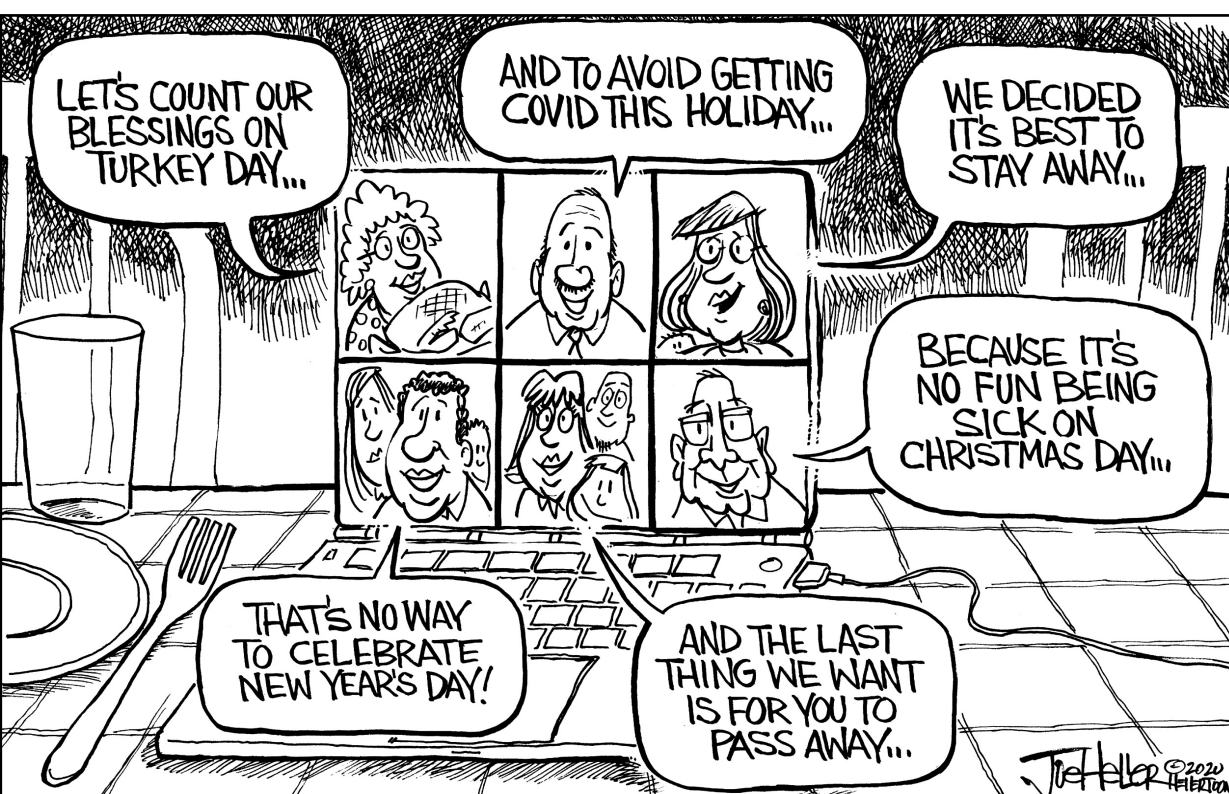


Siuslaw News
 P.O. Box 10
 Florence, OR 97439

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

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL THEATER NOW FOR ITS FUTURE RETURN

I was in the "movie" business when I met my husband over 40 years ago. I was president of Specialty Films located inside the 7 Gables Theatre in Seattle.

Our films all had an artistic bend and with limited releases. So, I know something about the film business.

We just renewed our City Lights Cinemas membership again. What does a membership do? Yes, we get discounts on our movie tickets and everything else, including snacks.

Most importantly, our membership helps support a community of movie goers like us who want to see the best releases. Our membership helps bring performing arts productions — sometimes live — from national and international stages including the world's finest in dance, theatre and music.

