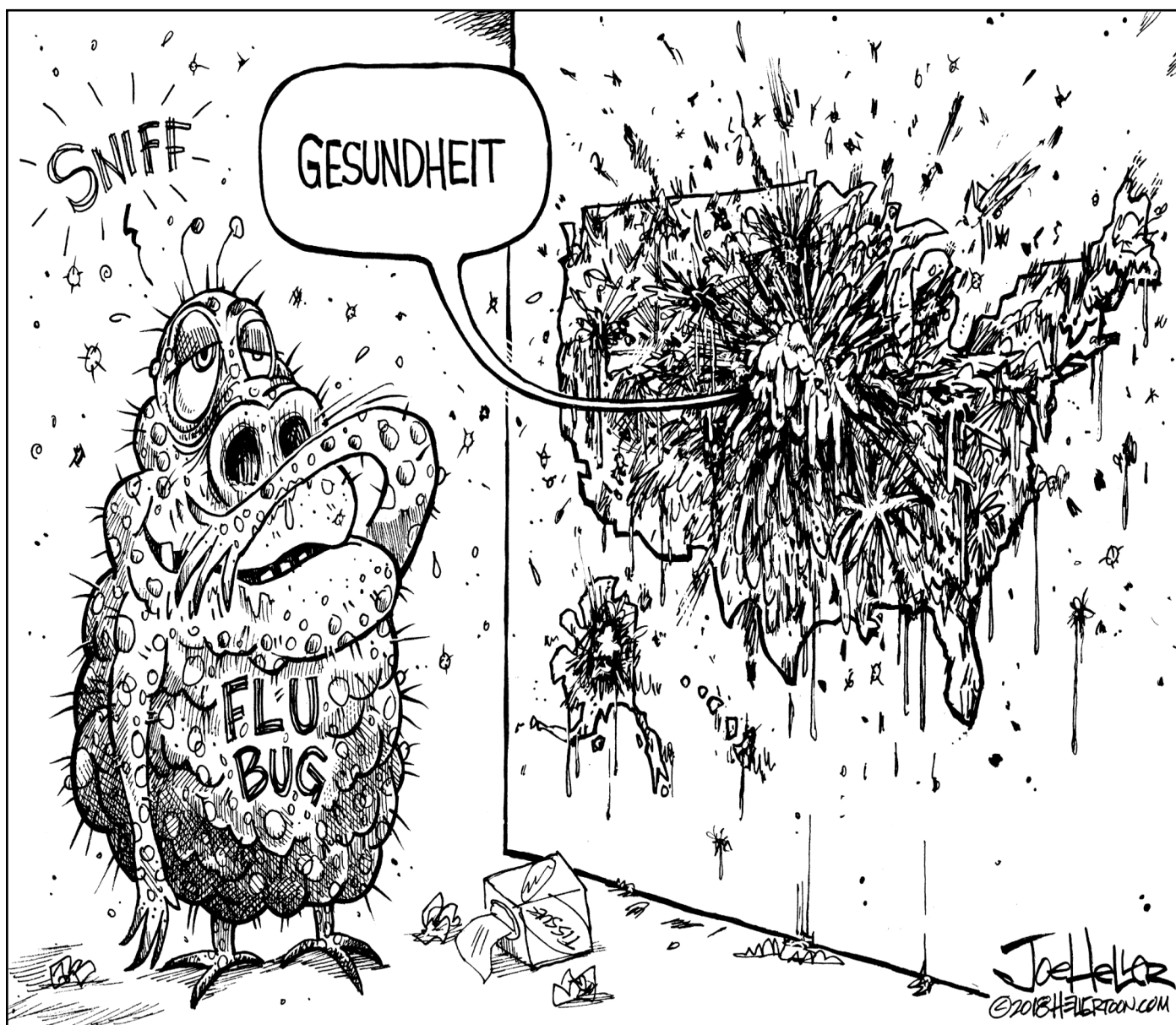


Siuslaw News
P.O. Box 10
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Opinion



LETTERS

POWER OF THE PRESS

On New Year's Eve, I received a letter from my landlord stating that as of Feb. 1, my rent will increase by \$210 per month (62 percent). In his letter, my landlord explained that he "recently chose to take advantage of the favorable market conditions ... that exist in Florence."

