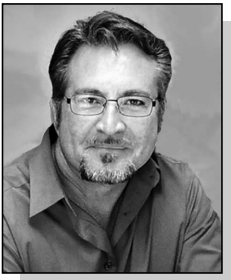
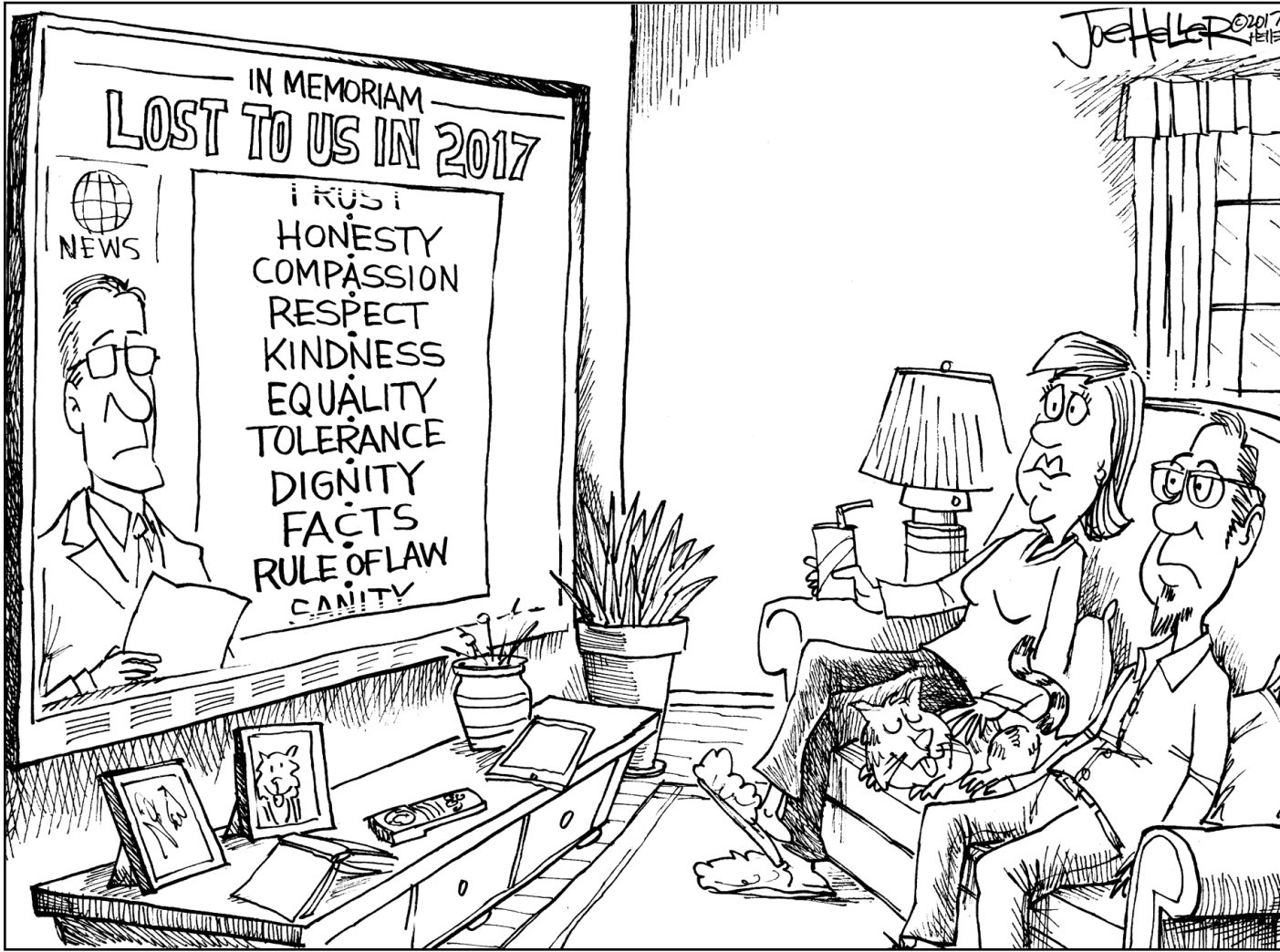


Siuslaw News
P.O. Box 10
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Opinion



Thomas fire tragedy strikes home

by news outlets from around the world.

