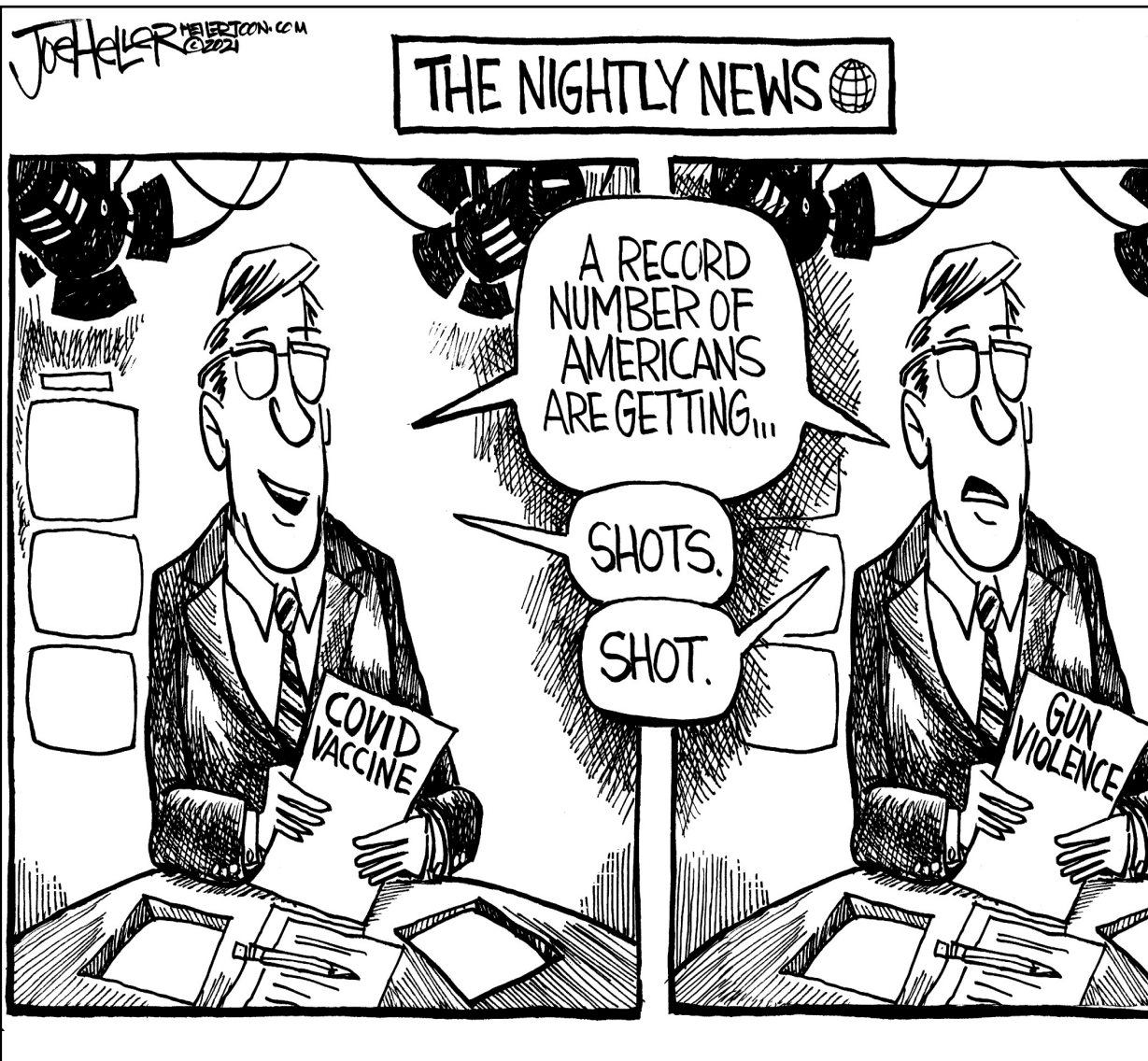


Siuslaw News
 P.O. Box 10
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Opinion

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 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that are anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are un-sourced or documented will not be published.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:
nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com

LETTERS

VOTING FOR ROSE WILDE FOR LANE ESD

In this election, experience counts. Having our schools hit the ground running as they re-open is crucial for the success of our kids and community.

The special election in May has many school board positions on the ballot.

I am watching for my ballot and will vote to support our schools by choosing Rose Wilde for Lane Education Service District.

Re-electing Rose Wilde for the at-large position on the Lane ESD Board means keeping her experience on the board to support expanded career and technical education opportunities and effective advocacy at the state and county levels for each of our districts.

Remembre: The deadline to submit your ballot is May 18.

—Kaki Burruss
 Deadwood

NEED TO UTILIZE RESOURCES FOR HOME-GROWN ISSUES

We have always reached out to other nations to give our monetary support to give our other countries who have gone through famine and wars.

Now, we have what I will call "Goodie Two Shoes."

These are the organizations and individuals that overlook what is happening in our country and put all their effort into trying to save other countries by what they think is doing good.

We have wonderful organizations like UNICEF and CARE. We have high profile individuals who have established schools in Africa and supported efforts in devastated countries like Haiti.

What organizations and individuals have overlooked is the place they live is the help that is needed at home.

Open your eyes and discover we have starving families and children, homeless people, individuals that have been denied their right to vote, and those not able to get education or to be able to go out to play due to violence on their streets.

I call it Two Shoes one step at a time when we have reformed our nation as *one* we may be able to make the other step.

—Win Jolley
 Florence

VOTING LACOUTURE FOR SCHOOL BOARD SEAT

If you have ever been to a student athletic event you will know that Brian Lacouture was there cheering on each and every local student.

Rain or shine, he has been a mainstay of support for the students of Siuslaw and the youth of our community. He has quietly volunteered and has been a part of a myriad of service projects benefiting Florence and individuals in our community.

I am excited that he has decided to serve on the Siuslaw School Board.

I have known Brian for over 17 years and we have rubbed shoulders on many youth and service activities along the coast. Brian truly cares about kids. He not only gets to know their names and their interests, but he remembers. He is one of the hardest working individuals I know and yet he finds time to selflessly helps others whenever needed.

Brian and his wife, Ann, currently have four children in the Siuslaw School District. I believe that this is an important qualification for those serving on the school board.

He believes that education should be the priority and will work to ensure that students here will receive the best education possible. Brian

has — and will — continue to work with parents who have children affected by the decisions of the school board and will strive to get input from as many as possible before making a decision.

Brian Lacouture believes that current educational expectations of our youth are too low. By raising those expectations, kids will be better equipped for future success and achievement regardless of their career path.

I am grateful for those who volunteer and serve on the various committees in our community.

I am voting for Brian Lacouture, Siuslaw School Board.

—Brian Holmes
 Florence

COMMUNITY SUPPORT OF HABITAT PAINT DRIVE

Thank You multiplied by 296!

Our Florence community support made the Habitat for Humanity April Paint Drive a success!

I am happy to report that we collected 296 gallons of paint that could have otherwise ended up in the landfill. Paint donated to Florence Habitat ReStore is screened for condition and, if still usable, is sold in our ReStore helping to further the mission of Florence Habitat.

If the paint is not usable, it is then safely recycled. We always accept donations of household paints, primers and stains at ReStore year-round during normal business hours.

For more information, please visit www.florencehabitat.org or stop by the Habitat ReStore at 2016 Highway 101.

—Ivy Rash
 Admin Assist. Florence Habitat for Humanity

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