He explained that "In 2016, the state legislators tried to initiate a freeze on what landlords could charge, and allow only minimal percentage increases. This is a scary thing for property owners, and one would not want to get caught below market conditions. Though the initiative did not pass, the issue of affordable housing has become very political, and Oregon tends to favor tenants."

I have lived here for 11 years and never missed a rent payment.

Having researched Craigslist, Facebook, area classifieds, talked with local realtors and after networking with friends, I am suddenly faced with the reality of Florence's lack of affordable housing for anyone working for minimum wages.

I think the issue of affordable housing has become "political" thanks in large part to the excellent reporting of the Siuslaw News and its "Is Coastal Living in Jeopardy?" series.

—Michael Simmons
Florence

MISGUIDED, INSATIABLE

APPETITE OF ADMINISTRATION

Our current American administration in Washington D.C. represents the epitome of greed and exploitation. Its mantra seems to be destroy anything necessary — the Earth, people or other countries — to accumulate more wealth for a select minority. They condemn those who are less fortunate or struggling, whether it be those who already live here or those who come here to escape war and corruption to pursue the American ideals of equality, justice and hope.

I believe everyone's basic needs — housing, utilities, healthcare and a safe environment in which to live — should be met rather than devouring the world to satisfy the administration's misguided and insatiable appetite.

I applaud those who fight for racial, gender, religious and environmental justice; more power to them.

I would hope that my grandchildren will be able to experience the wild lands and our national parks free of pollution, and enjoy the many people of different ethnic backgrounds that help make our country great.

God help us all to take care of each other.

—Julie MacFarlane
Florence

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Give me your tired,
your poor,
your huddled masses
yearning to breathe free;
The wretched refuse
of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless,
tempest-tossed to me;
I lift my lamp
beside the golden door!"

—Emma Lazarus, inscription on the base of the Statue of Liberty, 1903

"Why do we want
all these people
from shithole countries
coming here?"

—Donald Trump, 2018
—Judy Kinsman
Florence

'UNDERSTANDING' OF NRA IS JUST PLAIN WRONG

It's obvious from her Letter to the Editor ("NRA's Long Arm Reaches Beyond Membership," Jan. 20) that Dolly Brock does not like the NRA.

So be it; it is her right.

I, on the other hand, am a Life Member of the NRA and proudly so. It is often misunderstood among the general public, which has little if any interaction with the organization. The NRA does not reach beyond its membership but, to the contrary, goes right where members want to go.

So to say that the NRA is not an advocacy group like the many others noted is just plain wrong, and to state that just because it has multiple funding sources somehow proves her point is a straw dog at best and a lie at worst.

Not only does Ruger have a round-up program as we call them, but so

does Midway USA, where I buy my supplies. I choose to use these companies not only for their fine products but also because they support the NRA.

Some may think us to be disingenuous when we say we are like-minded, but that simply is not true. As with any organization, many will have differing opinions but we all agree on our need to protect the Second Amendment from those who misrepresent it.

I smile at the ignorance shown in thinking all the NRA did or does is teach marksmanship. I suggest reading its membership charter. The NRA is not only the best teacher of gun safety for our children (Eddy Eagle) but also teaches many first responders, police departments and others — which none of the so called "safety organizations" (read Gun Control) do. You may be surprised to know that the NRA came to the aid of our fellow citizens to make sure they weren't denied their rights just because they were black, way back when that drew the ire from so many who thought they were less than a person.

Yes, we lobby for our rights just the same as any other organization. And yes, we are proud to do so. I for one have Life Membership stickers on both corners of my windshield and Blue Lives Matter stickers on my side windows. And yes, I fly the flag with pride.

You may find this to be narrow minded when, in fact, I don't just swing right; I also swing with all the Constitutional rights, which is what separates us from the rest of the world.

God Bless America.

—David Eckhardt
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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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.

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