All this takes place in a newly renovated, COVID-safe setting which has not lost its charm for safe distance socializing in the lobby and comfortable, table settings inside each screening room.

As COVID restrictions eased, this multi-plex returned to offering our community an array of choices for group gatherings. However, until the "coast is clear," we need to be clear about our little coastal community movie theatre: we need it and it needs us!

We lived here in Florence when the theatre was under previous management and then closed for what seemed like an endless period. We were so happy when it was remodeled and reopened under new ownership and management.

It has been our first choice for movie entertainment. Congratulations to Michael and Susan and their team.

Even as it temporarily closes to public screenings during the Nov. 18 through Dec. 2 statewide freeze, please consider joining City Lights

Cinemas as members or through its streaming services.

Take in a film in person, as soon as they can re-open, or virtually for now.

Help protect the greatest little movie theatre in a small town on the Oregon Coast right here in Florence.

Your support now will help them stay open and remain in our community, the one that we all love.

We are all in this together!

—Becky Olson
 Florence

COLD WEATHER SHELTER

Imagine being homeless and without shelter in damp and/or freezing conditions, alone in your wheelchair.

A homeless man in Bend, who had his legs amputated just last winter due to the cold, died last week in his wheelchair in 35-degree weather because Bend has no cold weather shelters and the homeless shelters in the area were full and could not accommodate him.

We cannot let such a tragedy happen here in Florence. We are better than that.

Florence already has a group to address housing the homeless when the weather gets dangerously cold here on the coast. With COVID-19 concerns this year, the church cannot safely house people in need under one roof.

Florence is extremely blessed to receive 20 individual, collapsible sleeping pods to safely get those in need out of the weather for the nights when temperatures pose the greatest risk to people.

The city of Florence does not allow permanent housing for the homeless, but emergency shelter is permitted on these coldest nights.

We are so fortunate to have a cold weather shelter group that can supervise, accommodate and manage the arrangement of the

Pods in a fenced area with an on-site manager to make sure things run smoothly.

Thank you Florence for supporting this important, compassionate endeavor.

—Tina Haydel
 Florence

35TH STREET PUD IS BAD PLANNING

In a desperate attempt to create some badly needed housing for workers in our city, the city council mostly ignored the pleas from local residents and the three appeals not to build such a densely populated project.

The council approved 120 residences in a 9.2 acre area. In my opinion, the traffic study was a farce. It was done during the COVID-19 outbreak, when people were not traveling and schools were closed.

It seems nobody asked how many bedrooms were in these 120 residences nor was there any accurate numbers on how many vehicles will be added to this intersection. Creating a left turn lane from southbound Rhododendron Drive to eastbound 35th Street will help, but it will not reduce the congestion and safety for drivers.

This property is owned by APIC, the same company that owns Florence Golf Links, formerly Sandpines Golf Links. This same company was investigated in 2016 for making more than \$1.3 million dollars in political donations.

The entire approval process does not pass the smell test and my heart goes out to all the residences in the area that may someday have to evacuate quickly due to a tsunami warning.

My suggestion would be to plan a way to get to your roof, because drowning in your car trying to get to this intersection is not a good option.

—Alan Matisoff
 Florence



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Jenna Bartlett
 Ned Hickson
 Cathy Dietz
 Ron Annis
 For Advertising: ext. 318

Publisher, ext. 318
 Editor, ext. 313
 Office Supervisor, ext. 312
 Production Supervisor
 For Classifieds: ext. 320

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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 un-sourced 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

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

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

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

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

U.S. SEN. RON WYDEN
 221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg
 Washington, DC 20510
 202-224-5244
 541-431-0229
www.wyden.senate.gov

STATE REP. CADDY MCKEOWN
 (DIST. 9)
 900 Court St. NE
 Salem, OR 97301
 503-986-1409
 Email: rep.caddymckeown@oregonlegislature.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

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