

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

# Opinion

## VIEW FROM UPRIVER



### Accept the challenge to make a difference

WESLEY VOTH  
 For the Siuslaw News

days we participated with others, or shared what our ideas were with a circle of friends — and this was a lot of fun.

Each day had a one-word prompt to give shape or inspiration. It was suggested that at least 10 minutes be spent and, of course, many of these took hours if my day allowed.

Today's prompt, the last day of November as I'm writing this, is "Thoughts."

And so I thought, what if — for each day of December — I came up with a cause, issue or an organization that I consider important? I could spend some time that day learning more about it, doing or planning something to make a difference.

Some of these could be local, some national, some bigger.

When I started the art challenge, I wondered what could I, not being particularly artistic, could make in 10 minutes that would bring me joy or some sense of satisfaction? (And also that I would have

to show myself or anyone else when I was done?)

Actually, I was surprised. Getting started is the biggest hurdle, and each day seemed easier. I am happy with the results in the end, feeling both more artistic and more appreciative of the work of those who devote their lives to it.

I would also say, in a nod to the business that put forth the art challenge, that it helps a great deal to have good quality art materials to work with.

And now, thinking about this "Cause Challenge" for myself for December, can this translate into doing something for my community, neighborhood or world that will matter?

In contemplating this I was inspired by a couple of quotes I found at the end of the new December issue of The Sun magazine, where there is a collection of quotes on a particular subject called "Sunbeams."

This month, the quotes are about changing society and making a difference:

"It's the action, not the fruit of the action, that's important. You have to do the right thing. It may not be in your power, may not be in your time, that

there'll be any fruit. But that doesn't mean you stop doing the right thing. You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no result."

— Mohandas K. Gandhi."

One fruit of Gandhi's efforts was being a prime inspiration for Martin Luther King, Jr., who in turn has been a great inspiration for me and countless others.

Another quote from the article that provided me inspiration was:

"A little difference is still different."

— Daniel Younger."

Daniel Younger's website describes him as the least-known bestselling author of "Delirious" and other titles.

I hope that by the end of December, I feel a better sense of the scope of the problems facing our time, and the efforts underway to do something about them — and by January have an idea of where I'd like to focus my efforts as I make my resolutions for the New Year.

I can start with an easy, but important one:

Read and make use of the editorial page of my local newspaper.

Here in Mapleton, it has been an incredibly long time since we have had a frost, or even temperatures in the 30s. Looking at NOAA data for Mapleton (the measuring devices are just upriver of the Mapleton Lion's Club buildings) I see that we haven't had temperatures in the low 30s since the first three days of this calendar year, making this the longest such stretch in my memory.

We had roses blooming in our yard until Thanksgiving.

Inspired by Florence's BeauxArts Fine Art Materials' "30 Day Art Challenge," the entire month of November was one long art project at our house. Some of the

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The 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 or poetry will not be published.

All submissions become the property of Siuslaw News and will not be returned.

Write to:

Editor@TheSiuslawNews.com

## LETTERS

### Can't accept the 'new normal'

I am having a lot of trouble accepting Donald Trump as my president. I heard his messages before he was elected and I'm not willing to accept what appeared to be a clear contempt for women; or his plans to remove those who came here from Mexico; or his plans to ban Muslims or any nationality he chooses from seeking sanctuary in this country.

He doesn't appear to be a mediator of problems; he just gets even with opponents.

We're being asked to trust him in his dealings with other nations while, at the same time, he has personal real estate dealings with many of those countries.

And how can we believe he is being honest when he seems to change his stance on issues

depending on where he's speaking or who he's speaking to? His rhetoric divided the country and encouraged hate and racism.

This is not the way I live and believe, and I just can't accept this as the "new normal" for my country or its people.

Nancy Rickard  
 Florence

### Celebrity president

I find it interesting that we have had a number of celebrities who have gone into the political arena.

I will start with Dwight "I Like Ike" Eisenhower in 1952, the first and only military celebrity to become president.

We've had two professional athletes: Bill Bradley, who played for the New York Knicks in the NBA and become a senator from New Jersey; and Jack Kemp, who was a quarterback in the AFL, NFL and CFL, that became a congressman from New York.

In California, we had our first senator from Hollywood, George Murphy, who was a song and dance man in movies. Then we had two actors with little talent but great success in politics: Ronald Reagan, who became governor of California and then President; and Arnold Schwarzenegger, who became governor of California.

There was also Sonny Bono, also from California, who became a Congressman.

Now, from the real estate world, we have Donald Trump.

I was familiar with Bradley and Kemp because I watched them play ball. I was also familiar with Murphy and Reagan from their old movies, Schwarzenegger for his action movies, and Bono from his TV show with Cher.

Who I did not know much about was Donald Trump, other than being a real estate investor with his name on buildings and being the star of his own "reality" TV show.

I have to wonder: Was it celebrity that won him the presidency?

Win Jolly  
 Florence



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