

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Successful

Suzanne Weber has been a successful bipartisan mayor of Tillamook since 2010. She is running for Oregon House District 32, soon to be vacated by Tiffany Mitchell.

Suzanne has long-standing working relationships in the Oregon Legislature. Unlike her current opponent, she can hit the ground running, without a protracted learning curve.

Suzanne plans to work on small business recovery, education and local infrastructure. Vote Weber on Nov. 3.

JEAN M. HERMAN
Astoria

Taking a stand

Sheriff Matt Phillips, thank you for your thoughtful and articulate guest column, “We have more in common than believed,” on Sept. 17.

By taking a stand on a contentious issue like Black Lives Matter, you gave a voice to members of our community who have felt marginalized and alone in their perspective. That takes courage. Equally important, you did so without alienating other groups. That shows leadership.

By emphasizing that your viewpoint “doesn’t suggest that the lives of Black people are more important than anyone else’s ... (nor does it) suggest or support that any other life is less important,” you strip away the controversy around the issue.

Hopefully, we can all agree that human life is precious by its very nature. Every person in our society should be able to rely on their fellow citizens, and especially law enforcement, to protect their right to life without regard to race or any other form of bias.

Thank you for confirming your belief that Black Lives Matter equally, and for your tireless service to each and

every member of this special community. By looking beyond politics to the core of the issue, you exemplify the balanced leadership that is needed at this time of upheaval.

JAN and WILLIS L. VAN DUSEN
CAROL and DANIEL A. VAN DUSEN
TRUDY VAN DUSEN
CITOVIC and DJORDJE CITOVIC
DR. FATIMA VAN DUSEN and WILLIS VAN DUSEN JR.
DR. KRISTIN and CAPT. MATTHEW ZEDWICK
SYDNEY VAN DUSEN and GREG PETERSON

Land of laws

We are a land of laws and institutions that govern our diverse society. We need law. We need order. Without them we descend into destruction, burning, looting and murder. We need police to serve and protect the citizens. Government should serve the people.

We must move from the emotions of the day to apply reason to affect change to police procedures, applied for decades, which are the source of egregious incidences that have occurred many times, in many places.

Choking or chokeholds have caused numerous deaths or injuries. They have, and continue to be, a tool used by policing authorities, and will continue to give rise to unjustified and unnecessary occurrences that have very negative results.

Choking should be highly restricted, or eliminated, as a technique of control and aggression by police departments throughout our nation. Other control techniques should be taught and employed. Stop choking.

Midnight warrant door breakdowns should not be allowed. What do the occupants think, when they are sleeping and all of a sud-

den, the door is being broken down? The results have repeated themselves many times, with many deaths and injuries to both the victims and the police. How many times did the police have the wrong address? Stop the midnight warrant invasions.

It is important for citizens to comply with good policing and not engage in hostile, uncooperative behavior. We all need to be kinder and more thoughtful citizens, and respect laws and support order in our lives and those around us.

MARK PRESCOTT
Gearhart

Our votes

Tillamook Mayor Suzanne Weber gets our vote for Oregon House District 32 representative.

Suzanne already has the experience. Before being elected mayor of Tillamook, she was a public school teacher and served as a representative and negotiator for her union. As retired educators, we know how valuable her qualifications are. This includes the ability to problem-solve.

Mayor Weber is opposed to excessive tax hikes, fees and regulations. She knows that cap and trade is nothing more than a hidden sales tax. She thinks the northwest corner of Oregon should decide its own priorities — something Rep. Tiffany Mitchell did not understand.

Weber is tuned in, and is all ready to go. She has our votes.

VICTORIA KERIN
SUZANNE IVERSON
Astoria

My colleague

Tom Brownson was my colleague on the Astoria City Council. No one could ask for a better city councilor. Tom studies each issue, talks to his constituents and understands the city

code and the ramifications of council decisions.

He is calm and deliberative, and believes in collaboration. He is well respected by his fellow council members, and was elected to serve as the council president.

Although I am not in his ward, I would urge Ward 2 voters to reelect Tom Brownson to the City Council. Astoria is the better for his leadership.

ARLINE LaMEAR
Astoria

Long haul

Can we count on House District 32 candidate Debbie-Boothe Schmidt? Or will she be just another Tiffany Mitchell, who will abandon our district when the going gets tough, or something better comes along?

A March 17 Banks Post article states “right now, she’s only looking ahead to serving one term.” She would consider running for reelection “depending on how things go.”

Depending on how things go? What does that even mean? Read her own words and judge for yourself. Direct quote: “If I think I can’t do the work that needs to be done, then it would be time for someone new to come along.”

Sounds an awful lot like Tiffany Mitchell to me. Sounds an awful lot like she is just another temporary hand-picked Portland candidate.

In contrast, her opponent, bipartisan Tillamook Mayor Suzanne Weber has lived in Tillamook for 50 years, taught at the same public school for 30 years, and has served as both city councilor and mayor for a solid 18 years.

This track record proves she is a fully committed person who knows how to solve problems, work with diverse populations and produce results. Results that take time

to develop and blossom over long periods through investments that she has made both locally and in Salem.

Unlike Mitchell and Boothe-Schmidt, Mayor Weber has never entertained a “Plan B Cut-and-Run Strategy” when the going gets tough.

Our district can trust Weber with our future, who is in it for the long haul. Not so with Boothe-Schmidt.

CYNTHIA MALKOWSKI
Seaside

Stumps don’t lie

If trees, like most run-of-the-mill vegetables, inhale carbon dioxide, and exhale oxygen, then it stands to reason that a few large old trees have sequestered more carbon than many a sapling.

And, every sapling has more potential to sequester carbon than an old stump. And, to carry this logic a step further, even a large old stump has sequestered more carbon than a two-by-four.

All human life stands upon the shoulders of our ancestors, and it is indisputable that even a stump has more value to mankind and our progeny than a two-by-four. We, unfortunately, have both trees and two-by-fours to burn.

May the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and grant you peace.

GARY DURHEIM
Seaside

Hindsight

They say “hindsight is 20/20.” Well, it is 2020 now. How we can make a better decision on Nov. 3 for our future? Let’s reflect back ...

Sadly, we have over 200,000 Americans dead due to COVID-19 with the delay, denial and distraction tactic of President Donald Trump; withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement (197 countries signed) designed to avoid climate change impacts globally, including food insecurity for the poorest nations; allowing infringement of our treasured national parks for corporate greed; no improvement in U.S. infrastructure as promised; no affordable health care plan, active dismantling of Obamacare, Medicare, Social Security; Roe vs. Wade in jeopardy; reduced taxes for billionaires, not us; disparaging our veterans as “suckers and losers”; plus other childish name-calling, blaming and behaviors unbecoming a U.S. president.

Hindsight is 20/20, so let’s learn from mistakes made. If you are not registered to vote, do so today. We need every thinking person’s vote, recognizing the change needed with this election for our democracy to survive.

Please join me and vote for a qualified presidential candidate, a person with years of experience with international leaders, a man of integrity, empathy and honesty who we can be proud of in the world arena.

Joe Biden will restore dignity to the office of president, and regain the respect America deserves. Biden and Kamala Harris will be working for us, not for their own self-aggrandizement. January 2021 we can look back with clarity of “20/20 vision” putting “united” back in America, not division. Building bridges, not walls.

LaREE JOHNSON
Astoria

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