

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

Opinion

EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE

CATHERINE J. ROURKE
 For the Siuslaw News

Cindy Wobbe



she said. "Throughout my childhood, I was keenly aware of the haves and the have-nots. I have vivid memories of preparing food boxes for delivery to low-income families."

This mentorship would inspire her lifelong dedication to help the less fortunate. While her list of philanthropic endeavors remains long and vast, Cindy prefers not to broadcast them. Instead, she just works quietly behind the scenes, much like her dad. Whether networking on behalf of those with catastrophic medical needs or collaborating with local organizations to provide triage medical services, sleeping bags, tarps and supplies for homeless people, she operates as an anonymous catalyst making miracles happen.

"The homeless population lacks many critical services," she said. "We should treat them like every other human being, even if they haven't had a shower in weeks. I don't need to know how they got where they are; I just want to provide resources for them. My dad always taught me to be willing to step out of the comfort zone."

Cindy has been no stranger to that as a single mom, business maverick and self-described "tenacious, make-it-happen woman." She also inherited her father's entrepreneurial streak, starting a secretarial service in Eugene at age 19. Cindy then expanded her enterprises with an answering service, a home décor business and an organizational consulting practice.

"I wanted to provide income for single working mothers," she said. "That's how I chose to serve humanity."

Cindy stepped out of that comfort zone again when the need arose to serve as a guardian and parent for her niece.

"Initially, I didn't plan on being a mother," she said. "However, sometimes an unplanned life makes for the best life of all."

That would eventually include a marriage and businesses in Florence. A job working as an administrator for Serenity Lane, a private, not-for-profit, substance-abuse treatment center in Eugene, brought her to Florence in 1996, serving as mediator for 275 patients at a local outpatient program.

"I look at my time there as instrumental in helping people navigate the system to access treatment," she said. "Understanding addictions still represents uncharted waters."

Cindy decided to make Florence her home after meeting her husband, Gene, a local professional land surveyor. But the avid cook, reader and gardener still dreamed of blending her entrepreneurial skills with a passion for serving others.

"I always wanted to open a cute little shop and restaurant," Cindy said. She would fulfill that vision in 1998 with the Mon Ami Cafe and Mercantile, the Mon Ami Annex and then Cindy Wobbe Estates Sales, helping people liquidate their estates during difficult transitions such as the loss of a spouse or downsizing in a move to an assisted living center.

While she has sold the café to Diane Marti, a single mom with four kids who is "continuing the Mon Ami service legacy," Cindy continues to run the estate sales and showrooms.



CATHERINE ROURKE

Cindy Wobbe is well known for her dedication to helping others.

Now, 20 years later, she and Gene share a "blended family" of four kids, seven grandkids and "a couple of 'bonus' kids we've picked up along the way who needed a safe place to land and a haven to call home." That also includes a rescue dog named "Bella."

In addition to her current role of mother, wife, stepmother, godmother and grandmother, Cindy describes herself as an entrepreneur, designer, writer, mentor and "idea girl." And let's not forget philanthropist. Yet she still has more dreams to fulfill.

"It's been a beautiful experience to live in this community and find meaning by helping others," Cindy

said. "I really want to find ways to employ young girls from local tribes. My other passion is to help local people access medical care where the doors are closed. I want everyone to have hope. The lack of that is the root of most of this world's ills. If I can inspire hope, then we're accomplishing something."

Catherine J. Rourke is an award-winning writer, journalist and book editor who teaches creative writing at the Florence Regional Arts Alliance. She may be contacted at CJReditor@gmail.com.

LETTERS

Farewell, Bob

A couple of great tributes to Bob Jackson in Saturday's paper ("A Man Named Bob," Jan. 9, A1). However, his other unique talent was not mentioned: his ability to draw sketches of anything and anybody on whatever was available, most often a paper napkin. He even had a booklet printed with some of his drawings.

