

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)

THIS WEEKEND IN WISCONSIN



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Siuslaw News

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Siuslaw News

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Office Hours:
 Monday to Thursday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Friday: 8 a.m. to noon

LETTERS

VOTE FOR WOMEN

My wife and I were going over the ballot received this weekend. After a lot of reading and talking with people who have more extensive knowledge of many of the candidates than we do, I figured there's an easy formula to follow, that I think will be best for all of us.

Left side of the ballot: *Vote For Women*

The only contested race with no women: Community College District 5. The best bet to represent us to ensure the quality of education and attention to fiscal responsibility: Steve Mital

None of the middle or right column offices on the ballot are contested.

In addition, I'm very pleased that Maureen Miltenberger is running. A parent, a former elected official, extremely knowledgeable — she's an indefatigable volunteer and has been immensely involved in community betterment for decades. We're lucky to have her.

—Frank Smith
 Florence

CREATIVITY, EXPERIENCE NEEDED FOR LCC BOARD

I have known Mark Boren for a couple of years. He was born and raised in Lane County and raised a family in the Fern Ridge area. I noticed that he is passionate about education and training.

He is currently Chairman of the Board of Fern Ridge School District, so I was excited when he told me he was running for position 1 on the Lane Community College Board of Education.

As a Firefighter/EMT by profession and specifically a Training Officer, he began as a volunteer and continued for six years while working as an Instructional Assistant in Special Education for the Lane Education Service District.

Mark believes that LCC is primed to support the Career Technical Education needs of the ever-growing programs in the local school districts. We need someone who can hit the ground running.

Too often, people run for the Lane Community College Board as a political stepping-stone.

Not Mark.
 Lane Community College is a place where he can add creativity and experience to helping instructors, students and their families succeed.

—Sherry Harvey
 Florence

SNEDDON IS INFORMED CHOICE FOR SCHOOL BOARD

I have known Kady Sneddon for about 15 years and worked beside her on multiple projects for the benefit of the community.

She is intelligent, capable and works hard to accomplish whatever task before her. I was thrilled to see she was willing to serve on the Siuslaw School District Board.

As a lifelong resident of Florence and graduate of Siuslaw schools, Kady has an informed perspective to bring to the school board. In addition, as a mother of a first-grade student at Siuslaw, she has direct knowledge of the challenges faced by students and she is vested and committed to long term success for the district.

Kady's stated priorities include fiscal oversight, increasing career education opportunities and addressing technological inequalities for teachers and students. As a small business owner, she is proficient at budgeting, managing staff and thinking creatively to solve problems.

She also understands the daily difficulties experienced by working parents of school-aged children.

I feel Kady Sneddon will bring a welcome perspective to the Siuslaw School Board. Her strengths in collaboration and building partnerships will effectively serve the district and local students.

I am proud to vote for Kady.
 —Susy Lacer
 Florence

LACOUTURE KNOWS THE ISSUES AT HAND

This year we get the opportunity to vote for Brian Lacouture for the school board.

Brian has four kids and they attend all three schools in our district. As a parent, Brian knows what it takes to raise kids in our school district and what things might need to improve; he is close to the issues at hand.

Brian is one who is always volunteering and getting things done. In 2012, I was working with the city to help improve the 18th Street Park. After all the grants, fundraising and ordering the equipment, Brian was the first to volunteer to get the park put up; he made it happen.

Brian has volunteered with my husband for years within our church, scouts and even as a soccer coach. He has a love for the youth and always wants the best for them. If you are ever close to

the stadium during an event, you will hear Brian yelling and cheering the youth on.

I believe Brian will be an excellent choice for school board. He cares about the kids in our school district, especially because four of them are his. He gets things done and knows how to work hard; he knows how to uplift and encourage the youth.

Your ballot was just mailed to you, look for it and take the time to vote.

—Erin Linton
 Florence

RE ELECT A CHAMPION FOR STUDENTS, FAMILIES

As a member of the Lane Education Service District Board, I have been privileged to work with Rose Wilde, a dedicated and innovative advocate for students and their families.

Rose Wilde has shown incredible leadership skills, as a Chair of the LESD Board, member of the Legislative Policy Committee for the Oregon School Board Association and now, as Chair of Oregon Association of ESDs, where she co-founded the Equity and Racial Task Force.

She has trained school board members from across the state at our conventions and seminars.

Before Rose joined the Lane ESD Board eight years ago, she had already demonstrated her deep care and compassion for children and families, working with the 90-by-30 organization, where she connected with many of our Florence community members, as well as Womenspace in Eugene.

Rose carried that compassion forward in her board work to ensure success for all of our K-12 students in Lane County, no matter what their background.

Her newest priority is expanding Career and Technical Education services to give an opportunity for all students to train for a living wage job.

Rose Wilde has eight years of work experience for the Lane ESD board, as well as significant connections at the state level. She offers the stability and continuity we need as we cautiously reopen schools.

I want Rose to continue to engage with students and families while she helps build a vision for our future. I will be voting for our champion, Rose Wilde.

—Nora Kent
 Florence

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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WHERE TO WRITE

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