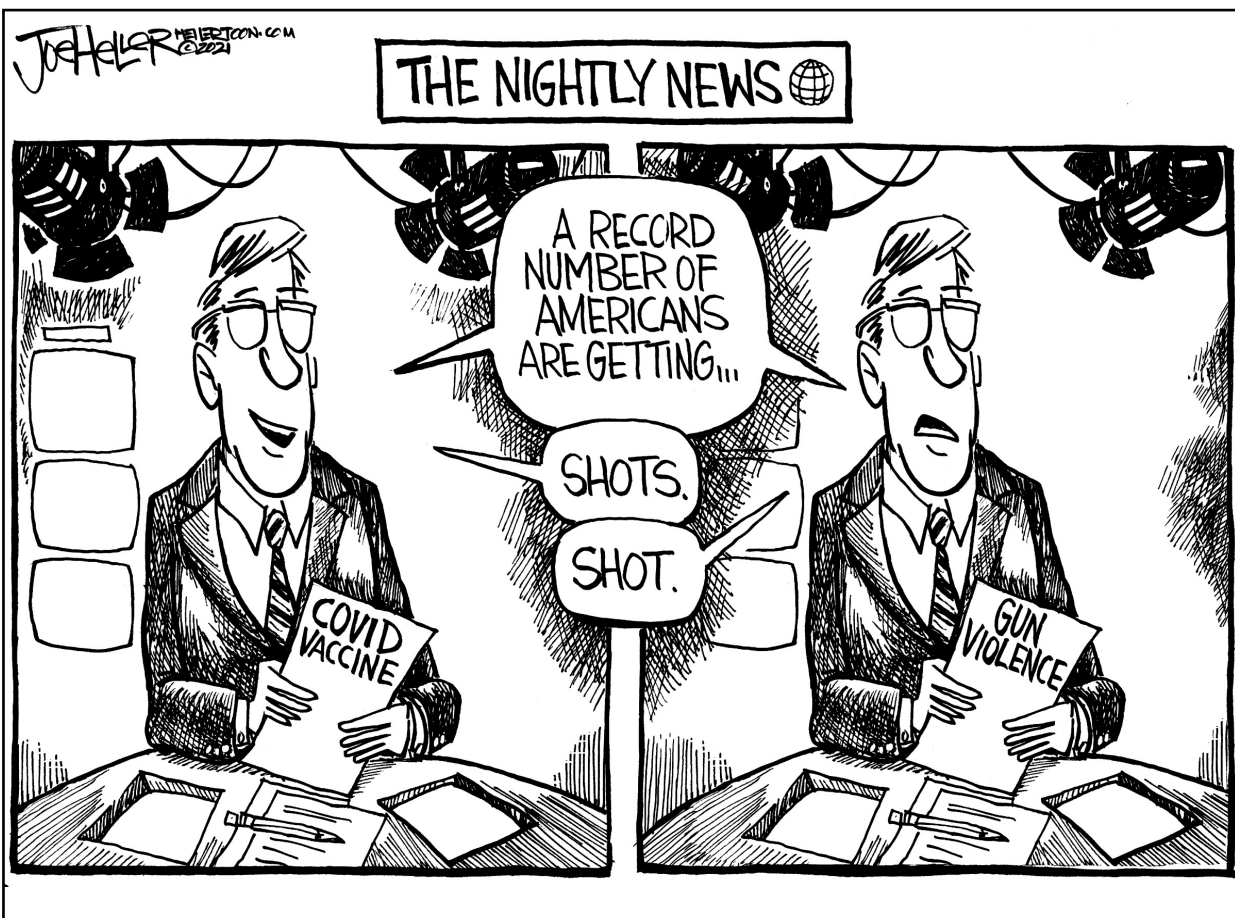


Siuslaw News
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Opinion

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)



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Siuslaw News

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LETTERS

MILTENBERGER FOR SCHOOL BOARD

I will be voting for Maureen Miltenberger for Siuslaw School Board Position 4.

Maureen and I met in 2018, shortly after I retired from a career in various marketing/sales administrative positions. I moved in with family and love it here in Florence.

I am an aunt to two nephews who graduated from Siuslaw High School. It is important to me that Maureen will bring a variety of administrative experience to our school board as I know how important that is. It is also important to have someone on the board who has spent time in the classroom.

Maureen began teaching in Yachats in 1970 after graduating from Oregon State University with a BA in Elementary Teaching. She spent several years substitute teaching and tutoring in a variety of school districts, most

recently for Siuslaw schools.

