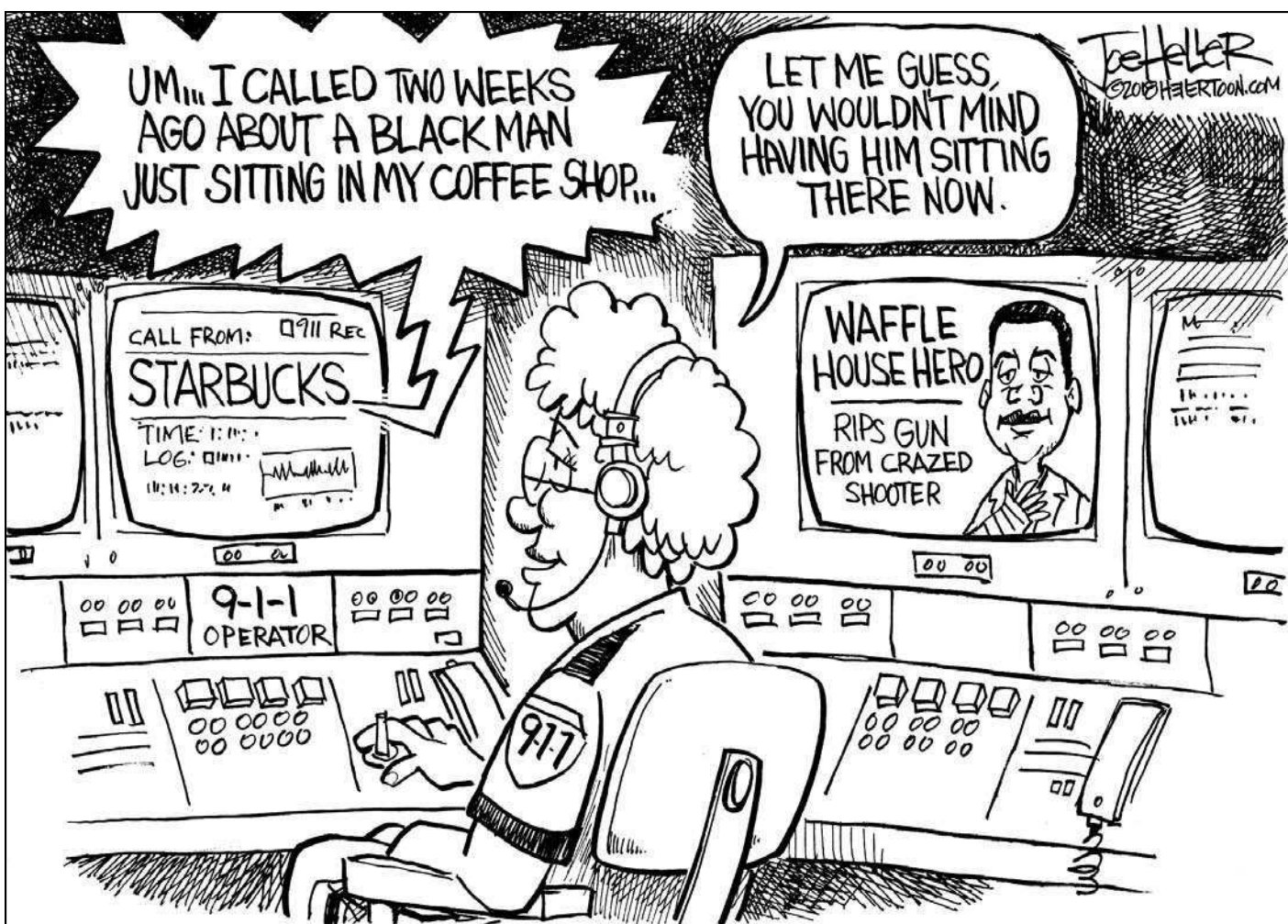


Siuslaw News
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Opinion

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.

"I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend." —Thomas Jefferson (1800)



Child abuse prevention is everyone's job, every day

The West Lane Regional Leadership Team for the 90 by 30 Child Abuse Prevention Project has spearheaded activities throughout the month of April to focus attention on the importance of taking action to prevent child abuse and neglect. This weekend religious groups in Florence, Mapleton, Swisshome and Deadwood will observe Blue Sunday tomorrow, April 29, as a part of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Blue Sunday was established in 1994 as a nation-wide opportunity to raise awareness about child abuse, to pray for victims

