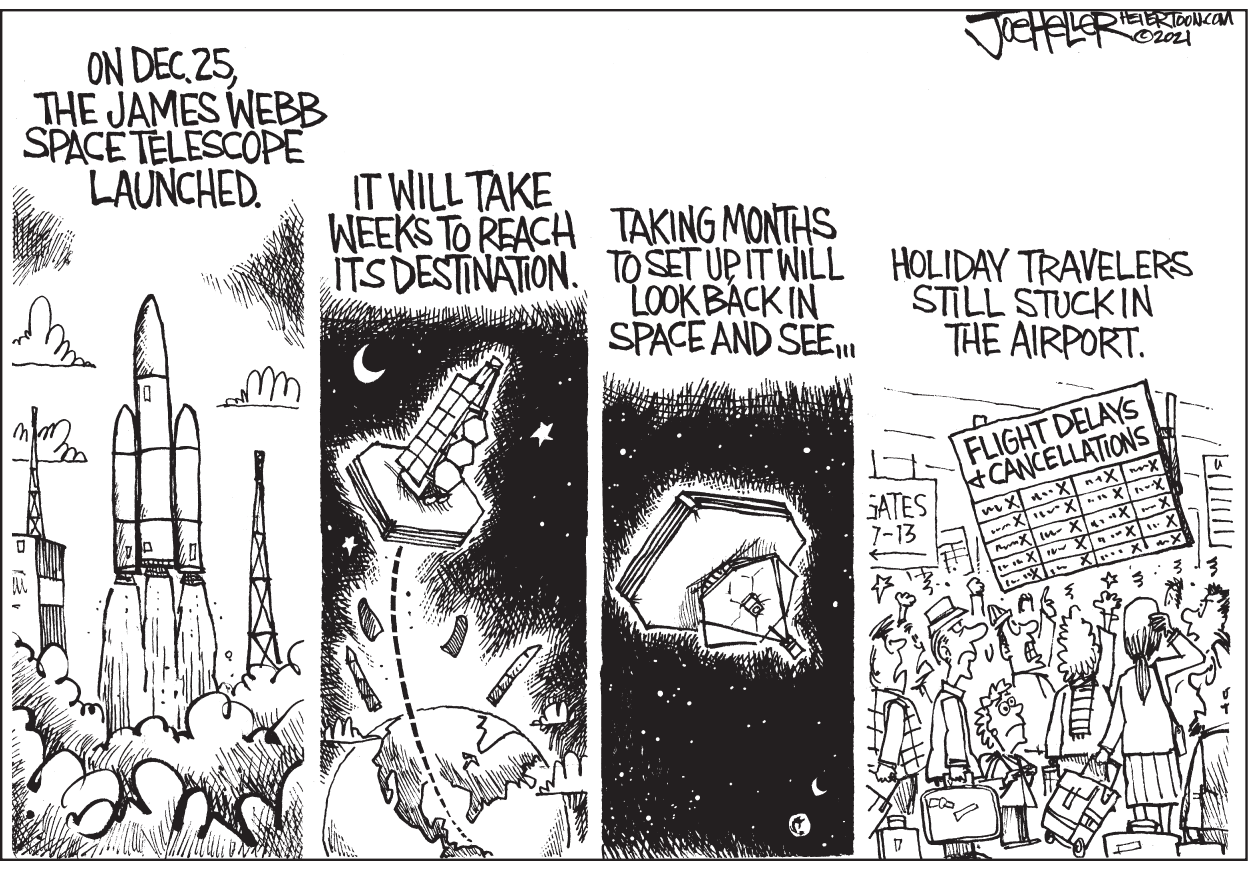
Siuslaw News
P.O. Box 10
Florence, OR 97439

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.*)

Lord Bless the Elks

Do you know this? On Christmas Day, we had two vegans and three traditional eaters, all of us older.

Of we three traditionals, one had worked with the Florence Elks Lodge #1858 two years ago, and was aware of their Christmas Day Ministry to the community of Florence.

Jean went and got three turkey meals with pumpkin pie, corn grits, stuffing, sweet potatoes, light and dark meat, cranberry sauce and wonderful gravy — with a biscuit, too! I was so impressed by the quality and flavor of the meal, and I have never before accepted a "benefit meal."

However, it came this year at the right time and it was a special gift! That was our prayer at the table: "Lord Bless the Elks organization and all their families."

— Ralph Ray
Florence

Helping Our Planet

Thank you, Mr. Nichols, for your Letter to the Editor on Dec. 22 inviting us to share our views on individual attempts to help our planet, and ourselves, since there is no Planet #2. I agree that more can be accomplished by neighbors brainstorming than by some recent international efforts.

