

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

Opinion

The First Amendment
Congress shall make no law respect-
ing 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 Govern-
ment 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

GET INVOLVED
Counselor Woodbury was a hero Monday night at the city counsel meet- ing when his vote made the proposed mural on the Central Lincoln Public Utility building a reality.
After years of work on this project it was almost lost. The Public Art Com- mittee had met the requirements of city codes and it would have been wrong to deny the mural at this late date.
We all like different kinds of art and there will be more opportunities to have a variety of art in the future. Get involved and work with the committee. Towns grow when they make an ef- fort to get out of the box. Florence has made huge changes these past years and it has all been for the better.
Thank you, also, to Counselors Green, Preisler and Woodbury for for- ward thinking and action.
—Nancy Rickard
Florence

SUICIDE SERIES CAN OPEN OUR COMMUNITIES TO TALKING
First, I want to thank the Siuslaw News and its collaboration with the *Cottage Grove Sentinel*, *The Creswell Chronicle* and *Newport News-Times* for taking the time to talk about a complex and hard topic: “suicide.”
This is an important topic that should be talked about.
My personal touch with suicide hap- pened in sixth grade when my older brother, Ben, who was in the eighth grade, choose to take his life. I wish that I would have known he was in so much pain. I didn’t understand the signs.
I still grieve everyday for his loss and wonder what he would have been like in high school; what kind of career he would have chosen. He’d have been a great dad and I think about the positive things he could have been.
But I also think about how his ac- tions have shaped me and how I have become as a result of it.
For those who experienced this sui- cide within your family, friends and community, you’re not alone and our stories are unique. Honor that person and remember them. It is ok to greave in different ways and stages. Do what works for you.
I want everyone to know they are loved, no matter what — even when we disagree. And if you are having a hard time, please talk to someone, make art, write — whatever it takes to express your feelings.
For those who shame people about this topic and say “You’re going to hell” for those thoughts, please take anoth- er look at this topic and don’t judge; you’re not in their shoes.
Thank you for the opportunity to share and for opening up our commu- nities to this discussion and in under- standing that we are more connected than we think we are.
—Jo Beaudreau
Florence

STREAM TEAM PROGRAM TEACHES IMPORTANT LESSONS
Thanks for the Siuslw News’ two- part series about the amazing Stream Team program (“New Direction For Stream Team,” March 20 and 23.)
The information brought a mea- sure of much needed relief. Just pri- or to reading your articles, I read “The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming,” by David Wallace-Wells. The book describes the series of disas- ters that confronts us due to climate change. Evidently, the terrible wildfires and smoke filled skies last summer are just the beginning, and much worse is yet to come.
The author points out that the extent of climate induced misery depends on how we, as human beings, respond to the challenges we face — challenges that will only increase the longer we do not act effectively. Several reviewers of the book noted that they felt discour- aged after reading and taking a look at the likely future, as did we. We felt helpless in the face of such a massive global event, an event that many have labeled an extinction event.
What can one do?

Then there was an answer. The Stream Team, local Tribes, the Water- shed District, STEP and ECO, children, adults and seniors, along with prop- erty owners, teachers and scientists, all working together toward the end of learning about and treating thought- fully the environment.
Thank you for your articles. Thank all of you for the work you are doing and have done, and for giving us a little bit of hope in the face of the dark times that loom just ahead.
Jim and Jane Pittenger
—Coos Bay
Formerly of Florence

