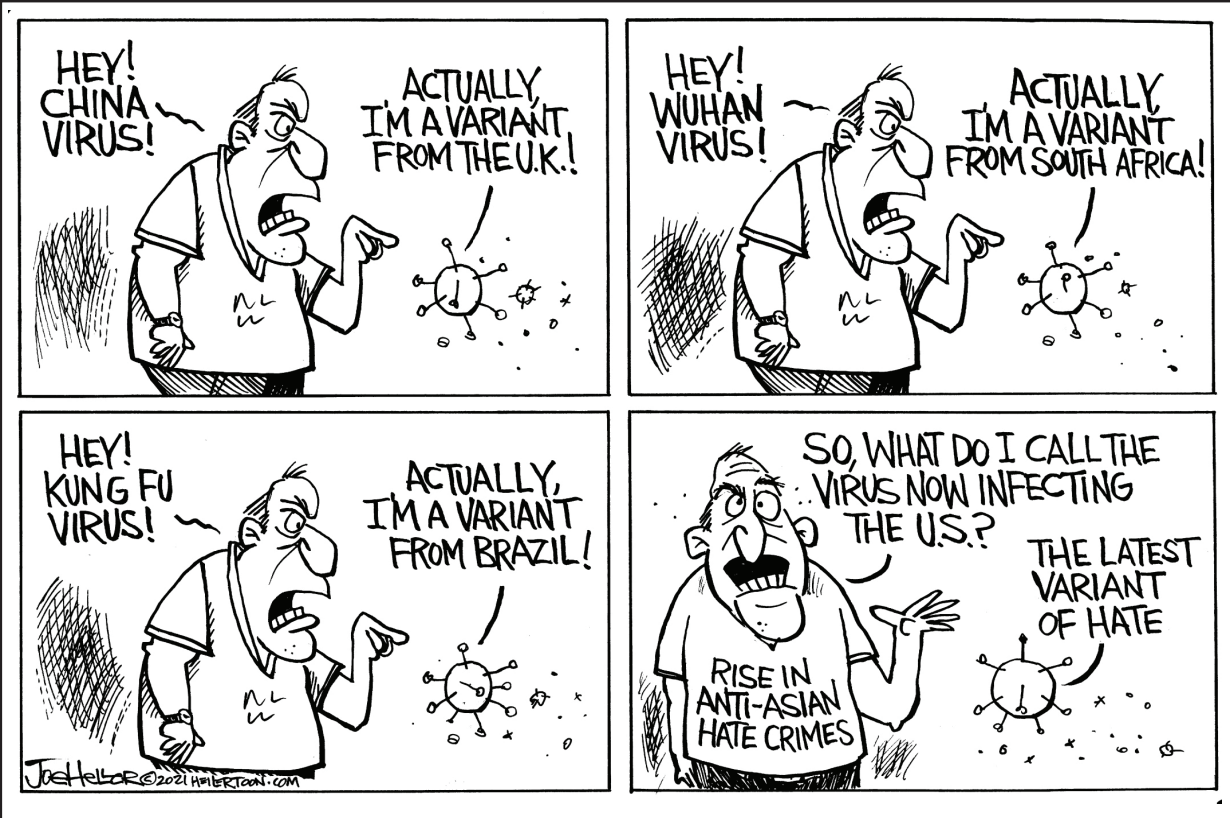


Siuslaw News
 P.O. Box 10
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Opinion

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)



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LETTERS

ABORTION HAS LASTING EFFECTS; SEEK HELP

Did you know that there have been approximately three times as many deaths by abortion as by COVID in the state of Oregon, according to Oregon.Gov?

You probably won't hear these stats from the mainstream media because it doesn't fit their narrative. It's sad that destroying precious life has to be so prevalent and unnecessary since there are other alternatives.

Some say that babies are not alive until born. In Jeremiah 1:5, God says before he formed us in the womb he knew us and before he formed us in the womb he set us apart.

I know abortion is legal in our state but that does not justify it being morally right. Slavery in the U.S. was legal during a time period but that didn't make it right. To me, abortion is not only killing a human being, it can be physically devastating to the mother and cause psychological and emotional consequences.

The Arkansas Senate just voted in favor (27-7) on SB6 to prohibit all abortions except for those performed to protect the life and health of the mother.

I hope someday Oregon and other states will follow suit.

Some people call abortion women's healthcare, some call it pro-choice — but we should encourage folks to call it for what it is and not sugar coat it.

Before anyone takes a position on abortion, or considers having one, I challenge all who have not seen the movie "Unplanned," based on a true story, to do so as it will expose what many attempt to suppress or hide.

It's well documented that for many, abortions can create guilt or remorse associated with this procedure for sometimes many years.

For those who have had an abortion or been involved in encouraging someone to have one and are having a difficult time getting past it, I would suggest getting in touch with one of our local pastors to sit down and provide you with some sound advice and guidance.

—Marshall Denton
 Florence

INPUT REGARDING ANNEXATION IGNORED

I have lived in the Idylewood subdivision since May 22, 1991. When I heard about the application for annexation on behalf of Benedick Holding LLC, I was concerned as my family and I lived through the 1996-97 major flooding occurrences.

My drain field was draining upward, so that when I walked across my lawn the sod was floating and it felt like walking on a waterbed.

On the public notice for the hearing, it gave very strict rules for public comment — if it was

to be considered — including several ORS statutes, five chapters in the 2020 Florence Comprehensive Plan and three chapters in Florence City Code.

In my written comment, all of my input was referenced to ORS, Comprehensive Plan or Code.

When it came to decision time, the attorney made it clear that the only issue in front of the city council was: If the annexation was legal.

And in his opinion, it was. So, the Planning Commission and city council published criteria for public comment so that, from my view, it could be ignored.

The only thing worse than changing the rules after written and verbal comment was submitted is the cavalier attitude of the City Planner when she discussed the groundwater and flooding issues.

I also find it interesting that there have been insinuations by some letter writers that there are outside forces behind opposition to annexation. All I see are outside forces in favor of the annexation — to which I say, if you don't live in Idylewood, stay out of it.

I certainly hope the City has another \$500,000 in funding and a creek to pump the flood water into after Phase 4 of the Idylewood subdivision is completed.

—RJ Pilcher
 Florence

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:
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