1. Cut your vehicle's emissions by choosing dine-in rather than sitting in line at a drive-through. Your neighbors, and your planet, have to breathe that stuff. Humans are at the top of the food chain, but we're suffering: asthma is on the increase. Polar Bears swim to extinction.

2. Take a bag or a bucket with you when you walk. Pick up the litter, the fishing line/net, anything that could trap or poison an animal in the sea or in the landfill.

3. Be mindful of where your trash ends up. The Florence Master Recycle team is ready to help. Plus, you can attend recycle events here when they return in 2022. Locally, St. Vincent de Paul takes sheet/chunk polystyrene foam (known by the brand name Styrofoam) and Shipping Solutions takes the "peanuts." Florescent tubes go to hazardous material collection events.

4. Keep food containers in a tote bag and take it with you when you walk into a restaurant. Everyone in London was doing this in 1980. A small island nation can teach a big island nation a lot about wasting resources.

5. If you are no longer towing a boat, a trailer, or a ton of hay etc., do you still need your pick-up?

6. Read labels. Palm oil is a leading cause of deforestation, always in someone else's country.

7. Drug labs in the county pollute private water wells, which drain to creeks, to rivers, to the ocean. They pollute neighborhoods. Write a letter.

8. Too many Florence vehicles need new mufflers. Please ... you stink.

9. We could return to the days when we were all looking for gas-saver vehicles. This one IS political. Why should OPEC lower the price of oil for a country full of wasteful, thoughtless, complaining people? If you don't need what they're selling, you win.

As to costs, well, as I look back at my personal list, it all looks free to me. And very little trouble.

Thank you, Mr. Nichols, for your well-written challenge. I look forward to more ideas from the Florence community that I can incorporate into my own life.

— Lisa Readel
Florence

Power of Rings

Thank you to Three Rivers Casino Resort for their generous gift toward state championship rings for the Viking football team. I wholeheartedly endorse these tokens of dedication, sacrifice, commitment and success for the players and coaches.

I would have liked the check to have read Siuslaw State Champions. I am a retired teacher and coach of a "minor sport."

When I look at my ring, I am reminded each time of that look of accomplishment and pride in the eyes of my players. Each sport is a discipline unto itself. The end result for each is to reach that final pinnacle of a state championship.

Florence not only won in football, but in both Siuslaw Boys and Girls Cross Country. Thank you to the *Siuslaw News* for its reporting of these champions and their success.

We don't get to go out to see a cross country meet. We can't sit in the stands and cheer. It is an internal sport where the competition is against time as much as other runners. The famous novel title "The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Runner" sums it up pretty well. Running does not require the explosive physical contact of football, rugby or lacrosse, yet training is an individual battle with pain, endurance and self-discipline. Our young runners train every bit as hard as other athletes.

I would like to see our boys and girls teams get rings as well. I don't have to explain to anyone who has earned a ring what it means. It is a recognition of challenges met, obstacles overcome, adversities conquered and inspiration to younger athletes. As Scripture tells us, "all runners race, but only one wins the prize. Run so as to obtain it."

They have. That is the power of the rings.

— John Ebbe
Florence

DEADLINES FOR DECEMBER

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

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.

Siuslaw News

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.

Siuslaw News Front Office	**541-997-3441**
For Advertising: ext. 318	***For Classifieds: ext. 320***
For Obituaries: ext. 320	***For Faxes: 541-997-7979***
Jenna Bartlett	**Publisher, ext. 318**
Chantelle Meyer	**Editor, ext. 314**
Misty Berg	**Office Manager, ext. 320**
Jeanna Petersen	**Advertising, ext. 325**
Mark Brennan	**Lead Reporter, ext. 317**
Zac Burtt	**Sports Reporter, ext. 324**

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.

Mail subscription includes E-Edition.
Website and E-Edition: TheSiuslawNews.com
Submit press releases to PressReleases@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*

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

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown
160 State Capitol 900 Court St.
Salem, Ore. 97301-4047
Message Line:
503-378-4582
www.oregon.gov/gov

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden
221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-5244 | 541-431-0229
www.wyden.senate.gov

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley
313 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-3753 | 541-465-6750
www.merkley.senate.gov

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

State Sen. Dick Anderson (Dist. 5)
900 Court St. NE - S-303
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1705
Email: Sen.DickAnderson@oregonlegislature.gov

State Rep. Boomer Wright (Dist. 9)
900 Court St. NE, H-476
Salem, OR 97301
PO Box 39000
Florence, OR 97439
503-986-1409
Email: Rep.BoomerWright@oregonlegislature.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

Florence City Council
Florence City Hall, 250 Highway 101, Florence, 97439
541-997-3437
ci.florence.or.us

Dunes City Council
Dunes City Hall, 82877 Spruce St., Westlake, OR 97493
541-997-3338
dunescityhall.com