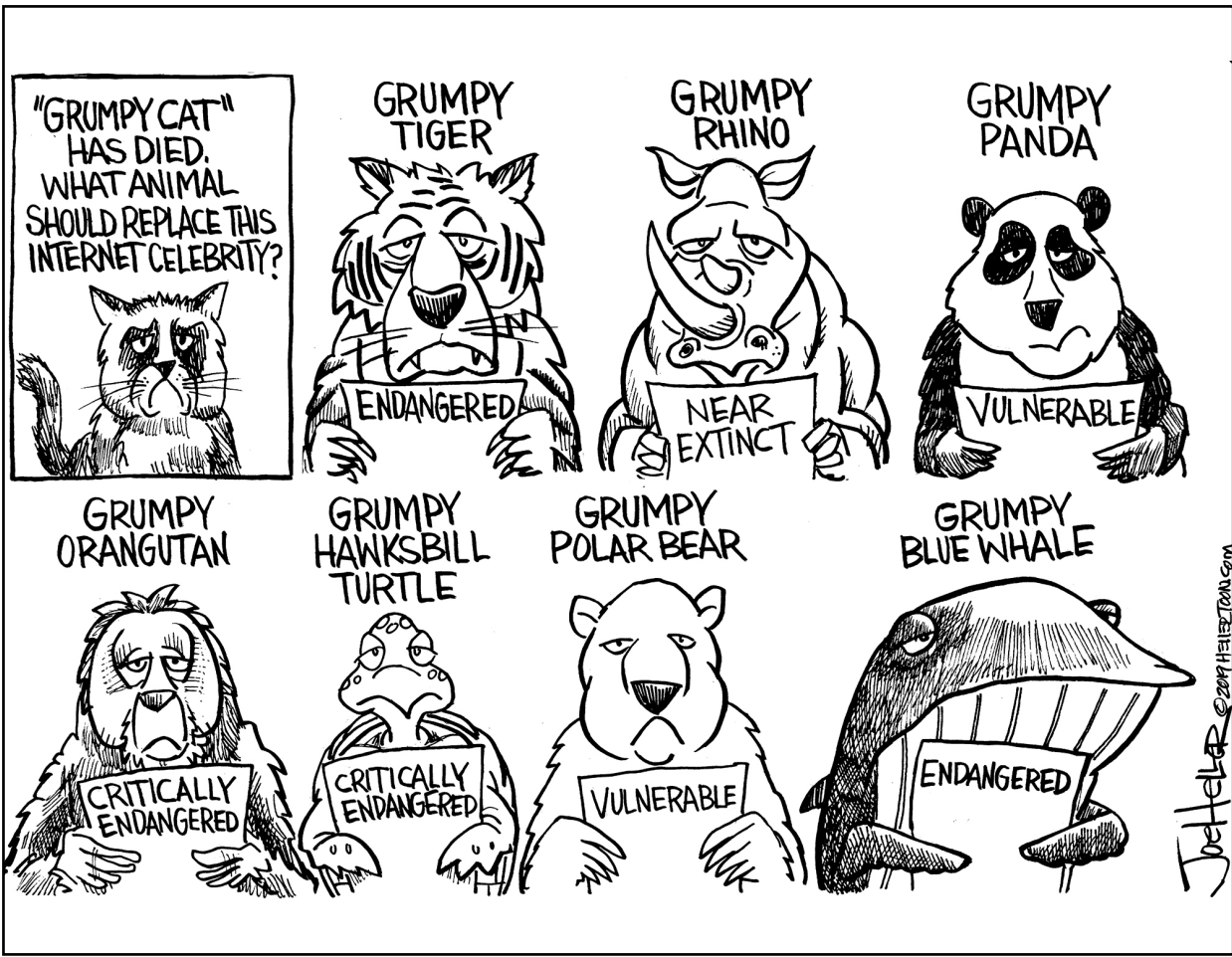


Siuslaw News
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Opinion

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)



Nature provides case for having woman in the White House

(Editor's Note: Viewpoint submissions on this and other topics are always welcome as part of our goal to encourage community discussion and exchange of perspectives.)