As a firefighter, Cory Iverson was a member of a family made up of firefighter's everywhere. But he

her family's frequent visits to Florence.

The community information sign illuminated outside of SVFR's main station is a reminder of the ties

a hero. He lost his life for one very simple reason: He put others first."

As you head into the New Year, please take a moment or two during the coming days to put his family first in your thoughts, prayers and, if you can, with a donation to the "Help Ashley Iverson" gofundme account set up on his family's behalf.

Our hearts go out to Ashley, her 2-year-old daughter Evie, and a daughter on the way who will never have the chance to meet her extraordinary father.

Write Siuslaw News editor Ned Hickson at nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com or P.O. Box 10, Florence, Ore. 97439.

From the Editor's Desk

NED HICKSON

also tragically leaves behind a family with ties to our local community.

His wife, Ashley, spent countless days peddling her bike around the neighborhood of Upas and 13th streets with her cousins Hallie and Seabre while growing up, often visiting her grandma Marge during

that bind, not only within the firefighting family, but also to those family members within our Florence community sharing the pain of Ashley's loss.

In his tribute to Cory during Saturday's service, CalFire-San Diego Chief Tony Mecham said, "Let there be no doubt Cory died

LETTERS

GOP TAX PLAN HURTS AMERICA'S POOR

The response to the odious Republican tax bill that rewards America's top 1 percent and hurts the poor is outrageous, say many who I know in Florence.

To help remedy the situation, here's some passionate words from Mario Savio that evoke this same outrage in the hearts and minds of good Americans who want to help the 60 million citizens living rough, super poor and homeless across this land this holiday season:

"There's a time when the operation of the machine becomes so odious, makes you so sick at heart, that you can't take part. You can't even passively take part.

"And you've got to put your bodies upon the gears and upon the wheels... upon the levers, upon the apparatus, and you've got to make it stop.

"And you've got to indicate to the people who run it, to the people who own it, that unless you're free, the machine will be prevented from working at all."

—Dave Masko
Florence

FEELING BLESSED TO BE IN FLORENCE

My husband and I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Florence community while I received a stem cell transplant at OHSU and remained in the Portland area as required for the first 100 days after transplant.

The wonderful people of Florence

provided prayer, hope and support to both of us during this four-month journey. I am pleased to be back at home in Florence and am doing well with the recovery.

The people here are the ones who made us fall in love with Florence and make it our home, and we are confident we made the right decision.

We feel so blessed.

—Nancy and Pat Hopkins
Florence

RESPECT RIGHTS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION

In regard to Candace Thompson's rebuttal to my Letter to the Editor ("Sexual harassment accusations need proof," Dec. 16).

You obviously mistake me for someone else. I have not been dismayed at all. I find it refreshing that the men have been let go due to sexual harassment claims.

None of them had very many redeeming values, as you seem to think. The concern I have is the question of whether we are following the rule of law or our emotions?

As I see it, the #MeToo movement is a way for over emotional persons to vent with the consequences being borne solely by their accused. Let's keep in mind that some of these accusations are many decades old. And even though it puts a smile on my face to see these sexual deviants get their come-up-ance, it is not right if they are not given the chance for their day in court before their lives are ruined — even though it pleases me to no

end.

And as Travis Smiley will tell you, no, he has not been informed who his accuser is or what he is being accused of.

I, too, dislike him almost as much as Al Franken, who I thought would've been better at catching dogs than in the Senate.

You see, even though I despise these men, I respect their rights under our Constitution.

And lastly, yes, there are many women who have been and will continue to be abused by boorish men of all stripes; it is the women's obligation to bring charges in a timely manner and put these scumbags in their place.

In this way all will have a just outcome.

—David T. Eckhardt
Florence

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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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.

Saturday Issue—General news, Thursday noon; Budgets, two days prior to publication; Regular classified ads Thursday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Thursday noon; Boxed and display classified ads, Wednesday 5 p.m. Soundings, Tuesday 5 p.m.

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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.

Libelous, argumentative and anonymous letters or poetry, or letters from outside our 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.

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