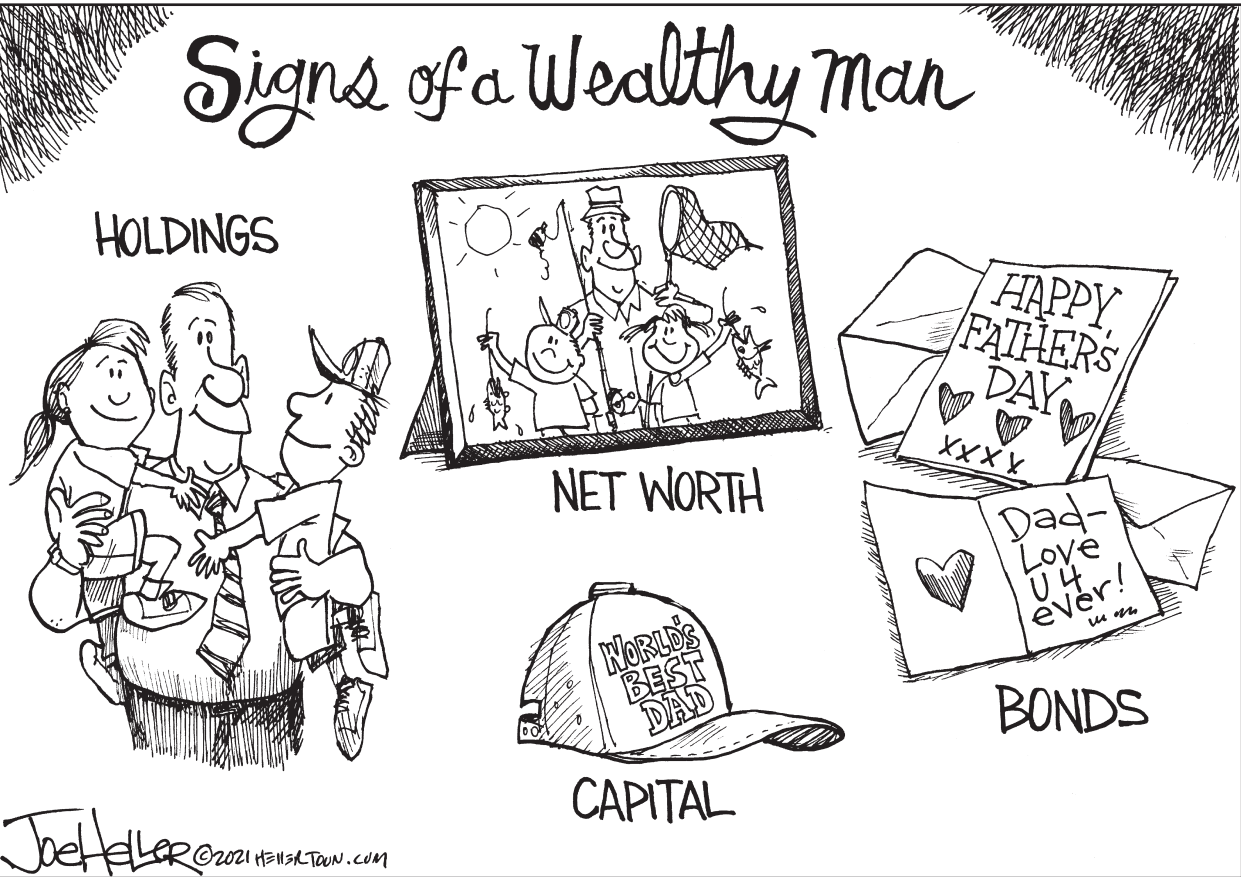


“I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend.” — Thomas Jefferson (1800)



