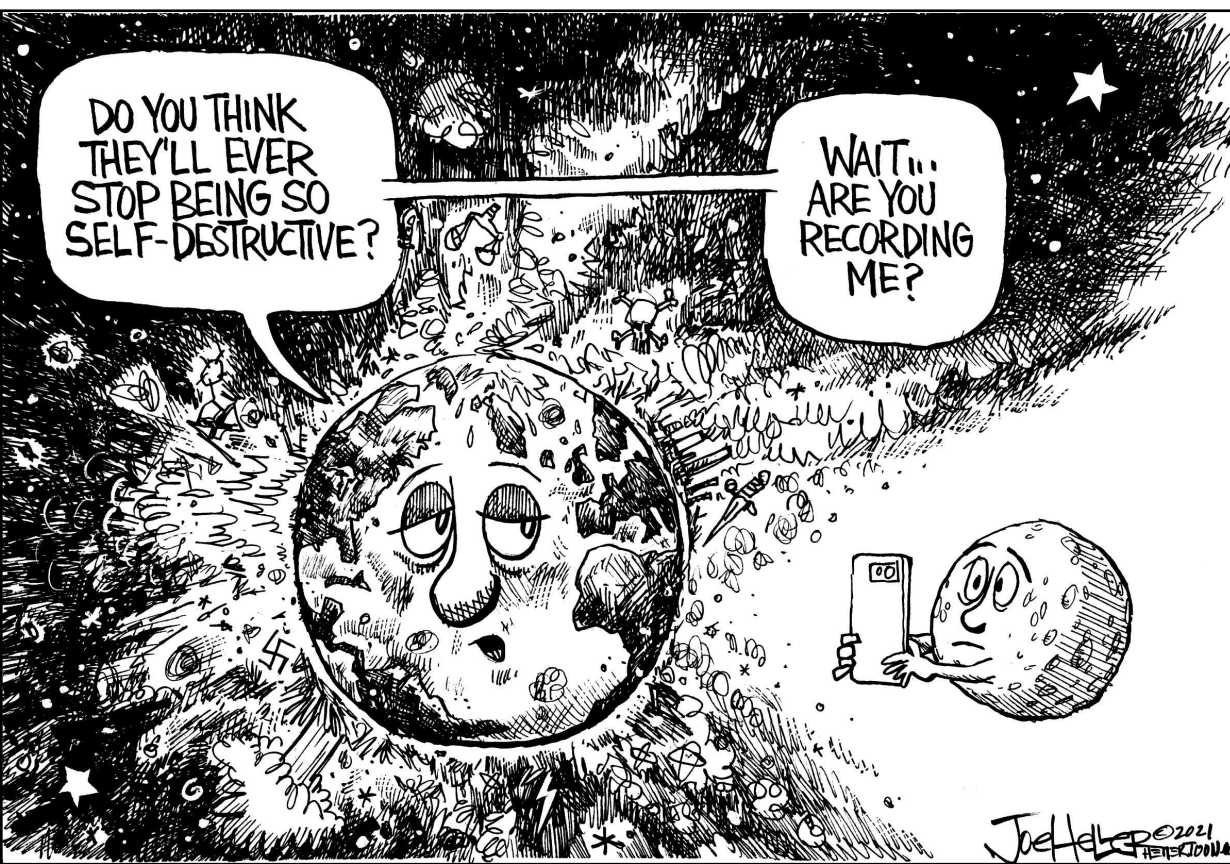


Siuslaw News
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Opinion

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)



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Siuslaw News

Published every Wednesday and Saturday at 148 Maple St. in Florence, Lane County, Oregon. A member of the National Newspaper Association and Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association. Periodicals postage paid at Florence, Ore. Postmaster, send address changes to: Siuslaw News, P.O. Box 10, Florence, OR 97439; phone 541-997-3441; fax 541-997-7979. All press releases may be sent to PressReleases@TheSiuslawNews.com.

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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; Display classified ads, Friday noon.

Saturday Issue—General news, Thursday noon; Budgets, two days prior to publication; Regular classified ads, Thursday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Thursday noon; Display classified ads, Wednesday 5 p.m. Soundings, Tuesday 5 p.m.

NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

In Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$79; 6-month in-county, \$56; 10-week subscription, \$25; Out of Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$102; 6-month out-of-county, \$69; 10-week subscription, \$35; Out of State — 1-year subscription, \$134; E-Edition Online Only (Anywhere) — 1-year subscription, \$65.