My perspective comes from observing nature and from a wizened old psychiatrist.

Last year when I noticed a yellow bird in the back yard, I purchased a finch birdfeeder and a sack of seeds for it. I filled it and, within minutes, I was astounded to see the number of yellow birds that filled every available inch of space — gorging, fighting amongst themselves for their spot.

The feeder was emptied within an hour.

If this was going to be the pattern, I would not be able to continue the money drain to satisfy them. After that first bag, I discontinued but saw another yellow finch last week and could not resist. Something was different this year. With the feeder only half full, two birds came — one male

and one female — and they ate with a little more manners.

It has been a week now, and more pairs have visited the feeder with the food lasting much longer than last year — even with other birds being

GUEST VIEWPOINT
By Nan Harvey
Florence resident

permitted to share the food.

This led me to recall my experience as an intern at a residential treatment center in Ann Arbor, Mich. A grade-school-age boy was acting up in the waiting room, ignoring his parents and anyone who attempted to intervene. The wizened head of the center pulled me aside to quiz me about my theories of changing behavior, a ploy for him to show his genius.

I sat in his office while he called the girls' cottage to have them send over a little girl patient. When she entered the waiting room, the little

boy immediately got his act together and contained himself.

Just like the girls at the bird-feeding station, having a female created an organizing effect on otherwise testosterone-driven behavior.

We have been at this democracy experiment long enough to try something new: Put a woman in the Whitehouse as our president.

There is something inherent in the female makeup that changes the mix. We could be pleasantly surprised to see the chaos transformed, a sense of respect returned and allocentric thinking replacing the egocentrism currently dictating our governing policies.

The boys have been at it for a long time, most of it with war (not always defensive) as their legacy. The exact figure of 95 percent is contested, but give or take how many years, we have been in a war for a very, very long time.

Isn't it time for an attitude adjustment?

LETTERS

BILL OF RIGHTS IS GOOD INSPIRATION

The Colonies, after adopting the Declaration of Independence, celebrated by reading it aloud from the Pennsylvania State House. It would be wonderful if our President read it aloud on the Fourth of July.

We need to be reminded that our country was founded on the following premise: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

It goes on to say that government powers are derived by the consent of the governed to affect their safety and happiness. The Declaration gives the governed the right to throw off government that evinces a design to reduce them to absolute despotism.

Grievances against King George listed in the Declaration include refusing laws for the public good, opposing the rights of the people, obstructing laws for the naturalization of foreigners, obstructing the administration of justice, making judges subject to his will, obstructing trade with all parts of the world and inciting domestic insurrections

The Bill of Rights contained in the Constitution of the United States would be a good inspirational fol-

low up.

—Karen Mahoney
Florence

GLOBAL WARMING, COOLING IS NOTHING NEW

There are those in power who would like to create a carbon tax to reduce atmospheric C02 to alter global weather patterns. There is very little we can do to alter global warming and cooling; the planet has been doing this for eons without our help.

When a volcano blows, that's massive C02 build-up. All inactive volcanos on Earth emit C02 24-7, 365 days a year. Every living creature on Earth exhales C02 from one end and methane from the other — and methane is 84 times more po-

tent than C02.

Every body of water emits methane constantly from decomposing sediment. Any place that has vegetation build-up emits methane as it rots.

Every container of soda emits C02.

Cleaning the planet and the water is good but does nothing for climate change.

If you want to feel good, plant lots of trees; they take up C02 but unfortunately are being cut down.

Those partaking in the Kool-Aid, do not turn on your heater until next winter. And if you're really hardcore, disconnect your water heater altogether.

—Martin Cable
Dunes City



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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 unsourced 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.

Email letters to:
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WHERE TO WRITE

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