Definitely one of those rare human beings that we were privileged to get to know and love. Farewell, Bob, you will be missed by many.

Jim and Lillian Swant
 Florence

Times have changed

"Just the Facts" (Dec. 16) is un-factual. The letter in question never mentioned Syrians. It stated that when the boats became overloaded the Muslims threw the Christians overboard and let them drown. Where they came from is irrelevant.

Also, there is no possible way to know who has been arrested or not. This has been going on for years. It is just as impossible to determine what an immigrant has been involved in or what they have in mind when they come from these turbulent countries.

The letter writer states, "This country has been built on the back of immigrants," but this is ancient history. Times have changed. We must become like Australia or New Zealand. Immigrants don't get in unless they have funds or skills the country needs.

Martin Cable
 Dunes City



Life as a 'Seenager'

I am a Seenager (senior teenager). I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 50 years later.

I don't have to go to school or work. I get an allowance every month. I have my own pad. I don't have a curfew.

I have a driver's license and my own car. I don't have acne. I have real ID that gets me into bars and the liquor store.

The people I hang around with are not scared

of getting pregnant. In fact, they aren't scared of much of anything; they have been blessed to live this long. Why be scared?

Brains of Seenagers work slower because we know so much. Seenagers do not decline mentally with age, it just takes us longer to recall facts because we have more information in our brains. Scientists believe this also makes us hard of hearing as it puts pressure on our inner ear. Much like a computer struggles as the hard drive gets full, so too, do Seenagers take longer to access information when our brains are full.

Researchers say this slowing down process is not the same as cognitive decline. The human brain works slower in Seenagers, say researchers, but only because we have stored more information over time.

The brains of Seenagers do not get weak. On the contrary, we simply know more.

Also, Seenagers often go to another room to get something and when we get there, we stand there wondering what we came for. It is not a memory problem, it is nature's way of making Seenagers do more exercise.

I would say more, but I don't recall what I wanted to say. So there!

Duane "Boomer" Wright
 Florence

LETTERS POLICY

Siuslaw News welcomes letters to the editor concerning issues affecting the Florence area and Lane County. Emailed letters are preferred. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed. All letters should be limited to about 300 words and must include the writer's full name, address and phone number for verification. 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. Libelous and anonymous letters as well as poetry will not be published. All submissions become the property of Siuslaw News and will not be returned.

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John Bartlett
 Jenna Bartlett
 Ryan Cronk
 Susan Gutierrez
 Cathy Dietz
 Ron Annis
 Jeremy Gentry

Publisher, ext. 327
 General Manager, ext. 318
 Editor, ext. 313
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 Press Manager

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WHERE TO WRITE

Pres. Barack Obama
 The White House
 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
 Washington, D.C. 20500
 Comments: 202-456-1111
 Switchboard: 202-456-1414
 FAX: 202-456-2461
 TTY/TDD Comments: 202-456-6213
www.whitehouse.gov

Gov. Kate Brown
 160 State Capitol
 900 Court St.
 Salem, OR 97301-4047
 Governor's Citizens' Rep.
 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/FAX: 202-228-3997
 541-465-6750

U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio (4th Dist.)
 2134 Rayburn HOB
 Washington, DC 20515
 202-225-6416/ 800-944-9603
 541-269-2609/ 541-465-6732
www.defazio.house.gov

State Sen. Arnie Roblan (Dist. 5)
 900 Court St. NE - S-417
 Salem, OR 97301
 503-986-1705

FAX: 503-986-1080
 Email:
Sen.ArnieRoblan@state.or.us

State Rep. Caddy McKeown
 (Dist. 9)
 900 Court St. NE
 Salem, OR 97301
 503-986-1409
 Email:
rep.caddymckeown@state.or.us

West Lane County Commissioner
 Jay Bozievich
 125 E. Eighth St.
 Eugene, OR 97401
 541-682-4203
 FAX: 541-682-4616
 Email:
Jay.Bozievich@co.lane.or.us