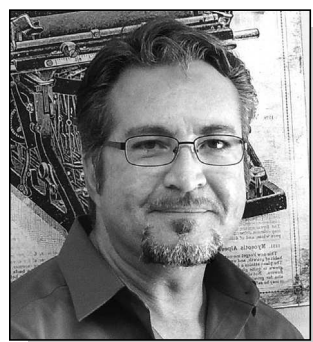


**Siuslaw News**  
 P.O. Box 10  
 Florence, OR 97439

# Opinion



## New desk, same love for this paper and its community

Seventeen years ago next month, I sat across from the very desk I'm now writing at, trying to explain to editor Bob Serra why he should hire me. I was up against a couple of journalism graduates from the University of Oregon. Though I had been a writer for many years, I had no experience as a journalist.

No degree of any kind. In fact, I had spent the last 10 years as a corporate chef and restaurant consultant. *Maybe he'll hire me if I promised to make him lunch every day?* I thought. When he called back to hire me, it changed my life in ways I hadn't imagined, as well as ways I had always hoped for. Florence has a way of doing that because of the kinds of people who make up its character as a community. When I first moved here as a sophomore in high school in 1981, it was culture shock for

a 15-year-old who was used to life in suburban Los Angeles. Life on the North Fork didn't include malls and movie theaters.

one place that would always be home. Living in places like Dallas, Texas, and Atlanta, Ga., and traveling the country from Alaska to

with the Florence and Mapleton community on many levels, whether it be a laugh, a shout of excitement during a game, or quiet tears after tragedy.

that will continue as editor. Truth be told, it was serendipity that brought me back in 1998 through a chance meeting and my friendship with previous sports editor Jason Jensen.