As an administrator, Maureen was executive director of a Community Action Agency in Idaho that oversaw Head Start, food banks and other assistance programs.

As a board member, I know Maureen will work hard with other board members to see that each student in the district receives a well-rounded, science-based education regardless of their cultural or economic background or learning capabilities.

She will also use her educational and administrative knowledge of working with people of all backgrounds in an effort to meet and achieve the goals outlined in the Superintendent Goals — 2020-23.

I am voting for Maureen to the school board for the children and their future.

—Sheila Evans
 Florence

SUPPORTING MARTINDALE FOR SCHOOL BOARD

It is an honor to write this letter of support for Larry Martindale, who is a valued friend and colleague.

I have had the pleasure of working with Larry when he was the principal of Siuslaw Middle School. He always placed the students first and foremost and made sure his staff had the necessary tools to do what was in the best interests of the students.

I know him as being: truthful, honest, straight forward, hard working, dedicated, passionate, knowledgeable, intelligent — and all accomplished with integrity.

Larry Martindale will make an excellent school board member for the Siuslaw School District.

—Boomer Wright
 Reedsport

Reflections on the City's new workplan

(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.)

I read with interest the City Workplan for the next two years adopted by the Florence City Council at its April 19 meeting. My prime interest was in finding reference to a subcommittee for the Environmental Management Advisory Committee (EMAC) dedicated to the climate, one that I and many other environmental activists both on and off the EMAC requested.

I did not find one.

I then looked for an a community based commission dedicated to creating a comprehensive climate action plan, one that I and 384 people including Florence residents, area residents and visitors to Florence requested on a petition.

I did not find one.

It's an understatement to say that I'm very disappointed, but not disheartened. I did see a glimmer of hope with two items in the work plan that followed our requests for climate solutions.

One is an objective under Sustainability & Conservation (page 33):

"Research opportunities and analyze financial feasibility to capture and utilize methane at the Wastewater Treatment Plant."

This objective is assigned to the EMAC's Bio-Solids subcommittee. Our original recommendation was that this initiative be assigned to a separate Sustainability Subcommittee since methane is one of the worst greenhouse gas emissions and needs a focused attention. I hope you take

that under consideration.

Another positive climate related initiative is found under City Facilities (page 29). It is a task for City Hall updates:

"Pursue opportunities to support public electric vehicle charging options."

GUEST VIEWPOINT

By Michael Allen
 Florence Climate Emergency Campaign Founder

This task is one that is assigned to Public Works under Director Mike Miller, along with other climate related initiatives that have already been completed such as solar/wind powered lighting.

I believe this task is a great first step in demonstrating a commitment to supporting the ever increasing use of electric vehicles. I urge the City of Florence to consider our original request to expand the installation of public charging stations, particularly along the Coastal Highway. Again, we recommend a separate Sustainability Committee be created with a focus on looking for funds that will be available to support a much needed EV infrastructure.

These two new climate initiatives join several others already promoted by EMAC that include Tree City, bio-solids and composting. Each of them contributes to mitigating or reducing green house gas emissions.

What puzzles me is why the leaders of our city government and our "environment" committee refuse to acknowledge that they are supporting actions that address our climate

emergency.

One disappointment was found in Community Outreach & Communications. I saw no objectives that came close to what we proposed regarding the involvement of community members in a Sustainability Committee. A suggestion would be to include well thought out climate questions in the work plan objective for "a community attitudes survey."

A head in the sand attitude by city leaders rose to another level when several EMAC members obstructed an attempt by their fellow committee members to move forward. Their failure to attend the special session on climate was strongly condemned by Councilor Sally Wantz. She also reported that the vice chair and one other EMAC member asked that the committee be dissolved.

None of these actions were condemned by Mayor Henry or other councilors. Instead, he suggested it was okay since their lack of interest and attendance reflected the earlier deliberations of the committee. He forgot this is a new committee with a new perspective.

This outrageous behavior did not go unnoticed by the community on social media, nor did it go unreported in local media including *Siuslaw News*, KCST Coast Radio and our community radio station KXCR.

Most recently, the *Register-Guard* sent a photographer from Eugene to cover our 83rd Climate Strike held last Friday, which drew 20 strikers.

Attention to Florence's reluctance to acknowledge and act on the climate emergency is gaining attention well beyond our boundary.

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 un-sourced 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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