

**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

**(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.)**

### A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

I am visiting your fair city and enjoying it immensely. Until, that is, I read a letter in your Opinion page that demands a rebuttal. Mr. Denton's letter in the July 31 edition titled "Dear Democrat" has prompted me to provide a different perspective.

Human beings are unique. We are the only creature on earth that has an imagination. Our ability to imagine things — things that aren't real — has led to the invention of cars, trains, airplanes, cell phones and the internet. It has enabled mankind to set foot on the moon and create life-saving vaccines.

But our "imagination" has also led some of us to believe things that are neither healthy nor helpful. Consequently, most Republican's believe:

- White people are superior to people of color — we aren't.
- This is the same propaganda Hitler used to become the chancellor of Germany in 1933.
- Global warming is a hoax — it isn't.
- It IS however the primary reason people from Central America are leaving their homes because they can no longer grow crops or raise livestock to feed themselves.
- The COVID vaccine will change your DNA — it won't.
- It WILL allow all of us to resume a "normal" life if enough people are vaccinated.
- The economy will improve if billionaires get another tax break — it won't.
- The richest pay the least taxes, as a percentage of income, and the poorest among us pay the most.
- More guns on our streets will make them safe — it won't.
- The Second Amendment assured each of us the privilege to own and carry a musket, not an assault rifle.
- The terrorists that invaded the Capitol on Jan. 6 are patriots — they aren't.
- The insurrection — prompted by then-President Trump — was exactly what it appeared: an attempt to overthrow the government.

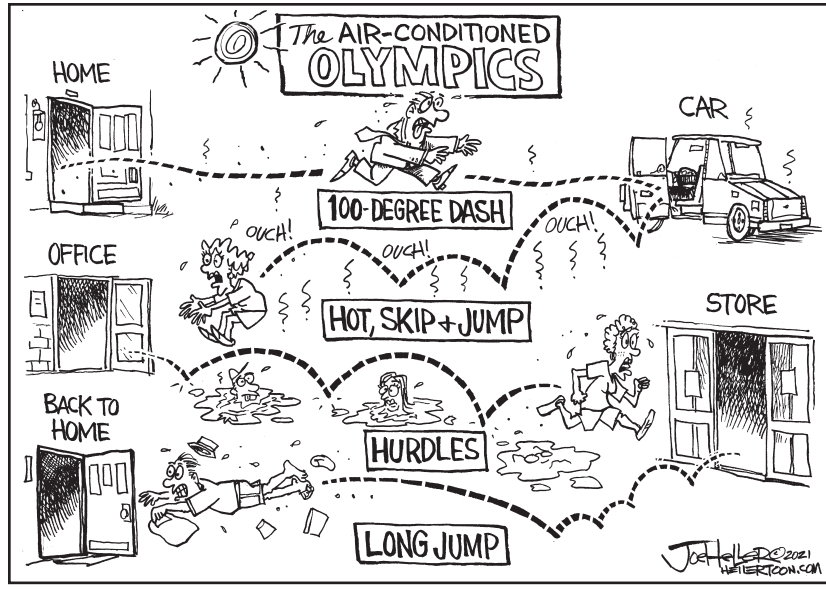
Rupert Murdoch understood this better than anyone and through his "misinformation machine" of FOX fake news, The Wall Street Journal and the New York Post has convinced half the population of this country that only the Republican Party can save our democracy.

You have lots of well-educated, but misinformed, company, Mr. Denton. I know of lawyers, engineers and doctors who still believe in the Republican Party. Even today, years after Trump stole the Republican "banner" and immersed himself in conspiracy theories, they refuse to believe they were deceived. But they were, and so were you.

— Mark Riebau  
 Nashville, Tenn.

### WORDS HAVE DIRECT IMPACT UPON LIVES

Bruce Jarvis's request July 19 that the Florence City Council adopt a "Stand for Freedom" resolution to make clear that the City of Florence "will not assist our



governor or any state agency with the enforcement of any law, mandate or edict that is against the United States Constitution" is the product of a fevered mind.

Jarvis referenced "widespread discord and unrest ... rampant in our society today" and that "such a resolution will serve to unite our community and increase our sense of personal safety."

(The meeting is available to view at <https://vimeo.com/577221568>.)

The "discord and unrest" so rampant in our country is the result of the madness of current Trumpian Republican Party policy that seeks to cement permanent autocratic, one-party minority rule that is the antithesis of one-person, one-vote democratic practice.

In the same meeting, Sam Spayd, referencing climate change, declared that "time spent by our city council would be better utilized in dealing with the issues that are right in our face ... [that] present a definite challenge to the time our city council has for dealing with issues which will have a direct impact upon our lives."

