

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)



A moment of pause, but only a pause

One of our reporters here at Siuslaw News, wanting to offer condolences and support, made a late-night phone call Thursday to the *Capital Gazette*, which dutifully answered its phone at 2:30 a.m. Maryland time, "Newsroom."

While shattered glass and the blood of fellow journalists was being cleaned up, members of the editorial staff at the *Gazette* were working diligently to report the news and uphold their commitment to readers who depend on them for information about their community.

So, early this morning, less than 24 hours after a gunman killed four journalists and a sales assistant in its newsroom, today's edition of the *Gazette* landed on people's front porches and in newspaper stands around Annapolis.

Because it's what journal-

ists do.

Even at our small paper with a news staff of four and within a community as tightly knitt as ours, nearly each of us has received threats — veiled and not-so veiled, anonymous and di-

rect, physical and financial, through messages left on voicemails at work and at home — that came as a result of reporting we've done on controversial subjects or community forums we've held.

But *only* a pause.

She's right. And without question, Thursday's tragic shootings have had a ripple effect through newsrooms everywhere that has culminated in a collective moment of pause.

Ultimately, the relationship between every newspaper and its readers — much like journalists and those who agree to speak with them off the record — is one built on trust.

Trusting to be fair.

Trusting to get it right.

Trusting to own up if it isn't.

And trusting to protect one another through shared knowledge and being an informed community.

As I write this, I can hear each of our reporters typing away, preparing stories for this edition. At the same time, I know that each of them is thinking of the *Gazette* staff members who were lost — Rob Hiaasen, Wendi Winters, Gerald Fischman, John McNamara and Rebecca Smith — and dealing with that notion of loss in their own way.

This editorial is mine.

However, serving our community each day, and with each edition of this newspaper, is our way of dealing with the loss together.

Because it's what we do.

Because, as I told her, the work of dedicated journalists in newsrooms large and small, in communities around our country, will continue — and must continue — despite what has evolved into a discernable tone of mistrust and, in some cases, outright hatred for journalists that has trickled down to even the smallest of community newspapers.

That being said, I still often work into the evening with my back to a large window facing the street, and I do so with little concern — because regardless of the occasional threat, I trust that the community we serve has our back.

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From the Editor's Desk

Ned Hickson

LETTERS

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO MY AMERICA?

I am 75 years old. I have seen presidents come and go — some good, some not so good.

This mob mentality is not the American way. We are a democracy. We have the right to disagree, but we do not have the right to impose our will on others. We are the greatest country on Earth and this mob mentality is going to lead to violence.

It will get someone hurt or killed. The issue is not who you voted for, whether you agree with the policies or whether you personally like or dislike someone.

The reality is this: Donald Trump is the President of the United States of America. He was democratically elected and the office of the presidency must be respected.

If not, we are endangering our own

democracy.

Let's tone it down a bit and let democracy work the way it was intended

It is time for the adults in each political party to step up, take control and *talk respectfully* to each other.

—Vickie Hymer
Florence

NO END IN SIGHT TO HYPOCRACY

The June 27 edition of the *Siuslaw News* published a letter from Ian Eales ("No Limit It Seems To Liberal Hypocrisy").

I first thought it was written in jest but then realized it was no joke.

"Many of the recent images of illegal immigrant children in cages were taken during the Obama administration," he wrote.

How about the many real-time images taken within the past few months?

Eales went on to say that the Democrats (by name) "... are on record ... stating 'Illegal immigration must be controlled.'"

That has been known and attempted by administrations for many years.

He went on to say "Now that [Democrats] are out of power, no level seems too low to stoop in order to dupe an ignorant populace."

Well, his letter seems to me to be a reflection of that populace. No doubt that populace receives its false information from the likes of Glen Beck and Rush Limbaugh.

"It seems liberal hypocrisy has no limit," he finished in his letter.

Well, The Donald has taken hypocrisy well over that limit — with no end in sight.

—Win Jolley
Florence

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Jenna Bartlett
Ned Hickson
Erik Chalhoub

Publisher, ext. 318
Editor, ext. 313
Consulting Editor 831-761-7353
echalhoub@register-pajaronian.com
Marketing Director, ext. 326
Office Supervisor, ext. 312
Production Supervisor
Press Manager

DEADLINES:

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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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Website and E-Edition: TheSiuslawNews.com

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 unsourced 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 partisanism 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

PRES. DONALD TRUMP

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500
Comments: 202-456-1111
Switchboard: 202-456-1414
FAX: 202-456-2461
TTY/TDD Comments:
202-456-6213
www.whitehouse.gov

U.S. REP. PETER DEFAZIO

(4TH DIST.)
2134 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-6416
541-269-2609
541-465-6732
www.defazio.house.gov

OREGON GOV. KATE BROWN

160 State Capitol
900 Court St.
Salem, Ore. 97301-4047
Governor's Citizens' Rep.
Message Line:
503-378-4582
www.oregon.gov/gov

STATE SEN. ARNIE ROBLAN

(DIST. 5)
900 Court St. NE - S-417
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1705
FAX: 503-986-1080
Email: Sen.Arnieroblan@oregonlegislature.gov

U.S. SEN. RON WYDEN

221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-5244
541-431-0229
www.wyden.senate.gov

STATE REP. CADDY MCKEOWN

(DIST. 9)
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1409
Email: rep.caddymckeown@state.or.us

U.S. SEN. JEFF MERKLEY

313 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-3753
FAX: 202-228-3997
541-465-6750
www.merkley.senate.gov

WEST LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

JAY BOZIEVICH
125 E. Eighth St.
Eugene, OR 97401
541-682-4203
FAX: 541-682-4616
Email: Jay.Bozievich@co.lane.or.us