TOTALLY DISMAYED BY VOTE
I attended the meeting Monday night at the FEC to hear the discussion on the proposed mural on Highway 126 as you enter Florence. I was totally dismayed when the City Council vote a “yea” instead of a “nay.”
But this morning I stand corrected on my thoughts; I thought they were voting on having that particular mural put up when, in fact they, were voting as to whether it met code.
The mural selected by the Public Art Committee is a hodgepodge of many “things” sort of recognizable — and many not so — in my opinion. It will also be very distracting to many as they drive by and try to figure out just what did they see.
It is not something pleasing to the eye by any means and I have to wonder, when there are so many things in and around our fair city that really would represent it, why did they select this of all the 123 applicants’ submissions?
If you really want to see some type of painting that would be both pleas- ant and pleasing to the eye and more in keeping with Florence surroundings, take a few minutes and go into the lobby of our Oregon Pacific Bank and view a beautiful painting.
It was also expressed at the meet- ing that the PAC was looking at many more spaces in Florence to add murals. I appreciate good art work, but I shud- der to think what Florence is going to look like with more “progressive” gra- fiti-type murals instead of murals more representative of our area — which I thought was the original idea.
As I said at the meeting, I know I have seen much better graffiti on rail- road boxcars.
—Tony Cavarno
Florence

HAVING AN IMPACT ON RECYCLING PLASTIC
The Plastic Roundup went very well on Saturday, March 30, at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall.
More people brought more plastic, and it was properly cleaned and sort- ed — for the most part. We had more volunteers, and more people got out of their cars and helped with whatever finishing touches were needed for their contributions to be accepted.
There were some laughs, and folks acknowledged they were learning.
More people said they were trying to buy fewer plastics, and more people said they were writing to manufactur- ers and other interested parties asking for easier-to-read recycling data, along with easier-to-remove adhesives.
Hooray!! We are having an impact!
Thank you to everyone who saved, cleaned, and sorted their plastic, and then brought it to the roundup.
We who planned and executed the event emerged tired but exhilarated by your engagement.
—Ivy Medow
Florence

PAY ATTENTION, BE INVOLVED BEFORE COMPLAINING
To those complaining that the pro- cess for selecting the mural for the PUD building wasn’t transparent, and to those talking negatively about the folks involved in the final decision — If you didn’t follow what was going on in our community regarding the mural by reading the newspaper, or subscribing to the City’s e-newsletter, or visiting the City’s website at least occasionally, or

attending a meeting, or actually being directly involved...then *please* at least read the Guest Viewpoint in the March 30 edition of the Siuslaw News (www. thesiuslawnews.com/article/mural-se- lection-result-of-long-public-process) written by Harlen Springer, Public Art Committee Chair. Init, he does the homework for you and outlines exactly how the mural was selected.
For better or worse, we have a re- presentative government. As a result, voters elected someone who, as a part of their duties, assigned/selected/con- firmed a volunteer to be on a commit- tee. As with most committees in a gov- ernment such as ours, that committee may make decisions regarding their area of responsibility — up to and in- cluding how to spend tax dollars when within established laws and/or guide- lines.
I’m not aware of any evidence of mal- feasance by any of the decision-makers in this instance.
Those who don’t like the mural... that’s fine; not everyone likes every piece of art in this community. But those who are unhappy with it have no one to blame but themselves for the fact that the mural got approved with- out their input. There was more than one opportunity to voice opinions and many failed to participate. That’s not an art issue; that’s a civic responsibility issue.
The moral of the story:
Pay attention.
Provide timely input.
Volunteer.
Participate in the process to effect change if you don’t like the way things are being done. Or run for office. Sit- ting on the sidelines complaining isn’t the kind of action that makes a differ- ence.
—Dolly Brock
Florence

THANKS TO COMMUNITY FOR LIBRARY SUPPORT
I wanted to write and say thank you for the article published in the Satur- day, March 30, edition of the *Siuslaw News* (“Showing Love For The Siuslaw Public Library.”) That article, about the temporary community art panels at the library, was a great tribute to the many community members who took the time to share their thoughts and art with the whole community.
People of all ages gave time to make something beautiful out of an act of vandalism.
In addition to the richly deserved thank-yous that already appeared in the article, I would like to thank the full Library Art Display Committee for its commitment to the library and to volunteering for public art. This group was instrumental in brainstorming a pop-up display that covered unsight- ly plywood and they put in the work needed to make sure something beau- tiful went up quickly.
Thank you, also, to members Maggie Bagon, Nicole Campanella, Joan Del- ano, Meredith Draper, Julie Golden, Cathy Lang, Julie Peake, Akos St. Clair, Moira Sadovy, and Jerry Schneider. Once the project was planned, Jerry also took the time to visit each local radio station and get the word out in a hurry. The wonderful Jo Beaudreau of BeauxArts Fine Art Materials and Gallery was characteristically generous with her valuable time. She also sup- plied the materials and guidance that made the project possible.
Our “honorary” committee member Stephanie Schneider gave much of her time and work to facilitate the creation and hanging of the panels.
Finally, thank you to everyone who has taken time to help create or view these special pieces of public art.
It has been a true gift to read and see what you wanted to share. I hope ev- eryone will have a chance to view this amaz- ing art before the windows are replaced on April 9!
—Meg Spencer
Library Director
Siuslaw Public Library