The menace of climate change is not "in our face?" Does not "have a direct impact upon our lives?"

What can be said about such deniers of fact, of science — these blatant, tunnel-visioned proponents of benefit solely for corporations and self — that evades derision?

There are principled Republicans who champion democracy, cherish truth, respect science, value individual sacrifice and social responsibility. Step forward.

—Harold Titus  
 Florence

### THE BEAM IN THINE OWN EYE

As a proud gay woman and the daughter of a Lutheran minister, I'd like to remind Marshall Denton, and those who thought his Letter to the Editor on Saturday, July 31, had any merit or truth, of the following two Bible verses:

John 8:7: "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone" and one of my favorites, Mathew 7:1-3: "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considers not the beam that is in thine own eye?"

Methinks Mr. Denton has very large 4x4 pressure treated beams in both his eyes.

— Becky Goehring  
 Florence

### CAN WE CALL OURSELVES 'A CITY IN MOTION'?

I looked at the agenda for an upcoming meeting for the economic development committee for the City of Florence. In the meeting packet, there was an item stating

that there needs to be a study on the need for rental housing.

I am appalled.

We supposedly can't find workers to fully staff our businesses, we have seniors and cancer patients living in their cars and yet we still need a study.

What I hear from many of the more affluent in the community is that they like our town the way it is — "If you can't afford to live here then move and other similar statements."

Other communities our size are working to create housing opportunities for workers and other working class folks at a far better pace than we are. I would like to know how we can call ourselves "A City in Motion" if we are only moving for the wealthy and the tourists?

— Maggie Bagon  
 Florence

### TAXES COULD PUT THOUSANDS BACK TO WORK

I am responding to Rory Hammond's recent Letter to the Editor ("Taxing the Wealthy Not the Solution," July 28) about my "Tax the Wealthy" article on July 10.

In my Letter to the Editor, I said that the wealthy should be taxed big time.

Mr. Hammond stated, "Most of the wealthy people I know are the hardest working people I've ever met."

What I am not sure of is who he calls wealthy, or, in his mind, what is wealth.

He goes on to say, "Your tax solution ... is socialism at its worst."

I ask him if he is on Social Security, Obamacare or Medicare? Best socialist things we have ever done.

The wealthy in my mind are those who exceed the limits of reality. Just to list a few to the 25 most wealthy that I think should be taxed at least 70% are as follows, starting at the low wealth range:

- Laurene Powell Job: \$21 billion
- Jacqueline Mars: \$28 billion
- Phil Knight: \$39 billion
- Michael Bloomberg: \$60 billion
- Warren Buffett: \$101 billion
- Alice and Jim Walton: \$106 billion
- Bill Gates: \$130 billion
- Mark Zuckerberg: \$134 billion
- Jeff Bezos: \$198 billion

I am fortunate in that I do not have to live day to day wondering where the next loaf of bread will come from. Those who are more unfortunate, due to the pandemic, have lost their employment and in some cases their homes.

With taxation of the wealthy and the Infrastructure Bill that the Biden administration is proposing, it will put thousands back to work.

— Win Jolley  
 Florence

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The *Siuslaw News* welcomes Letters to the Editor and Guest Viewpoints as part of a community discussion of issues on the local, state and national level. 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.

Email letters to [cmeyer@thesiuslawnews.com](mailto:cmeyer@thesiuslawnews.com)

### TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION:

Letters must address pertinent or timely issues of interest to our readers at-large. In addition:

- Letters reflect the opinion of the writer. The *Siuslaw News* cannot verify the accuracy of all statements made in letters. Authors should ensure any information is accurate, fair and not from second-hand knowledge or hearsay, and include sources where possible.
- Letters have a suggested 300-word limit and may be edited for grammar and clarity.
- Authors must sign their full name and include their street address (only city will be printed), as well as a daytime phone number and/or email address for verification. The person who signs the letter must be the actual author. *Siuslaw News* does not accept anonymous Letters to the Editor.
- *Siuslaw News* will not print form letters, libelous letters, business promotions or personal disputes, poetry, open letters, letters espousing religious views without reference to a current issue, or letters considered in poor taste. Letters also may not be part of letter-writing campaigns.
- Writers are limited to one published letter every two weeks.

### TO SUBMIT TO THE SIUSLAW NEWS:

Emailed submissions are preferred. All letters need to include full name, address and phone number; only name and city will be printed. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed.

The newspaper, at the sole discretion of the publisher and editor, reserves the right to reject any letter that doesn't follow the above criteria.

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