

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

# Opinion

**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.

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



USPS# 497-660 Copyright 2020 © 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 Publishers 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

Publisher, ext. 318  
 Editor, ext. 313  
 Multimedia Sales Director, ext. 326  
 Office Supervisor, ext. 312  
 Production Supervisor

**DEADLINES:**

Wednesday Issue—General news, Monday noon; Budgets, four days prior to publication; 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 subscription, \$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 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:  
[nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com](mailto:nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com)

**WHERE TO WRITE**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>PRES. DONALD TRUMP</b><br>The White House<br>1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW<br>Washington, D.C. 20500<br>Comments: 202-456-1111<br>Switchboard: 202-456-1414<br>FAX: 202-456-2461<br>TTY/TDD Comments:<br>202-456-6213<br><a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov">www.whitehouse.gov</a> | <b>U.S. REP. PETER DEFazio</b><br>(4TH DIST.)<br>2134 Rayburn HOB<br>Washington, DC 20515<br>202-225-6416<br>541-269-2609<br>541-465-6732<br><a href="http://www.defazio.house.gov">www.defazio.house.gov</a>                              |
| <b>OREGON GOV. KATE BROWN</b><br>160 State Capitol<br>900 Court St.<br>Salem, Ore. 97301-4047<br>Governor's Citizens' Rep.<br>Message Line:<br>503-378-4582<br><a href="http://www.oregon.gov/gov">www.oregon.gov/gov</a>  | <b>STATE SEN. ARNIE ROBLAN</b><br>(DIST. 5)<br>900 Court St. NE - S-417<br>Salem, OR 97301<br>503-986-1705<br>FAX: 503-986-1080<br>Email: <a href="mailto:Sen.ArnieRoblan@oregonlegislature.gov">Sen.ArnieRoblan@oregonlegislature.gov</a> |
| <b>U.S. SEN. RON WYDEN</b><br>221 Dirksen Senate<br>Office Bldg<br>Washington, DC 20510<br>202-224-5244<br>541-431-0229<br><a href="http://www.wyden.senate.gov">www.wyden.senate.gov</a>  | <b>STATE REP. CADDY MCKEOWN</b><br>(DIST. 9)<br>900 Court St. NE<br>Salem, OR 97301<br>503-986-1409<br>Email: <a href="mailto:rep.caddymckeown@oregonlegislature.gov">rep.caddymckeown@oregonlegislature.gov</a>                           |
| <b>U.S. SEN. JEFF MERKLEY</b><br>313 Hart Senate Office Bldg<br>Washington, DC 20510<br>202-224-3753<br>FAX: 202-228-3997<br>541-465-6750<br><a href="http://www.merkley.senate.gov">www.merkley.senate.gov</a>  | <b>WEST LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER JAY BOZIEVICH</b><br>125 E. Eighth St.<br>Eugene, OR 97401<br>541-682-4203<br>FAX: 541-682-4616<br>Email: <a href="mailto:Jay.Bozievich@co.lane.or.us">Jay.Bozievich@co.lane.or.us</a>                    |

## Some of the best curriculum comes through local partnerships

**(Editor's Note: Viewpoint submissions on this and other topics are always welcome as part of our goal to encourage community discussion and exchange of perspectives.)**

On Friday, Feb. 21, the students of Siuslaw Middle School and Siuslaw High School were treated to a special presentation by guest speaker Kevin Alter.

This presentation was an opportunity for students to hear not only the dangers of drug addiction from someone that has experienced that tragedy and is now helping others in their recovery, but also to never start down the path to addiction.

Mr. Alter's real-life account was gripping and powerful for all who were present.

The follow up conversations with students on the gym floor at the end were genuine and heartfelt.

Many times, some of the best curriculum enhancements and messages come to the school through partnerships in cooperation with local businesses

**GUEST VIEWPOINT**  
**By Andrew Grzeskowiak,**  
**Superintendent**  
**Siuslaw School District**

and civic groups.

Mr. Alter's presentation would not have been possible without the dedicated work of several individuals in the community and the financial backing of PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Hospital, Soroptomist International of Florence, Florence Elks Lodge 1858, Kiwanis Club of Florence, Rotary Club of Florence and The Shippin' Shack.

When you are out and about, please take time to thank any-

one you might know from these community organizations and businesses for their part in helping to deliver a unique and positive learning experience to the students.

This effort led to students hearing a great message on a critical topic that could impact their future beyond school and for years to come.

At times, all it takes is the idea of one person — and some leg work — to get a great idea off the ground. One middle school parent, Jennifer Lindell, is also appreciated for her efforts to spearhead the planning and logistics for Mr. Alter's presentation for the students.

Additional information on Kevin Alter, his personal journey and his efforts to help those recovering from substance abuse can be found on his website, The Addict's Diary, at [www.theaddictsdiary.com](http://www.theaddictsdiary.com).

**LETTERS**

**NOT 'PROPAGANDA' TO VALUE LIFE**

In response to the Letters to the Editor in the Feb. 26 edition of the *Siuslaw News* regarding "propaganda" at the FEC indoor garage sale with the participation of Oregon Right To Life:

It is *not* propaganda to value life.

Pro-life was at the event to sell its wares. In order to do so, we need to educate and raise awareness for the need to be advocates for those who cannot speak for themselves — the unborn.

Therefore, the necessity of having models of babies in-utero was a must. There were also babies at different stages of development for children to hold.

I can't believe or understand how someone could be "horried" or "offended" at the beauty of life in a womb as this is how we all began.

There were pregnant mothers lifting their children to show them at what stage in development their brother or sister is that will soon be born. There were also mothers and fathers showing their children how they looked inside their mommy's tummy before they were born.

The group sold more than 100 bracelets, 50 doll babies and numerous T-shirts. Our group was, thankfully, given numerous donations to keep up the good work — plus many "thumbs up"

for being at the FEC.

To state that "many were horried" is wrong. While giving out happy-face stickers and balloons, I did not see one "horried" or "offended" child — just lots of smiles.

We should remember, as a friend of mine told me today: "When you're pregnant with your child, or your child is pregnant with your grandchild, we celebrate the new life as a baby."

When, then, does it change to only being a fetus?

Thanks for the support of those who value life; we'll pray for those who don't.

—RoNelle Kuert  
 Florence Chapter Coordinator  
 Oregon Right to Life