Mail subscription includes E-Edition.
 Website and E-Edition: TheSiuslawNews.com

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Office Hours:
 Monday to Thursday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Friday: 8 a.m. to noon

LETTERS

SUPPORTING JOHNSON FOR LCC BOARD

Holli Johnson is currently serving admirably on the Lane Community College Board. She was appointed unanimously to the board, bringing new perspective and life experience.

She is up for election in the May special election.

Holli has been endorsed by both the LCC Faculty association and the LCC Employee Association, showing the wide support she has from all members of the community.

Watch for your ballot and mail it in by May 18.

I will be voting for Holli Johnson to the LCC Board.

—Billy Burruss
 Deadwood

WHO OWNS OCEANA?

In the original application for annexation from Benedick Holdings, it was stipulated that Oceana Drive would be annexed.

In the findings provided to the Florence Planning Commission last fall, public works director Mike Miller explained that Oceana is classified as an urban local road. This means that,

upon annexation, road maintenance does not automatically transfer from Lane County to the City of Florence.

In written testimony, Miller said that the City would need to petition Lane County for transfer of jurisdictional maintenance; this is a public process that can take years.

In January, the language in the application changed to say that the annexation is for the Oceana Drive right-of-way, and that the City of Florence has no plans to ask the county for a transfer of maintenance.

This is what was approved by the City Council on April 5, with no discussion on this point.

The result is that the City and Benedick get to pretend that Oceana Drive is part of the City, providing the contiguity that Benedick needs.

However, if the culverts along Oceana clog, or the pavement breaks due to root heave, or someone knocks down a speed limit sign, we need to call Lane County for repairs.

Thanks to what appears to be the City's sleight of hand, the taxes you pay to Lane County now subsidize the City's expansion plans and the developer's ambition.

—Bruce Hadley
 Florence

GOOD TO SEE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT BY STUDENTS

I read the packet materials for the recent EMAC meeting and was very happy and impressed to see several letters from students at Siuslaw Middle School.

They had some great ideas for the town, and here are some of the main recurring themes:

- Build a play structure on the boardwalk so kids have a place to play there.
- Put more trash cans around town and empty them more often.
- Install more water fountains in an effort to lessen the amount of cups people need to use and discard.
- Plant more trees and plants near water.

Imagine how a few of these would change the face and flow of the town?

I congratulate the students for their civic engagement.

Keep it up!

—Ivy Meadow
 Florence

'Safe Families' makes call out to caring hearts

(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.)

What follows is part of the transcript from a video played at churches throughout the country on "Safe Families Sunday" which was this past Sunday...

Right now, there are over 4,000 American kids in foster care. There are exponentially more with parents who desperately love their kids who are perilously close to being swept up into the system.

The reason is primarily because they facing crisis alone. It's hard even to imagine that when you are in trouble and you look at your phone and you actually have nobody to call.

There are a growing number of people who are in that situation.

Safe Families exists to provide struggling families with community and support before it becomes necessary for the state to step in and remove their children.

dren. Safe Families exists to keep families together.

All throughout scripture, a common thread partnered with worship was care of neighbors and, oftentimes, a neighbor is

GUEST VIEWPOINT Submitted by Teresa LaNasa 90by30

one who is struggling and vulnerable. When scripture talks about the orphan or the widow, they're talking about those who are vulnerable in our society who don't have support, family or a community to help them.

Safe Families encourages churches to come alongside these families who are struggling at their greatest time of need to support a parent, to keep the kids safe and to help keep a family unit together.

Host Families: Take in children for short periods of time while their parents get back on their feet.

Family Friends: Provide support to families in need through

mentoring and transportation as Host Families through babysitting and emotional support.

Resource Friends: Provide various goods and services to help families get back on their feet with clothing and meals.

Family Coaches: Are trained to provide resources to families in crisis. They also ensure that kids are well cared for in Host Family homes

Safe Family Churches: Are spiritual communities in as a ministry of their church to organize and unleash volunteers to serve their community.

Safe Families calls our community to be a community for a family who is in need and we are going to see our lives fulfilled as we live out our design and mission, and we are going to see a family's life change.

For more information, visit www.90/30.com, which is in partnership with Safe Families and learn all that 90by30 is doing to support preventing child abuse and neglect with other local programs.

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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