USPS# 497-660 Copyright 2019 © 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 Pub- lishers Association. Periodicals postage paid at Florence, Ore. Postmaster, send address changes to: Siuslaw News, P.O. Box 10, Florence, OR 97439; phone 541-997-3441; fax 541-997-7979. All press releases may be sent to PressReleases@TheSiuslawNews.com.

Jenna Bartlett
Ned Hickson
Susan Gutierrez
Cathy Dietz
Ron Annis
Jeremy Gentry

Publisher, ext. 318
Editor, ext. 313
Marketing Director, ext. 326
Office Supervisor, ext. 312
Production Supervisor
Press Manager

DEADLINES:
Wednesday Issue—General news, Monday noon; Budgets, four days prior to publica- tion; Regular classified ads, Monday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Monday noon; Display classified ads, Friday 5 p.m.
Saturday Issue—General news, Thursday noon; Budgets, two days prior to publication; Regular classified ads, Thursday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Thursday noon; Display classified ads, Wednesday 5 p.m. Soundings, Tuesday 5 p.m.

NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
In Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$79; 6-month in-county, \$56; 10-week subscrip- tion, \$25; Out of Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$102; 6-month out-of-county, \$69; 10-week subscription, \$35; Out of State — 1-year subscription, \$134; E-Edition Online Only (Anywhere) — 1-year subscription, \$65.
Mail subscription includes E-Edition.
Website and E-Edition: TheSiuslawNews.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Siuslaw News welcomes letters to the edi- tor as part of a community discussion of issues on the local, state and national level.
Emailed letters are preferred. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed. All letters need to include full name, address and phone number; only name and city will be printed. Letters should be limited to about 300 words. Letters are sub- ject to editing for length, grammar and clarity. Publication of any letter is not guaranteed and depends on space available and the volume of let- ters received.
Letters that are anonymous, libelous, argumen- tative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or documented will not be published.
Letters containing poetry or from outside the Siuslaw News readership area will only be pub- lished at the discretion of the editor.

POLITICAL/ELECTION LETTERS:

Election-related letters must address pertinent or timely issues of interest to our readers at-large. Letters must 1) Not be a part of letter-writing campaigns on behalf of (or by) candidates; 2) En- sure any information about a candidate is accu- rate, fair and not from second-hand knowledge or hearsay; and 3) Explain the reasons to support candidates based on personal experience and perspective rather than partisanship and cam- paign-style rhetoric.
Candidates themselves may not use the letters to the editor column to outline their views and platforms or to ask for votes; this constitutes paid political advertising.
As with all letters and advertising content, the newspaper, at the sole discretion of the publish- er, general manager and editor, reserves the right to reject any letter that doesn’t follow the above criteria.

Email letters to:
nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com

WHERE TO WRITE

PRES. DONALD TRUMP
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

OREGON GOV.
KATE BROWN
160 State Capitol
900 Court St.
Salem, Ore. 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
www.merkley.senate.gov

U.S. REP. PETER DEFazio
(4TH DIST.)
2134 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-6416
503-269-2609
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@
oregonlegislature.gov

STATE REP.
CADDY MCKEOWN
(DIST. 9)
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1409
Email: rep.caddymckeown
@oregonlegislature.gov

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