

**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)*

## LETTERS

### VOTING FOR MILTENBERGER, SNEDDON FOR SSD

I am voting for Maureen Miltenberger and Kady Sneddon for the Siuslaw School Board because our girls and young women deserve to hear women's voices representing their interests and to see these successful women as role models.

If all three open positions are filled by men, the current incumbent, Diana Pimlott, will be the only woman on our seven-member school board.

Please vote for these two highly qualified and dedicated women.

Ann Lathrop, retired educator.  
 —Ann Lathrop  
 Florence  
 (Retired educator)

### HEADLINE SEEMED DISAPPOINTING, MISLEADING

I walked into a local business on May 5, the stack of papers caught my eye with the headline: "Extreme risk' doesn't deter crowds from Florence", followed by several pictures of people outdoor dining.

At a glance, this statement criminalizes Florence business' (and patrons) who are doing their best to keep heads above water amid crushing regulations.

The article its self was fairly supportive of the business' plight, but the headline framed the narrative in a negative way which I found disheartening.

Perhaps something to the tune of: "Florence safely accommodating visitors amid rising regulations" would have been better suited?

— Daniel Burgess  
 Florence

### THINK OF OUR TEENS, THINK OF THEIR FUTURE

Id like to ask you, reader: How would you like to be 17 again? But stuck living at home, college plans on hold for the duration of this terrible season of caution and pandemic, wondering if you should even try to plan a future or envision your dreams at all.

In addition, those in power don't seem to care — or refuse — to do all they can to help solve the climate crisis.

All the while, you see your future plans slipping away; you'd likely be

depressed and hopeless.

Teen suicide is on the rise and we have no time to waste. Please join me and others in inviting our mayor Joe Henry and others on Florence City Council "in denial" of the need to help rebuild the hope in the minds of every local youth in Florence today.

Call the mayor's office, write letters to him and city council members encouraging them to be more supportive of the creation of a climate conscious subcommittee within our local city government.

When you vote from here on, choose candidates who prove to be positively involved and not opposed to such a department. Let Florence youths observe that we haven't given up on their future or this planet.

Get involved.  
 What you do could even save one or more teens from making that fatal decision.

Richard Attenborough, author of many scientific books and pages about the topic of climate change, still holds hope but believes we must begin to act *now*. There are new solutions to the problem being discovered every day and our youth has a right to this information.

—Wende Jarman  
 Florence

### QUALITY EDUCATION, REPRESENTATION ARE KEY

Local elections are just as important as national elections, and it is so important to be active in your community.

Check OregonVote.org to check and update your information including ballot status and finding more information about candidates.

For local candidates, I encourage my fellow community members to learn more and vote for these outstanding women who believe in equitable education for *all* students; Kady Sneddon (Siuslaw School Board), Maureen Miltenberger (Siuslaw School Board), Holli Johnson (LCC Director Zone 1), and Rose Wilde (Lane Education Service District).

Quality education is key to our future. We are stakeholders in our community, no matter who we are. I love Florence.

You love Florence.  
 We all love Florence.

—Jo Beaudreau  
 Florence

### FLORENCE RECYCLES PLASTIC WITH PASSION, PATIENCE

Some 252 patient people, 1,600 pounds of all types of plastic, more than 20 dedicated volunteers and an innovative, local non-profit with a lot of passion: That was what created the successful May 2 EcoGeneration Recycling Take Back Event here in Florence.

Many thanks to the staff and volunteers from EcoGeneration who hosted the event and made it possible for the residents of Florence to responsibly recycle their plastics for re-use. A big thank you to the local businesses and organizations that supported the effort with funding to ensure EcoGeneration can sustainably and fiscally process the plastics.

This event wouldn't have been a success without the amazing enthusiasm and adaptability of the volunteers, including many committed Master Recyclers, who spent the day ensuring everyone's clean and dry plastics were sorted properly.

And thank you, Florence residents, for your passion for recycling and patience during the event. In the future, we want to make this process simple and straightforward so we can continue to keep plastics out of the landfill and out of our coastal community.

EcoGeneration will be hosting two more events on Sundays — Aug. 1 and Oct. 3 — so, please mark your calendars and start cleaning and sorting your plastic *now*.

If you need more information, have questions or suggestions or want to volunteer, please contact Nancy Rhodes at florence@ecogeneration.org.

Recycling is just part of the solution, reducing and reusing are always better options. But if these events help us — as a community — make an impact on decreasing the amount of plastic waste in our environment, then let's keep up the great work.

— Nancy Rhodes  
 & Britte Kirsch  
 Florence Master Recyclers

## New school board needs equal representation

**(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.)**

As I contemplate the Siuslaw School Board meeting on June 16, which will end my tenure on the school board, I am moved to express enormous appreciation to all of you for the honor of serving in this important position.

My reflections also move me to consider, seriously, the qualities I would hope those who are elected to the board will bring to its work. Being a school board member is not a partisan position. Those who serve are committed to "Motivating and preparing all students to reach their greatest potential."

If you go on to read the guiding principles all board members agree to uphold, you will see that the language is inclusive, collaborative and focused on the needs of students. Positivity and mutual respect are also mentioned.

Based on this mission and these principles, I am voting for Maureen Miltenberger and Kady Sneddon.

Both these candidates are women. When I leave the Board, Diana Pimlott will be the only remaining woman, making the count 6 to 1. I think the school board needs more gender balance.

This is not sexism; this is balance. Both Maureen and Kady come to the positions with their own arrays of experience.

Maureen has threads of a teacher,

### GUEST VIEWPOINT By Suzanne Mann-Heintz Siuslaw School Board

a nonprofit administrator, community servant and a genuine depth of commitment to children and families woven throughout the tapestry of her life. She knows the intricacies of school operations; she understands the needs of staff; she does her research to prepare herself for whatever issues she is confronted with.

Her language is tempered with wisdom.

Kady has a life-long history of connectedness to Florence. She went to school here, she owns a business here, her child goes to school here. During these days of COVID, she has had to get creative to keep her business afloat, including applying for grants and crunching numbers.

And it has survived.

She articulates the interconnectedness of the lives of our younger working families and our retirees and how a strong school system supports both. Every one of the

members of her large extended family gives time, energy and resources to our schools — working for the betterment of the lives of students and families runs through her blood.

I had long phone conversations with Kady and Maureen to learn from them their ideas about their roles on the school board. Both expressed a clear understanding that one school board member does not change the school system; the work of the board is collaborative.

The board speaks with one voice, so skills of creativity, problem-solving, communication and flexibility are imperative. Issues that come before the board are somewhat predictable, but generally the board needs to bring humility and a willingness to learn about issues to each board decision.

Board members are examples to students, staff and the community. We need examples of kindness, inclusiveness, positivity, unity and optimism. Kady and Maureen will bring these qualities to the board, thereby uplifting our students, their achievements, their spirits, their pride and strengthening the fabric of community we cherish.

When you fill out your ballot for the May election, please consider voting for Maureen and Kady for Siuslaw School Board.

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## Siuslaw News

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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

## WHERE TO WRITE

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