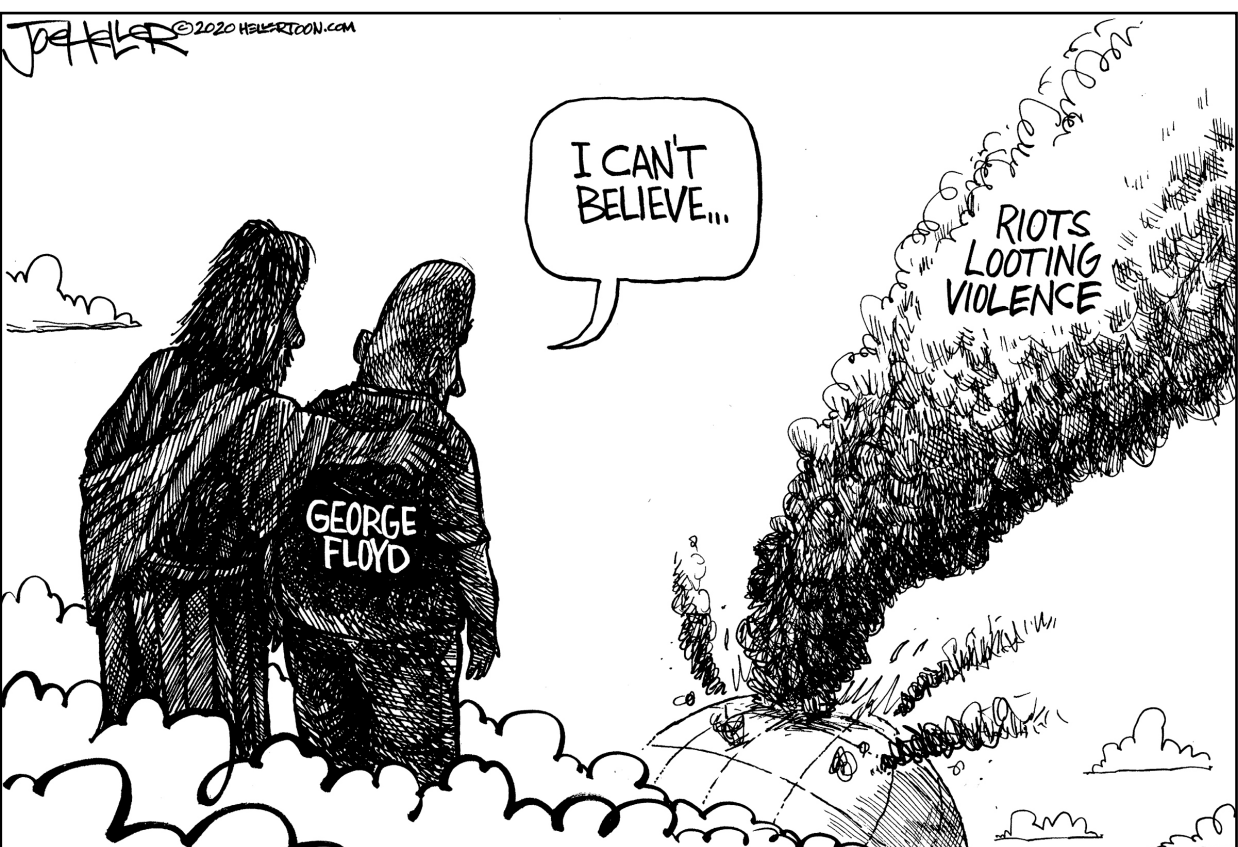


Siuslaw News
 P.O. Box 10
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Opinion

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.

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



LETTERS

MEMORIES OF FLORENCE

The Ned Hickson editorial May 30 ("Appreciating Our 'Dune To Shining Sea' Inheritance") brought back memories of when I first came to Florence and The Sportsman was on Bay Street. It was where I bought my first air of caulk boots from Mr. Pinkney.

Also on Bay Street were the jail and city courthouse where I got my first driver's license.

On Saturday night, Bay Street was filled with fishermen, millworkers and loggers.

I remember what past Oregon Governor Tom McCall said to tourists: "Come enjoy the beaches, the rivers and lakes. Then go home."

When I see Florence today, I see some of them did not go home.

Florence does not look like Wilbur Ternyik and Paul Coine helped build it. They were the ones that got both jetties put in and the river dredged. At one time, there were barges loaded with lumber and other things for export — which is why the bridge was built to be opened: to let those boats pass through.

—Virgil Bechtold
 Florence

WATCH FOR CYCLISTS

With the weather getting less rainy, perhaps you could write an

article on biking safety. It's easy to forget to be watchful, either while biking or driving a motor vehicle.

