



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Here's a tip

I don't own a restaurant, but I do want to support those who do.

With social distancing and restaurant seating cut in half, local restaurants are struggling to stay open. We all need to adjust and this is how we can help: Don't use them as your office as you sip your coffee. Limit your stay to eating and short visits, allowing your table to quickly pass to the next customer. When you see a line of people waiting to be seated, take notice because that next customer is also valuable to keeping the doors open. Please don't forget these restaurant owners have families to support just like you. Please be kind to all you encounter should they absently forget their mask because this mask regime is new to us all.

Rita Lombard, Eugene

### Into the wild

I recently visited Wildlife Safari with my children. The drive through the safari was worth every penny! After the safari drive, we decided to enter the village. I trusted that they would enforce social distancing, have hand washing stations available, staff monitoring and sanitizing frequently touched surfaces, limitations on the number of people allowed indoors and most of *all* a mandated face mask policy. We experienced nothing of the sort at Wildlife Safari!

In fact, more than half of the people, elbow to elbow, were not wearing masks and there was only one sanitation station at the entrance. I found an employee and asked if face masks were required for patrons inside the village. They told me that face masks were required, given Gov. Kate Brown's executive orders, but they did not enforce them given that some people have medical issues that exempt them from wearing a mask and others believe that the U. S. Constitution exempts them from wearing a mask.

I feel that Wildlife Safari is not following the governor's orders about face masks and other safety precautions and is making this a political issue rather than protecting human lives based on science, research and the data.

Edane Applegate-Chism, Springfield

### You call yourselves militias? Think again

I swore an oath to defend our Constitution several times during my 25 years in the U.S. Army, Navy and Marines and I know, as most veterans do, what a "militia" is and isn't.

The term dates to 1590 and historically referred to citizen soldiers that could be called to duty in an emergency by their state or country to serve alongside our military forces. Our "organized" militia became the National Guard and Reserve. Who's calling the gangs of guntoting vigilantes that identifying themselves as "militias" to duty and for what emergency?

The militia isn't called to duty to defend racist, bigoted members of our society from the perceived slights of their own government. We are a nation with laws and rules that protect all of our citizenry and provide peaceful ways to redress grievances with due process guaranteed in our Constitution.

It may not be perfect, but our republic has always been the greatest nation on Earth and we don't need bullies and thugs organized in gangs with guns to tell us otherwise. Rather than "stand back and stand by" — stand down, read our Constitution and some history, and then get involved peacefully to help, not harm our nation.

Donald Ehrich, Creswell

### Time to get real over climate crisis

A recent editorial regarding climate change and common sense makes the absurd argument that conservatives offer a "much more viable approach." The writers describe recent conservative denialism as an aberration, but like other denialists they don't or can't describe the climate crisis and its impacts on humanity.

They condemn "leftist climate alarmism" with particular venom aimed at Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez because of her statement that we have 12 years to address the climate crisis. They praise the Pentagon "who takes climate change seriously." They must not know of a recent Pentagon study that says the U.S. military itself could collapse in 20 years secondary to climate change.

Credit the writers for calling for a national policy to reduce or eliminate greenhouse gases. Starting late in the game and lacking urgency, however, they tout unspecified free-market solutions that don't reduce consumption or our standard of living. The free market has pushed demand for SUVs to the point that they have become the second- largest cause of increased carbon dioxide emissions over the past decade, negating the gains made by electric vehicles. Small cars are disappearing from U.S. auto dealerships. Common sense? I think not.

Chuck Areford, Eugene