

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)

## Know the Facts about Western Lane Ambulance

**(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.)**

In March, when I read the *Siuslaw News* Guest Viewpoint by L. Farnsworth, RJ Pilcher and J. Marks, "Ambulance District is at a Financial Crossroads," I was baffled at the information they were quoting and had lots of doubts over the accuracy of most of the article.

I also was highly concerned that an elected board member of the Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD) Board of Directors (1 of 5), felt the need to give a Guest Viewpoint and additionally purchase a full-page ad to further highlight his opinion.

Over the next many weeks, there were a few Letters to the Editor, agreeing and disagreeing — and then I saw on my ballot Mr. Farnsworth was not seeking reelection.

Our ambulance service has always been the best of the best and I have no reason to believe anything has changed. Having been an elected official in the 1990s here in

Florence, I understand it is not an easy task. It's a learning experience in how the government works and it is imperative that an elected official understands the process.

Then, on July 28, there was another Guest Viewpoint from the same three men, but with a new title,

### GUEST VIEWPOINT

By Clara Kuhn  
Member of the Florence Community and Taxpayer

"Only in Florence Do You Pay..." but the same theme! This was also accompanied by yet another full-page ad.

Now I'm concerned, enough that I dissect the viewpoint, make a list of questions, call WLAD and ask the best way for me to get my questions answered. I was offered to come to the Administration Office of WLAD on Highway 101 and meet with Chief Michael Schick, Operations Chief Matt House and Office Manager Dina McClure; which I gladly accepted.

All of my questions were answered, including the additional ones prompted by my visit. I did not

feel rushed or an inconvenience in the day of these professionals.

Through our meeting, I discovered so many inaccuracies in the previous Guest Viewpoints.

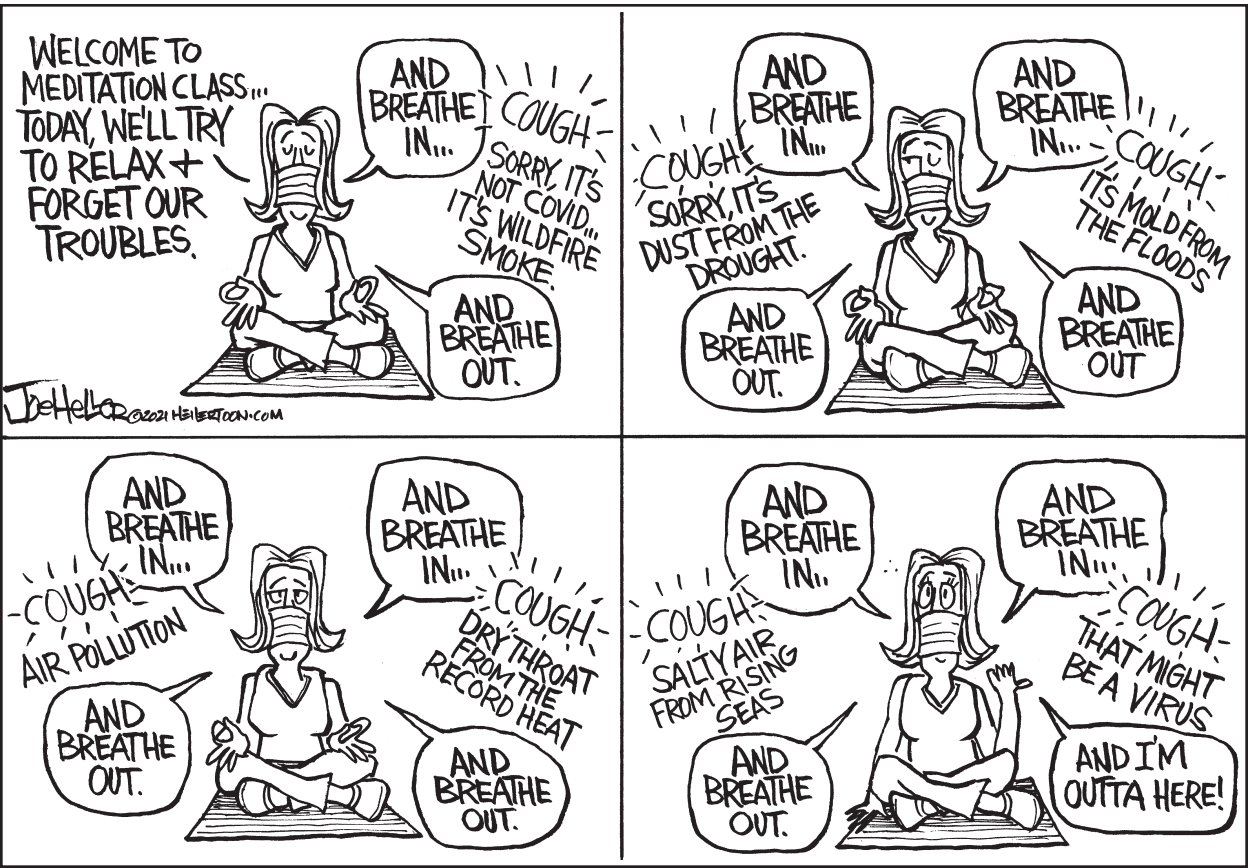
Western Lane Ambulance District has proved itself over the years, by its high standards of training, certifications and professionalism. The district has always and continues to be leading edge on care in the field. The district continues to partner with PeaceHealth Peace Harbor to give us, its taxpayers, the best possible care.