I recently saw the body of a bicyclist killed at the corner of highways 101 and 126, and noted the new green stripes on Highway 101 a few weeks later.

When I was young, I was hit twice from behind by oblivious car drivers at intersections. I once almost pulled my car out in front of a wrong-way cyclist while waiting to make a right turn in traffic.

Seeing the cyclist just to the right of my car when I made a last second check to the right was a scary adrenaline rush.

I took an AARP driver's safety class last year and many of us thought "yeild" signs were still yellow. Signs and rules have changed, and a reminder of newer signage and updated rules might help prevent collisions.

And don't forget to mention keeping an eye out for motorcyclists.

—Button Watkins
 Florence

RESPECT, LOOK OUT FOR OUR ELDERS

June is Elder Abuse Awareness Month. Senior & Disability Services, a division of Lane Council of Governments, is proud to host a

COVID-19 Scams, Fraud and Elder Abuse Virtual Training to all Lane County community members.

As Oregonians, we believe in justice for all, yet we fail to live up to this promise when we allow seniors in our society to be abused or neglected.

Older adults are vital, contributing members of society and their maltreatment diminishes all of us. Together, we continue to confront and address the social issues of elder abuse and find solutions. All abuse threatens the well-being of our community.

Older adults are more likely to experience social isolation — which increases the likelihood of abuse and neglect in the midst of a global pandemic. We can design stronger societal supports to keep our community connected and protected from abuse by focusing on root causes.

Older adults who are socially connected and protected from harm are less likely to be hospitalized, less likely to go into nursing homes, and more likely to live independently in their community.

We must create healthier and safer environments for older adults in Lane County.

—Emily Ann Farrell, JD
 Director, Senior and Disability Services Lane Council of Governments

It's hard to act when no one agrees on the truth

(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.)

I was glad to have a chance to ask for help recently in approaching the Florence City Council about the facts of Climate Change and how it is impacting all our lives.

Unfortunately, the person I asked said he didn't think, if he were to reach out, that I would get the results I sought.

I asked him to explain.

He cited his background in engineering and mentioned his brothers have worked for NASA, and that they all agree that climate change is some kind of a left-wing political attempt at grabbing power, attention and resources.

The conversation was taking place in the Let's Talk About Florence Oregon Facebook group, and I was intrigued. So, I pursued more information and asked this man how he explains the warming and acidifying oceans, and how he interprets NASA's observations from space that — during recent COVID inspired inactivity — the Himalayas and China were visible from space for the first time in years (and the bottom of Lake Michigan was also observed).

The person I was communicat-

ing with was Jay Bozievich, and I'm sure he gotten busy with his duties as a commissioner for Lane County, because I never heard another word from him about it.

So I want to ask:
 Are these people lying?
 Is NASA lying?

Was Mark Wiegardt, owner of Whiskey Creek Oyster Hatchery in Tillamook, lying when he presented his story about how acidification of the sea has impacted his livelihood at the Coastal Caucus last summer?

GUEST VIEWPOINT By Ivy Medow Florence

Was Laura Anderson, the owner of Local Ocean Seafood in Newport, lying when she spoke on the same panel about how her business has been impacted by Climate Change?

Is Al Pazar, owner of the Krab Kettle on Highway 101 here in Florence, trying to "make a power grab" in working collaboratively with others to compile and present research gathered on his research vessel Pacific Surveyor?

The report "The Oregon Coordinating Council on Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia" was presented to the Legislature and Ocean Policy Advisory Council in 2018.

Did you know that 174 people have signed a petition prepared by local climate activist Mike Allen? The petition simply asks the Florence City Council to take climate change seriously.

Those signators' reasons for signing range from concerns about public health and fears about the viability of the earth if we keep on doing the same old thing, to preserving the dunes and other natural treasures which underpin the livelihood of this town.

If the city council were to acknowledge the situation, they could join other Oregon towns to create new and unique opportunities for developing solutions. Our best practices might impact towns in other parts of the region or the nation.

It's worth noting that with 184 signatures from the public — 10 more than Mike Allen's petition — the city council planned to consider what actions to take to restrict individuals' ability to help indigent panhandlers.

That conversation's been tabled for now, and as the town re-opens, reconvenes and springs back to life, it seems like a good time to prioritize all of what Florence is concerned about.

Including the climate.
 The time for action is now.

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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:
nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com

WHERE TO WRITE

<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>OREGON 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/gov</p>	<p>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@oregonlegislature.gov</p>
<p>U.S. SEN. RON WYDEN 221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg Washington, DC 20510 202-224-5244 541-431-0229 www.wyden.senate.gov</p>	<p>STATE REP. CADDY MCKEOWN (DIST. 9) 900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301 503-986-1409 Email: rep.caddymckeown@oregonlegislature.gov</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>