

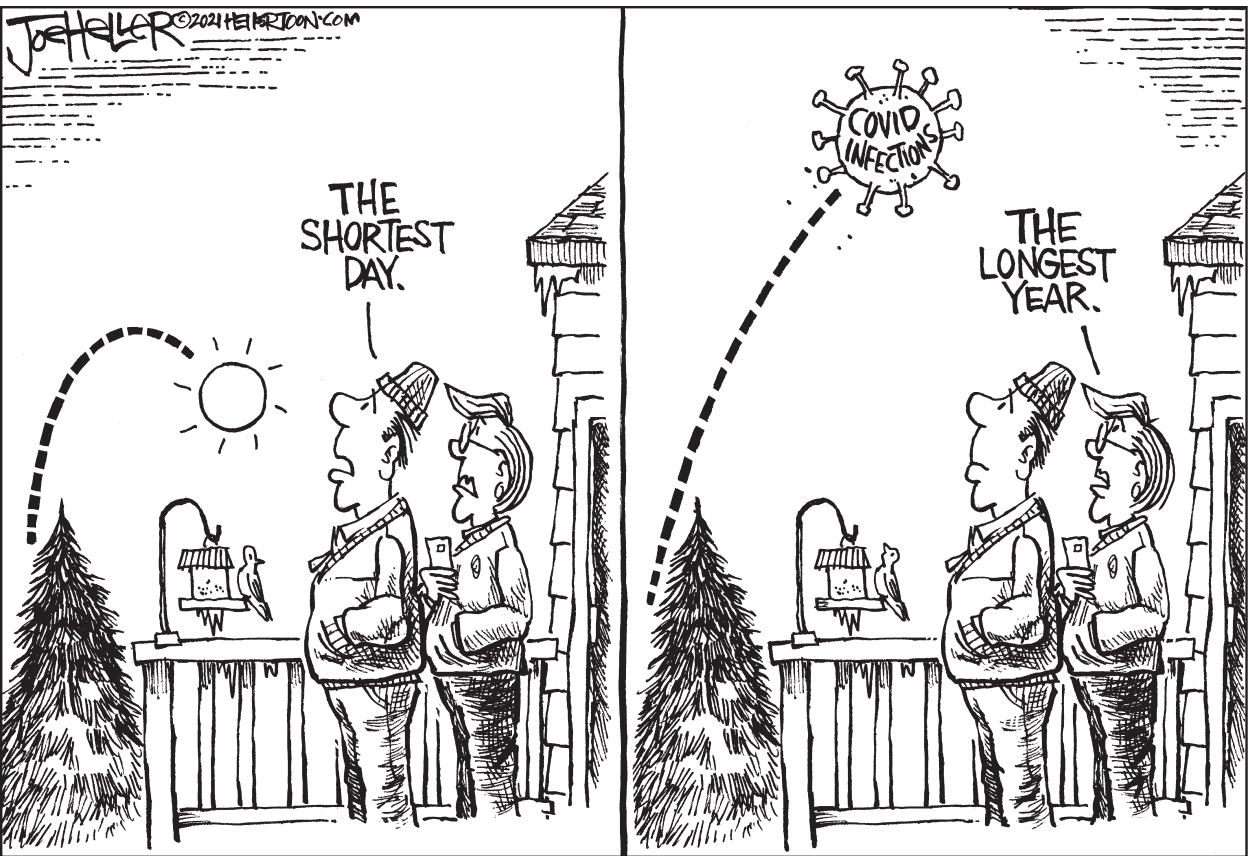
Siuslaw News
P.O. Box 10
Florence, OR 97439

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)



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.*)

COMMUNITY COMING TOGETHER

While I appreciate very much the article in the Dec. 15 Siuslaw News featuring the Florence Emergency Cold Weather Shelter, there were at least a couple misstatements that need clarification.

The property on which the Pallet Shelters are currently set is property owned by First Step Florence Solutions for Housing Insecurity (transitional housing program for families), not the City of Florence. Additionally, as a member of the Presbyterian Church, I appreciate the generous statement that volunteers are “primarily from the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw;” I don’t believe it is correct.

My experience has been that the Florence community as a whole has provided volunteers for the creating, operating and supporting of the Emergency Cold Weather Shelter. And I for one, thank you!

— Norma Wood
Florence

WHAT CAN BE DONE SPECIFICALLY?

Well apparently not even the holiday season is reason enough for the “Changer” aficionados to take a break. Their most recent thrust is to accuse Florence Mayor Joe Henry of the crime of claiming the issue is political. Well of course it’s political!