LETTERS

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

TREMENDOUS HONOR
Once again, it was a tremendous honor for members of the Oregon Dunes Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution to assist with the flag retirement ceremony. Since last year’s event wasn’t possible, well over a thousand flags had been turned in for honorable retirement.
A good dent was made and those left will be properly retired.
Thank you to the Francis M. Yost American Legion Post #59, Grimshaw VFW Post #3232, DAV Chapter 23, Central Coast Women Veterans, American Legion Auxiliary, *Siuslaw News*, City of Florence Public Works, Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue and the Landon Family for the use of their property. It was wonderful to gather in person and show respect for the symbol of our country and honor those who protect and defend us.
— Jacquie Beveridge
Florence

REGARDING FLORENCE ENTERPRISE ZONES
I think the proposed changes to the Port of Siuslaw include some good ideas, but are aimed at the wrong locations.
The current boardwalk and green space are a unique jewel pretty much the way they have been developed up to now. They are appreciated and utilized by both tourists and locals. In addition, we should let the recently added amenities (benches, trash receptacles and picnic tables) marinate a bit to see what tweaking is needed prior to making wholesale changes that would forever change the character of the space.
Use of the boardwalk and green space will only increase once word of the current improvements gets more widely disseminated.
There are other spaces in the area that would benefit more from the type of changes being proposed than the Boardwalk greenspace. For example, The Blue Warehouse’s current use does not seem to contribute much to the port currently. Old Town could easily be extended for a ½ block just west of the Highway 101 bridge. Plus, the Lotus area on Bay Street is a diamond in the



rough that could benefit greatly from the type of redevelopment being considered.
Any loss of parking in the port area is of concern, since Old Town currently cannot handle the overflow parking required for events such as Fourth of July, Rhody Days, and various car shows.
If generating income is driving this proposal, making the port area parking a paid lot would appear to be in order.
— Craig Burns
Florence

FILLING A GAP IN SOCIAL CONTRACT HISTORY
We can’t top Edward R. Gunderson’s visceral comeback (“Before You Judge A Person...” June 16) to Edward T. Monks’ June 12 “Government Not Helping With Employment Challenges.” However, a gap in Mr. Monks’ social contract history needs filling, and filling it points to a different conclusion than he reaches.
The 1930s New Deal public works projects he admires brought workers and private sector companies together under fair and productive rules as he describes. After WWII, corporations grew, and the prospering middle class they employed grew with them. An employee might work decades for a single corporation and in return receive benefits, bonuses and a pension. This business model made the American dream real — owning a home and having enough money and time to raise a family and have a life outside of a dependable job.
By the 1980s, the corporate model changed. Corporations became vehicles to amass huge amounts of personal wealth. Hostile takeovers, mergers and acquisitions proliferated. New owners consolidated, downsized, fired employees and reneged on pensions. Workers became expendable and were forced out

to compete with each other for good-paying jobs. Some relegated themselves to low-wage entry level positions. Husbands and wives both went to work to make ends meet or took on second jobs.
A labor force short on work is good for companies willing to exploit; they can hire cheap. But it’s bad for workers — they either work cheap or starve.
As corporations went profit-mad, executive salaries soared. In 1965, CEOs in the 350 largest companies were paid about 20 times the wages of their workers. By 2019, they were paid 278 times as much. (www.cnbc.com/2019/08/16/ceos-see-pay-grow-1000percent-and-now-make-278-times-the-average-worker.html)
It takes a particular mindset of exclusive privilege to perpetuate such disparity in compensation. It’s a mindset that some people are not as deserving as others. It breeds arrogance at the top and resentment among workers.
The New Deal-era social contract Mr. Monks reminisces about was done in not by lazy workers or the government, but by self-enrichment run amok within companies that ceased to be good corporate citizens.
Finally, Mr. Monks’ comparison of New Deal construction projects to stimulus checks is false. There’s no equivalence.
A fair comparison would be to Biden’s American Jobs Plan, the biggest public works project since Ike’s Interstate and Defense Highways Act in the 1950s and an ongoing national news story hard to miss. Republicans want it to be New Deal Lite. Democrats want it Full-Strength. Whatever form it takes, it remains to be seen whether the parties can cooperate under fair and productive rules as others did 85 years ago.
— Rollin Olson & Madelyne Barnett
Florence

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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: cmeyer@thesiuslawnews.com

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