

Coastal Connections youth project is doing a great job

The article by Aaron West published July 29 ("Youth Team up with local stores to curb alcohol theft") highlights both the capacity and commitment of youth working to improve the health of our community. Witnessing the well-organized and respectful Coastal Connections Youth Organization Project (CCYOP) presentation addressing a long-standing concern of underage alcohol use was inspiring, regardless of your age. Rarely do presenters receive a standing ovation; CCYOP was an exception. You can view it in its entirety online.

Hearing of the security modifications at our local Safeway by Mr. Brian Ridgley and reading the response by Mr. Nick Gonnella at our local Walmart and their appreciation for CCYOP providing workable solutions was outstanding — truly a win-win — reducing underage access to alcohol and helping business prosper. The impact of these civic-minded youth and young adults hopefully ignites their desire to continue to help build a healthier local community.

Coastal Connections is an ongoing youth development effort, operating all year long. In partnership with Building Healthy Communities Del Norte and Adjacent Tribal Lands, local government, non-profit organizations, businesses and True North Networks, young people are supported in being successful adults. And, hearing of their commitment to register young voters (a group often underrepresented when it comes time for voting) in order to address important issues of the day is worthy of praise and support.

Thank you, CCYOP, and keep up the good work!

*Gary Blatnick,
Crescent City*