What in the world do you think the progressive/liberal/socialist representatives at the state and federal level are trying to do when they continually try to pass laws (oftentimes against the majority of public opinion) to affect sometimes drastic change in this area.

I don’t know if any of these folks paid attention to the most recent “Climate Summit” held a couple of months ago in Switzerland. All the reporting I read about this confab was that it was a complete dud. Nothing of substance was agreed to at the meeting. In fact, the top leadership in China and Russia

did not even attend.

Quite frankly, it is naive to believe that countries such as China, India, Russia and other developing nations would self-impose economically crippling sanctions in pursuit of some elusive climate change goals. As a side note, I think if future conferences of his type were held in Elko, Nev., or Buffalo, N.Y., (rather than a posh ski resort) total attendance would probably drop off sharply.

Each of the last three or four of these submissions to the Siuslaw News were similar. They tended to be grandiose, dealt in a lot of cliches, and implied in no uncertain terms that those that held different opinions than theirs were ignorant or “deniers” of climate change.

I would not put myself into that category. There is climate change. Any rudimentary study of geology will tell you that; the questions involve timing, severity, root causes, to what extent human behavioral change would affect the outcome, and our ability as humans to adapt to changes.

I will certainly concede that the folks who hold these firmly held ideas about human-caused climate alteration are sincere and that they have thought about it in great detail.

That being the case, I would like to suggest that they provide three or four specific things which could be done locally, nationally or worldwide to alter the climate’s changing course. Also important would be the specific costs/results on the human population as a result of making those changes.

It is much easier to have an exchange of information if we are talking about distinct and precise ideas rather than more vague generalities.

— Ralph Nichols
Florence

ROE VS. WADE

The recent Dec. 15 edition of the *Siuslaw News* published the monthly Community Voices section and the Conservative Corner written by Joel Marks. I was impressed with his eloquence and historical references about Roe vs. Wade.

As a man, I do not believe that SCO-

TUS or state governments should dictate anything to do with the rights of a human, man or woman. If past laws were put into place like Roe vs. Wade, we should let them stand. Now things are a bit muddled when it comes to freedom of speech, gun rights, voter rights and abortions.

I think the US Congress should make the deciding decisions that would impact each state, along with the media. No right vs left, no he said or she said, no who is right or wrong.

We have been a divided nation for some years and to save ourselves we must come together again. We are not the independent states of America but the *United States of America*.

We need to come together again or lose what we still have left.

— Win Jolley
Florence

A ‘ROBIN HOOD’ OF LITTER

While our viewpoints about climate change and what can be done about it locally might be at loggerheads, I just can’t comprehend why the City of Florence continues to persecute Raymond Block of Leaven No Trace for picking up garbage in our community and area.

Seriously — what’s your problem?

This nonprofit has picked up tons of garbage in our area and all they ask is for you to pick it up. In return, you have him arrested and fined for thousands of dollars. This is a public relationship bonanza and you are throwing it away.

Make him a local hero (which he is). Instead of videos on Facebook of him being arrested for littering, promote him as the “Robin Hood” of litter, the “Johnny Appleseed” of trash.

Carefully managed, this could go viral.

For a few hours of hauling bags of garbage, the city could be hailed as heroes of the environment, or you could be just fine with garbage and litter building up in our beautiful community.

Is that such a hard choice?

— Edward Gunderson
Florence

DEADLINES FOR DECEMBER

***Siuslaw News* has updated its deadlines for December to include the winter holidays.**

**Dec. 29 Edition
— Wednesday Edition —**

**General news releases – Monday (Dec. 20) noon
Classified line ads – Monday 10 a.m.
Legal Notices and Display Ads – Thursday (Dec. 23) noon**

**Dec. 31 Edition
— Special Friday Edition —**

**General news releases – Tuesday (Dec. 28) noon
Classified line ads – Tuesday 3 p.m.
Legal Notices and Display Ads – Tuesday 3 p.m.**

The Siuslaw News office at 128 Maple St. in Historic Old Town will be closed on Friday.



**Dec. 24 Edition
— Special Friday Edition —**

**General news releases – Tuesday (Dec. 21) noon
Classified line ads – Tuesday 3 p.m.
Legal Notices and Display Ads – Tuesday 3 p.m.**

The Siuslaw News office at 128 Maple St. in Historic Old Town will be closed on Friday.

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Siuslaw News

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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; -month subscription, \$50; E-Edition Online Only (Anywhere) — 1-year, \$65; 6-month, \$35; 3-month, \$15. Ask about our senior discounts.

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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

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

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