

**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.

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## Siuslaw News

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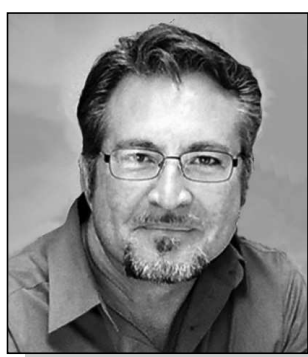
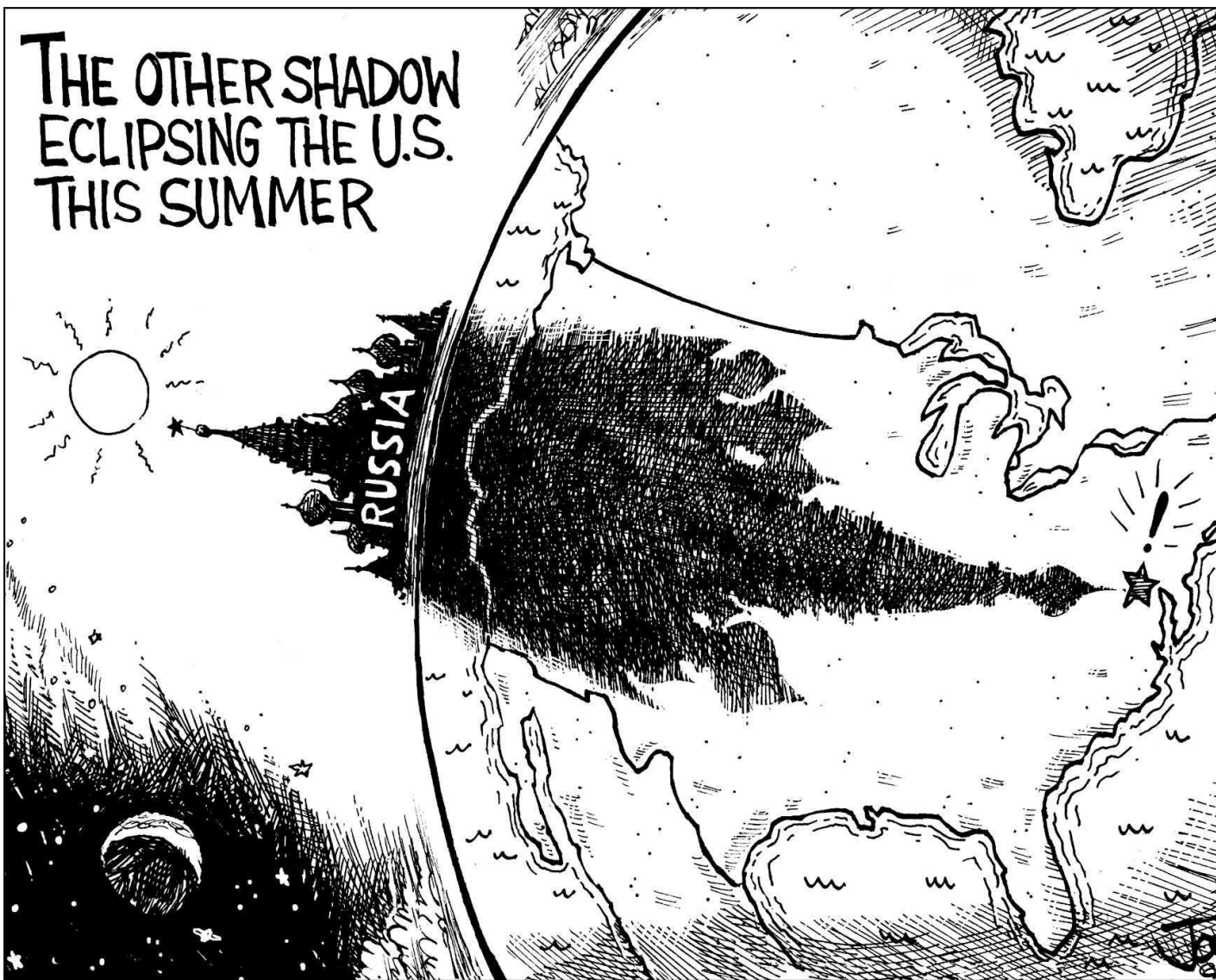
**Wednesday Issue**—General news, Monday noon; Budgets, four days prior to publication; Regular classified ads, Monday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Monday noon; Boxed and display classified ads, Friday 5 p.m.