I for one, do not want to see that high level of care diminish, and my hope is that you do not either.

I would encourage anyone that wants accurate information to call 541-997-9614 and ask for Chief Schick.

Thursday afternoon, I received a text from 458-219-6598 titled "3X STOP paying three times for an ambulance ride" and directing me to a site to sign a petition. This is beginning to follow a pattern of someone looking to benefit from the dismantling of WLAD.

Now more than ever, if you have questions or concerns, please get accurate information.



## 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.)**

### REQUIRE MASKS

Why is it impossible to mandate that an individual must be vaccinated against COVID-19 and in some areas to also wear a mask?

It might sound radical, but those who refuse to do so should be fined and not have the ability to enter any establishment where people go to shop, eat, exercise or go for entertainment.

In many states there are laws that protect an individual and others. They are DUI, which is punishable by fines and in some cases loss of license, while other states have fines for using a mobile device while driving. These are to protect oneself and others.

In other states it is mandatory that one wears a seatbelt and fines can be administered. This is only to protect oneself and not the public. Hell, there are some areas where jay-walkers can be fined, but not those who refuse to be vaccinated.

I now understand that

some companies like Kaiser Permanente are now requiring all 218,000 employees — 21,000 doctors and 59,000 nurses — to be vaccinated or lose their employment. Others will follow.

— Win Jolley  
Florence

### VOTE 'FOR THE PEOPLE'

The freedom to vote is a cornerstone of our democracy. Creating unnecessary barriers to exercise this freedom is wrong.

Right now, a minority of the Senate is silencing American voters, even though a majority want the voter protections in the For the People Act. Protections include easy access to the ballot, freedom to vote no matter our race or geography, for politicians to earn our votes instead of manipulating them through gerrymandering, and for our elected officials to be accountable to us instead of whichever donors can line their pockets.

We know what is wrong and the For the People Act can help fix it by providing national standards for federal elections.

However, in order for it to pass when the Senate returns from recess, the fili-

buster must be eliminated.

Oregon's U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley has always been a chief opponent of the filibuster and his message is loud and clear right now — in order to protect our freedom to vote the filibuster must go.

Enough is enough. With the freedom to vote under attack and a simple solution available, the Senate must pass the For the People Act now!

— Beverly Sherrill  
Florence

### FLYING A FLAG FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

It has been so very hard for people to admit during the last few years that they support our law enforcement officers with all that has happened.

