

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

Opinion

“I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend.” —Thomas Jefferson (1800)



We all have a role in reducing, preventing child abuse

(Editor’s Note: *This is the second in a series of Guest Viewpoints regarding the 90by30 program and a month-long focus on reducing and preventng child abuse and neglect during the month of April.*)

The 90by30 project Child Abuse Prevention Project endeavors to reduce child abuse and neglect in Lane County 90 percent by the year 2030. This goal can be achieved by inspiring everyone in our community to take action to support parents and families, and ensure that all youth are safe, nurtured and connected.

When community members take positive action, families are supported and youth are connected, child abuse and neglect is prevented. A connected child is a protected child. But how do we make sure all kids are safe and families are supported in our community?

Each of us has a role to play in the lives of youth. For example, local business efforts to assist families are am-

plified when they extend contribution opportunities to their employees and customers. Senior citizens can play a role in the lives of Lane County youth by passing on their wisdom, time and talents to younger generations.

GUEST VIEWPOINT By Allison Bitner 90by30

Educators play a critical role in the lives of our youth because they act on the front lines, working with children as key role models in their lives. The positive impact of these educator-student relationships extends far beyond the confines of the classroom.

The role of family members is similarly significant; family members can provide non-judgmental support that can mean a world of difference to parents and children who turn to them for help.

In the same vein as family members,

trusted friends are important allies who help parents who may be experiencing a spectrum of emotions that come along with parenthood, from feeling scared and overwhelmed to proud and joyous.

Caring neighbors play a major role in the lives of our youth as well by keeping our neighborhoods safe, healthy and family-friendly, thus children feel cared for and parents feel supported.

Who else has a role in the lives of our youth? Faith communities, nonprofit and civic organizations, healthcare providers, first responders, youth activity leaders, youth and teens and parents. In other words, we *all* have a role to play in the lives of our youth, because a connected child is a protected child.

The public is encouraged to attend an open house event on Saturday, April 27, at Siuslaw Middle School, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., to meet community partners and learn about strategies being implemented in our region by 90by30.

LETTERS

THE ‘WALL THAT HEALS’ DOES

Rand Dawson’s Letter to the Editor, “Wall Partly A ‘Whitewash’ Over Fuller Vietnam Truth” (April 13) caught me completely off guard. How could anyone, other than someone with an entirely negative view of America, form the notion that anything that has brought comfort to millions constitutes a “whitewash.”

All wars are caused by political deceit and ineptitude. ‘Truth’ is the first casualty in any war and has become unrecognizable by the time the first shot is fired.

Since ‘truth’ appears paramount to Mr. Dawson, perhaps he should begin by stating that Democrats Truman, Kennedy and Johnson were the escalators of the conflict. Truman in 1950 with aid to the French; Kennedy increasing troops to 16,000, supporting Diem’s assassination; and Johnson’s massive build up necessitating gutting Social Security to pay for both guns and butter.

In the interest of fairness, Eisenhower did send 700 or so advisers. Eisenhower warned us in his farewell add of the Military Industrial Complex. Kennedy ignored the British, who had tamed Malaysia and Charles de Gaulle, who warned U.S. involvement would result in “endless entanglement.”

Panel 3E, Row 56: Lt. John Lance Geoghegan. Army. KIA Nov 15, 1965. Ia Drang Valley. Attempting to save one of his injured men.

His daughter is 54 this year. She never knew her dad. I didn’t know Jack, but I know his story. Each time

I visit the wall, I touch his name and hope his family is at peace with his sacrifice.

“It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived.” —George S. Patton

If one gives any credence to the Domino Theory, there are hundreds of millions living in freedom today who might otherwise be broken by the yoke of totalitarian government.

More than 3 million people visit the Wall every year from all over the world. Nearly half a million people have left mementos, some by Vietnamese refugees and boat people.

“The Wall That Heals” does.

—Ian Eales
Florence

PUT PLANNING COMMISSION BACK INTO ART SELECTION

How fortunate we are to live in such a beautiful community surrounded by trees, beaches, rivers and the magnificent Central Oregon Coast. You couldn’t ask for more. With so many individuals located here with diversified artistic talent, the idea of exhibiting local artwork reflecting our community in appropriate areas here in Florence is a fantastic idea.

It was evident that the Public Art Committee (PAC) invested many hours of time and effort on this project, and they are to be commended for their efforts.

With that said, what a disappointment it was for many of us at the March 18 City Council Meeting

to discover that those who came to express their feelings that the mural was not a reflection of our community really weren’t heard.

This was, in fact, not the purpose of the meeting at all, but actually just for final approval of the land use.

Until the actual photo was published in the *Siuslaw News*, we believe that many people were not aware that the artwork had already been chosen. Most believed they had a say (pro or con) on the content of the mural.

This was evidenced by the sizable turnout at the meeting requiring a larger venue.

After the meeting, it was obvious that whatever we felt about the content didn’t matter.

Going forward, we feel the City Council needs to modify the approval process to include an opportunity for *all* the community to have a say on the artistic content of future proposed art displayed. The final selection process should not be limited to a few (three committee members and two at-large members.) Perhaps it’s time to return the Planning Commission back in the final selection, with appropriate information published in advance in the various medias.

We need to be more transparent with the community, especially those without access to the city website.

—Ray and Susan Grewe
Florence

The First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting 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 Government for a redress of grievances.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Siuslaw News welcomes letters to the editor 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 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.

Letters that are anonymous, libelous, argumentative, 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 published 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) Ensure any information about a candidate is accurate, 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 campaign-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 publisher, general manager and editor, reserves the right to reject any letter that doesn’t follow the above criteria.

Email letters to:
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