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## Together, we make this more than words, ink and paper

eled the coastline by boat between Coos Bay and Florence, printing and delivering the latest news.

It stopped from port to port, offering those communities a shared experience through words, ink and paper.

How we got here.

What accomplishments we need to remember and which mistakes not to repeat.

Today marks the 1,560th time I've been a part of producing this shared experience we call Siuslaw News. And

For this reason, I want to thank you, our readers and subscribers, for helping make this newspaper what it is through your letters to the editor, press releases, phone calls, bacon-gingersnap cookies, Guest Viewpoints and community columns like "Neighbors" and local arts reviews.

Did I mention bacon-gingersnap cookies?

I'm very proud to be a part of the tradition at Siuslaw News for nearly two decades now — and a member of this special community for even longer.

And even though that Redington printer (pasta maker, taffy puller, etc.) is no longer making its way up and down the coast, inspiring community conversation with the latest news, it remains a sentinel to that tradition — inspiring its own conversation that continues today.

Write Siuslaw News editor Ned Hickson at [nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com](mailto:nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com) or P.O. Box 10, Florence, Ore. 97439.

### From the Editor's Desk

NED HICKSON

More than 100 years later, that same combination of words, ink and paper is being distributed on a grander scale but with no less importance than it did in the early 1900s.

Whether it comes from your laptop, tablet, phone, local news stand or mail box, hometown newspapers are still a crucial part of a community's shared experience.

They inform, inspire and chronicle the aspects of our lives that define who we are as a community — and do so in a way nothing else does.

And just as importantly, they provide a look into the past for future generations, offering a snapshot in time.

Who we were.

every time I walk into the office on Wednesday morning and see it sitting on my desk, I marvel at how so many people come together on a deadline twice a week — from reporters and ad designers to office staff, sales people and pressmen — to contribute to the experience we all share between these pages of words, ink and paper.

But it's not just newspaper staff that makes the experience complete. It takes community involvement and support. Without it, the pages are one dimensional rather than a reflection of its readers — the key component to a true community newspaper.

### LETTERS

#### COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT THEM

I'd like to express my sincere gratitude to the men and women of the City of Florence Police Department, Siuslaw Valley Fire & Rescue, Siuslaw River Coast Guard and the Port of Siuslaw Staff.

You were an integral part of the Independence Day Festival, organized by the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce, and we could not have done it without them.

This includes planning leading up to the festival.

From the first meeting, our experience working with the representatives from each organization was nothing short of stellar.

The logistics of safety and security is not to be taken lightly and our community needs to know how fortunate we are to have such incredible, caring individuals keeping us safe.

Their willingness to go above and beyond in assisting to deliver an event our entire community can be proud of is

greatly appreciated and doesn't go unnoticed.

I realize this is the work they do each and every day, but we should take a moment to say "Thank You" for all they do.

Our community owes them a great deal of gratitude, so I proudly take this opportunity to say: Thank you!

— Jenna Bartlett  
Florence

#### DIRT FOR DIRT

On the front page above the fold (known as "premier space") in this past Wednesday's edition (June 12) of, what I feel is clearly the left-leaning, Register Guard was a headline, "Russian Whispers Met With Eager Ears."

Below that in the subhead was: "Emails reveal Trump Jr. had no qualms about accepting help from a Kremlin-linked source."

What followed was a story decrying how Trump team members were happy to learn of such "dirt" and to obtain said

material.

Is there anyone out there who believes if the Kremlin, during the election campaign, had notified Hillary, Bernie, Pelosie, Schumer or any other liberal Democrat that they had "dirt" on Donald J. Trump — or any of his team — they would have had any qualms and not have stumbled all over themselves to obtain such information?

If so, please feel free to respond to my Letter to the Editor. I'll anxiously await to read it.

— Tony Cavarno  
Florence

#### BON VOYAGE

To all the witless "do-gooders" mentioned by Ms. Rojas in her Letter to the Editor (July 8) who toil endlessly for no money and little thanks to make our town a little better, please accept my humble and heartfelt thanks.

— Edward Gunderson  
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.

Libelous, argumentative and anonymous letters or poetry, or letters from outside our readership area will not be published.

### 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.

Send letters to:  
[nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com](mailto:nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com)

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