GUEST VIEWPOINT
 BY SUZANNE MANN-HENTZ
 90BY30 CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROJECT

of abuse and those who support them, and to address the needs of children who have experienced the adverse effects of domestic violence. In some communities, there are food and clothing donations campaigns, special service projects, outings or parties and more. Everyone is invited to attend Sunday's event in the Bromley Room of the Siuslaw Public Library from 2 to 4 p.m. tomorrow. Participants can watch videos, peruse informational displays about prevention strategies being implemented in our communities, engage in children's activities and have refreshments. This is a free event, thanks to generous donations from Florence Rotary and individuals. West Lane 90 by 30 wants

to thank all the hosts of "Pinwheels for Prevention" gardens. They include: Florence Chamber of Commerce, City of Florence, C.R.O.W, Oregon Pacific Bank, Three Rivers Casino, Siuslaw Public Library, Mapleton Public Library, Deadwood Post Office, Swisshome Post Office, and the Mapleton and Siuslaw School Districts. Even though Child Abuse Prevention Month is over for this year, prevention is everyone's job every day. For more information about Blue Sunday, visit www.blueSunday.org or www.90by30.com.

LETTERS

FULL HOUSE FOR LESS FOOD WASTE

On Thursday, April 25, several local groups brought us the Rockefeller Foundation movie about food waste, taking us around the world to see how waste food becomes beer, boutique flavored pork, replenished soils, generated energy—and most importantly, kept out of landfills. Some quotable takeaways included: "The average U.S. family wastes one third of the food it buys;" "It takes a head of lettuce 25 years to compost in a land fill that produces methane gas air pollution;" and "Add no meat or citrus waste!" was recommended for a question about how to compost food waste in Pacific Northwest's bear and rat country. The free movie, "Wasted" at City Lights Cinemas, drew a full house audience who were advised, cajoled, cussed and educated in several languages about how to make better choices, buy less and waste nothing. The local organizers had booths of information and collected food for Florence Food Share. Thank you for a great movie where everyone can learn something beneficial to help save our planet.

—Jenny Velinty
 Florence

WHY NO MORE OF JAY BOZIEVICH

At a Lane County Commissioner meeting in 2017, my community of 90 homes near Mercer Lake petitioned the county to include our road under the county road system. I was present at the meeting. The outcome was not what we had hoped but, regardless of whether we won or lost our appeal, Mr. Bozievich showed what I felt was cal-

lous disregard for our dilemma.

He compared our situation of 1.5 miles of formerly county-maintained and approved road to his own house, and the short driveway he has to pay to repair and maintain. Though he is our representative, he was the most opposed of all the commissioners to our appeal. His response was "caveat emptor," meaning "shame on you" as the new homeowner for not doing your homework before buying a house. On the other hand, the commissioners also stated that real estate agents and home sellers are not required to disclose if the roads leading to your home are maintained by the county, and no signs are posted to that effect. In fact, if the real estate agent incorrectly states that the road is a county road, that is still the home buyer's problem. So shame on us — and shame on us if we elect someone who doesn't really respect Florence. We need a better representative with fresh initiatives and ideas and the ability to negotiate compromises with opposing interests, including environmental vs timber interests. Nora Kent is not simply a "no more Bozievich" vote. She provides a fresh approach, a refreshing change.

—Linda Watts
 Florence

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR

The guest opinion piece "Unintended Consequences" (April 25) is exactly correct. An unintended consequence of the 1996 UK firearm regulation is that in over 60 percent of UK home robberies, the victim is home vs. 14 percent in the US. The increased UK knife regulations

further emboldened the criminals as the homeowner may now be prosecuted for defending his property. The criminals prefer occupied residences as the victims willingly hand over their valuables to rid themselves of the intruders. It has recently come to light that the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) did a Defensive Firearm Use (DFU) study in the mid-1990s to refute Gary Kleck's 1993 study that approximated 2.2 million DFUs occurred annually in the U.S. Note that DFU does not mean a firearm was discharged, merely that one was present. The rigorous multi-year CDC study indicated more like 2.5 million DFUs annually. Extrapolating those numbers for population increase, number of firearms in circulation and decrease in US violence gives a 22 year total of between 60 and 70 million crimes prevented. While anti-firearm activists may not like to admit it, they benefit from criminals not knowing if their target is armed and thus prefer unoccupied premises. Truly committed firearm banners should post signs indicating their homes are firearm free and thus reciprocate the protection they obtain gratis. Yet another example of an unintended consequence is the DEA's crack-down on opioid production in 2011. Up until that time, U.S. opioid deaths were increasing at about 60 percent of the prescription rate increase. After the ban, opioid deaths began to increase exponentially. Synthetic opioid deaths are increasing at an even steep rate and almost doubling every year. My Gramps opined, "Be careful what you wish for. You just might get it."

—Ian Eales
 Florence

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DEADLINES:

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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Mail subscription includes E-Edition.
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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. Letters that are anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unourced or documented will not be published. Letters containing poetry or from outside the Siuslaw News 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:
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- | | |
|--|---|
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