I am very much a staunch supporter of them and all ways will be no matter what happens. We have to remember that there are bad apples in every profession and they have to be taken care of like all other problems.

That being said, 20 years ago this Sept. 11 will be the anniversary of the Twin Towers and Pentagon attacks by terrorists and all of the first responders who

died in those attacks.

Next month, we should show our pride in our law enforcement officers, not be berating the fact that someone is flying a flag that many have been flying for months or even years supporting those officers.

When I drove a pickup, I too flew a black flag with a blue line supporting the law enforcement officers. When I have a pickup again I will again fly that flag, along with a red, white and blue American flag.

— Dianna Allison  
Florence

### TAX THE 'JOLLEY' WEALTHY

Mr. Jolley, in regard to "Taxes Could Put Thousands Back to Work" (July 31), in 75 percent of the world, you would be considered wealthy and living in decadent opulence.

How loud will you cry if you receive a bigger tax bill under this administration?

You can always cut that check for more.

I believe the IRS should know you are ready, willing and able to pay a higher rate for the enrichment of social causes.

— Martin Cable  
Dunes City

USPS# 497-660 Copyright 2021 © Siuslaw News

## 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.

Jenna Bartlett  
Chantelle Meyer  
Front Office  
For Advertising: ext. 318

Publisher, ext. 318  
Editor, ext. 314  
541-997-3441  
For Classifieds: ext. 310

### DEADLINES:

Wednesday Issue—General news releases, Monday noon; Classified line ads, Monday 10 a.m.; Legal Notices and Display Ads, Friday noon.

Saturday Issue—General news releases, Thursday noon; Classified line ads, Thursday 10 a.m.; Legal Notices and Display Ads, Wednesday 5 p.m.

### NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

In Lane County — 1-year, \$84; 6-month, \$61; 3-month subscription, \$37.50; Out of Lane County — 1-year, \$107; 6-month, \$74; 3-month subscription, \$50; E-Edition Online Only (Anywhere) — 1-year, \$65; 6-month, \$35; 3-month, \$15. Ask about our senior discounts.

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

## Siuslaw News

Office:  
148 Maple St./PO Box 10  
Florence, OR 97439

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

### 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.

## WHERE TO WRITE

### PRESIDENT JOSEPH BIDEN

The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500  
Comments: 202-456-1111  
Switchboard: 202-456-1414  
TTY/TDD: 202-456-6213  
[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

### STATE SEN. DICK ANDERSON (DIST. 5)

900 Court St. NE - S-417  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-986-1705  
Email: [Sen.DickAnderson@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Sen.DickAnderson@oregonlegislature.gov)

### OREGON GOV. KATE BROWN

160 State Capitol 900 Court St.  
Salem, Ore. 97301-4047  
Message Line:  
503-378-4582  
[www.oregon.gov/gov](http://www.oregon.gov/gov)

### STATE REP. BOOMER WRIGHT (DIST. 9)

900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-986-1409  
Email: [Rep.BoomerWright@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.BoomerWright@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](http://www.wyden.senate.gov)

### LANE COUNTY DIST. 1 COMMISSIONER JAY BOZIEVICH

125 E. Eighth St.  
Eugene, OR 97401  
541-682-4203  
Email: [Jay.Bozievich@co.lane.or.us](mailto:Jay.Bozievich@co.lane.or.us)

### U.S. SEN. JEFF MERKLEY

313 Hart Senate Office Bldg  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-3753 | 541-465-6750  
[www.merkley.senate.gov](http://www.merkley.senate.gov)

### FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL & MAYOR JOE HENRY

Florence City Hall, 250  
Highway 101, Florence, 97439  
541-997-3437  
[ci.florence.or.us](http://ci.florence.or.us)  
Email comments to Florence City Recorder Kelli Weese at [kelli.weese@ci.florence.or.us](mailto:kelli.weese@ci.florence.or.us)

### 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](http://www.defazio.house.gov)