

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)



Florence Earth Day Committee Proclamation

(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.)

To the citizens of the City of Florence for Earth Day, April 22, 2021:

WHEREAS, when life around the world returns to normal, we have the ability to make a difference in every industry, Restore Our Earth focuses on natural processes, emerging green technologies and innovative thinking that can restore the world's ecosystems, and

WHEREAS, Restore Our Earth encompasses goals and actions including reforestation, regenerative agriculture and sustainable food,

plastic cleanups, climate literacy, and citizen science, and

WHEREAS we have the ability to make lasting changes by cutting and capturing carbon, restoring the health and resilience of our planet and people, and

GUEST VIEWPOINT Florence Earth Day Committee Submitted by Tina Haydel

WHEREAS more than 1 billion people in 192 countries now participate in Earth Day activities each year, making it the largest civic observance in the world, and

WHEREAS Restoration is imperative to fighting climate change and

making the Earth a safer, healthier, and more equitable place to live for all its inhabitants

THEREFORE WE, the Florence Earth Day Committee and the undersigned Florence Area Residents, proclaim April 22, 2021, as Earth Day throughout Florence and encourage all to use Earth Day and every day to celebrate and protect the earth and its inhabitants.

*Florence Earth Day Committee
Florence Climate Emergency Campaign: Florence Indivisible, Florence Area Democratic Club, Elders Climate Action-Oregon — Leonora Kent, Ivy Meadow, Ray and Beverly Sherrill, Rick and Darlene Norwood, Meris Robison and Julie Ellis.*

LETTERS

WHAT THE HECK IS WRONG WITH US?

With all the recent and past horror of mass shootings comes the call for action on guns. It happens every time there is another horrendous incident.

To be honest, I have no earthly idea just what can be done effectively to stop this carnage. There are nearly 400 million guns in this country, and they are not going away. What I really want to know is why we, as a nation, kill so many people with guns?

Aside from those countries at war, or engaged in the industry of supplying our appetite for illicit drugs, we are the gun violence capital of the world.

The combined populations of Sweden, France, Spain, Norway, Poland, Germany and the United Kingdom roughly equals the population of the United States. Yet the total average number of gun deaths per year in all of these countries is approximately 3,800.

The total right here at home? More than 39,000!

What the heck is wrong with us?

—Jimmie Zinn
Florence

society.

The Lane Educational Service District (ESD) is the part of our public school system that works with all 16 Lane County districts to provide all students with access to special services, including career exploration and early college credits.

By sharing and pooling resources, we keep the cost low — a win-win for all children and the adults in charge.

On May 18, we'll have the chance to continue growing the best parts of our system by re-electing Rose Wilde to the Lane ESD board. Rose is highly respected for her strong commitment to the job of a board member for the past eight years, and for six years as member of the Lane County Budget Committee.

Rose Wilde was born in rural Lane County. She comes to Florence often to work with partners and community leaders.

Our children and youth are fortunate to have such a dedicated advocate.

—Karin Radtke
Florence

SCHOOL BOARD NEEDS EXPERIENCED EDUCATOR

As a long-time citizen of Florence, I am proud to support Maureen Miltenberger for Siuslaw School Board Position 4.

Maureen is a career educator, administrator and public servant who understands every child deserves a well-rounded education; she sees the big picture and is committed to getting parents and students involved in decision making processes.

Maureen is no stranger to working with people from all backgrounds — the haves and the have nots. Maureen's voice and actions are grounded in inclusivity to help each student fulfill his, her or their potential.

For these reasons, I will be voting for Maureen Miltenberger.

—Sally Wantz
Florence

WHEN IS ENOUGH GUN VIOLENCE ENOUGH?

After a string of mass shootings over the last several weeks that is still continuing, we have seen at least four more mass shootings since April 15. In Indiana, Nebraska, Wisconsin and Texas.

Where is the outrage? When is enough, enough? Most mass shooters use AR-15-like guns as their weapon of choice. These weapons of war are built for combat and are designed to kill as many people as possible in the shortest amount of time.

A homeowner does not need a weapon of war to protect himself or herself; a hunter does not need a weapon of war to shoot wildlife.

We have lost 12,398 souls to gun violence in 2021 as I write this. The odds are good this number will increase by the time this letter is published — and still, Congress does nothing.

We need an assault weapon ban, a license to own a gun, and a requirement for every gun to be registered.

—Marybeth Marenco
Florence

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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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