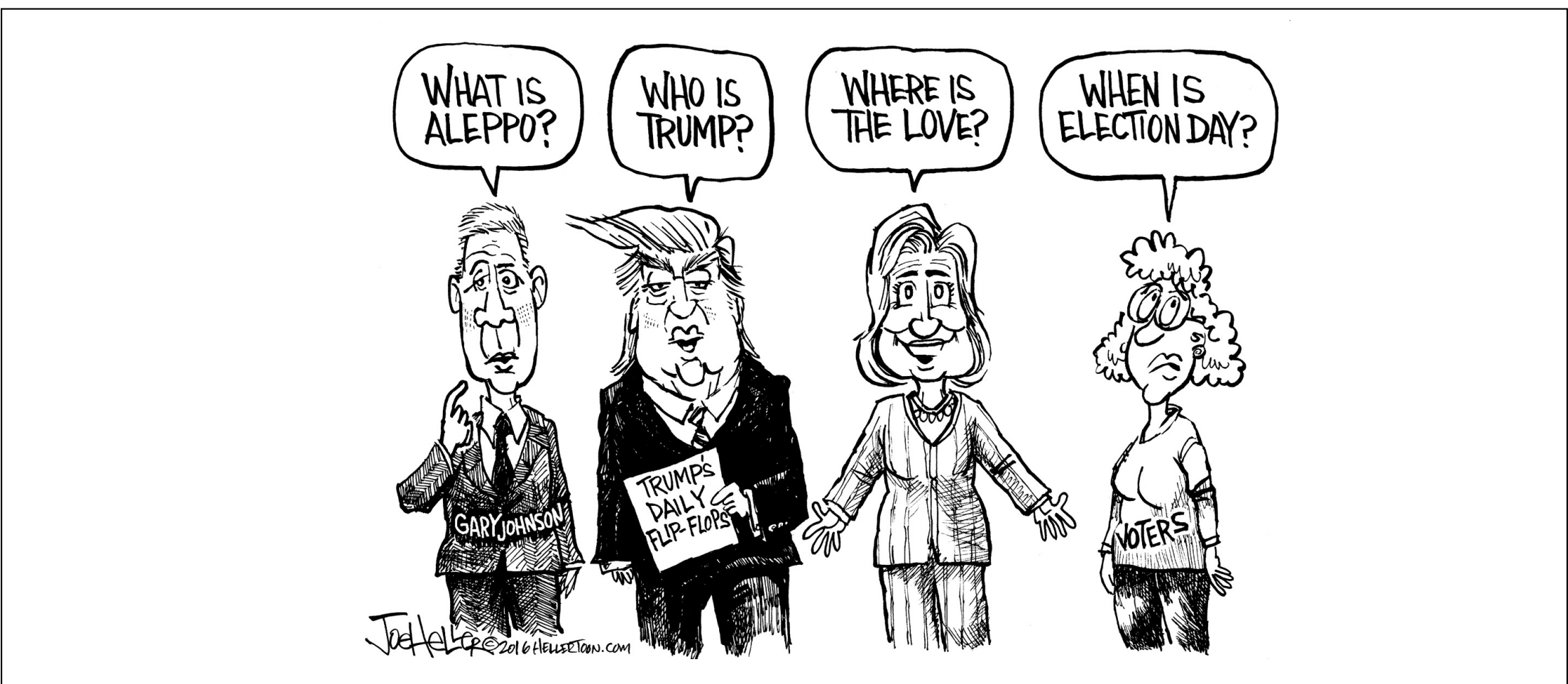
### From the Editor's Desk NED HICKSON

Or wearing mud boots. I couldn't wait to leave. But by the time I graduated from Siuslaw High School in 1984, I knew wherever my travels took me, I would eventually come back to the

Tennessee as a corporate chef. I still always thought of Florence as my home. After nearly two decades as a sports editor and columnist for Siuslaw News, I've had the privilege of engaging

On the surface, the newspaper is a time capsule chronicling life in our community — informing those of today and offering its history for tomorrow. But it's more than that. It's also a member of the community, contributing what it can to its neighbors in the same way we do as individuals. That's been my philosophy from the beginning and one

However, it was my love for this community that led to this desk; sitting in front of it at first, and now sitting behind it as your editor. My door is always open. Although, from time to time, you might still find me back in the kitchen. Contact him at [nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com](mailto:nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com) or P.O. Box 10, Florence, Ore., 97439.



### LETTERS

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Siuslaw News welcomes letters to the editor concerning issues affecting the Florence area and Lane County. Emailed letters are preferred. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed. All letters should be limited to about 300 words and must include the writer's full name, address and phone number for verification. 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. Libelous and anonymous letters or poetry will not be published. All submissions become the property of Siuslaw News and will not be returned.

**Write to:**  
**Editor@TheSiuslawNews.com**

#### The perfect solution

Apparently, sanctions against North Korea aren't effective to slow down its nuclear program because China financially supports them. At the same time, China is against any missile defense system in South Korea. So the perfect solution is for the USA to develop and launch a satellite that's capable of changing any missile's targeting software to RTS — "Return To Sender."

*Bill Craig  
 Florence*

#### The Clinton defense

Hillary Clinton told the FBI dozens of times that she couldn't remember all the stuff they wanted to know. She said she had some brain damage due to a concussion. How would she be able to find the nuclear football, let alone the code to use it? Martha Stewart's stockholder called her one day, said he had a heck of a deal. Martha told the truth and went to jail. I guess she didn't know about the Clinton defense.

*Martin Cable  
 Dunes City*

#### Trumpism toxin

The Trump hustle, a toxic brew of bigotry, paranoia and parochialism, has incited the darker angels of the millions of Americans whose faith in our economic, governmental and political institutions has collapsed. Mr. Trump tells them the reason is the rapists, murderers, Muslim terrorists and other foreigners who themselves or whose parents have crossed our borders to take advantage of American largess and a "rigged" system paralyzed by corrupt officials and political correctness. This coarsened political message reprises the rant of Peter Finch's character in the movie "Network:" "I'm as mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore!" Trump's unbuildable border wall and impossible deportation of 11 million people, allowing in only "severely vetted" immigrants who pass religious and ideological tests, may sound good to nativists and alt-right-wingers. So did the exhortations of the anti-Catholic immigrant Know-Nothing Party in the 1850s. But, 175 years later, it remains the same flimflam, only now done in reality TV skin tones. But, Trump's careless, irresponsible pursuit of voters "who are not going to take

this anymore" is poisoning the well beyond the Hispanics, Muslims and others he explicitly targets. This was brought home to me when my 10-year-old eurasian granddaughter came home to ask her ethnic-Chinese father, who became a citizen after he was brought to America when he was 9 to escape the Khmer Rouge, "Daddy, if Mr. Trump is president will you have to go back to Cambodia?" A Trump loss in November might dampen these fears. But, will the Trumpism toxin remain in the system to poison my granddaughter's generation? Mr. Trump, enabled by the endorsement of too many party leaders like Ryan, Christie and Giuliani, has implicitly promised his supporters a gated nation within which everyone will have a job, speak only English and lead middle-class lives where law and order will prevail. What happens when it turns out this Mayberry RFD disappears when you turn off the TV? We can only hope for responsible leadership that can put Trump's xenophobic genie back in the bottle.

*Arnold Buchman  
 Florence*

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## Siuslaw News

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