

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)

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Siuslaw News

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NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

In Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$76; 6-month in-county, \$52; 10-weeks subscription, \$23; Out of Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$99; 6-month out-of-county, \$65; 10-weeks subscription, \$29; Out of State — 1-year subscription, \$125; E-Edition Online Only (Anywhere) — 1-year subscription, \$71.

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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that are anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or documented will not be published.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.

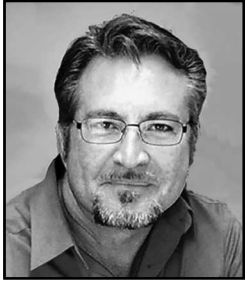
As with all letters and advertising content, the newspaper, at the sole discretion of the publisher, general manager and editor, reserves the right to reject any letter that doesn't follow the above criteria.

Email letters to:
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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
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The ripple effect of 'fake news' accusations



This past Thursday, hundreds of newspapers, large and small, participated in a nationwide call to denounce President Trump's continued blanket portrayal of journalists as "The enemy of the people," proponents of "fake news" and members of the "opposition party."

The collective voice of editorials was initiated by the *The Boston Globe*, which wrote in an editorial the day before: "Today in the United States, we have a president who has created a mantra that members of the media who do not blatantly support the policies of the current U.S. administration as being the 'enemy of the people.'"

The president's response Thursday morning was swift, delivered via Twitter, in which he charged that: "The *Globe* is in COLLUSION with other papers on free press!"

Regardless, *The Globe's* appeal for newspaper editors and editorial boards to publish opinion pieces on the topic resulted in nearly 400 editorials in newspapers across the country, from the *Miami Herald* to the *Boise Weekly*.

And, yes, the Siuslaw News is among those mentioned by *The Globe*.

Truth be told, the president's opinion, tweets or statements mean little in the context of our daily work

polls more than 400 times, according to a CNN analysis. In addition, *The Washington Post* publishes a running report on the president's spoken and tweeted falsehoods which, as of today, add up

nizations and charters within every community where a journalist takes notes and reports the news.

We're not perfect. We make mistakes. When we do, we own up to — and correct — them. (See page A2 of today's edition.)

Just like there is a difference between tabloid news, social media rumor and American news institutions like *The New York Times*, *Washington Post* and *Boston Globe*, there is a difference between an unintentional error and purposely manufactured conjecture.

We have nothing to gain by losing credibility with the communities we serve, which is why we take correcting any mistakes as seriously as we do to avoid making them in the first place.

The same day that editors were publishing their opinions on the matter, the U.S. Senate, in a unanimous vocal vote, passed a resolution that "affirms the press is not the enemy of the people" and "condemns attacks on the institution of the free press."

In my mind, that vote underscores the real notion behind the freedom of the press, which is that the most important vote we make is one we take of confidence in one another.

From the Editor's Desk

Ned Hickson

here as journalists. We are a community newspaper with the job of providing news, information and context on the things that directly impact those who live here.

However, in the same way trends in things such as fashion, music or language that begin on one coast inevitably make their way to the other, the same can be said for cultural and social trends.

This is nothing new.

What is new is how quickly the ripple effect of those trends make their way from coast to coast, community to community, thanks to our national and global interconnectivity. This is especially true now, in a time of tribalism which hastens us to pick sides rather than engage in dialogue that explores perspectives.

In his first year as president, Donald Trump used the word "fake" in referring to news stories, the media and

to more than 4,000 since his inauguration.

That trend and the blanket statements made by our president labeling journalists and media as "the enemy" and perpetrators of "fake news" has created a ripple effect that has made its way into communities across the nation.

This includes our own, where cries of "fake news!" and "opposition party members!" have made their way into social media comments, voicemails, emails and whispers at public meetings when reporting on volatile or controversial subjects.

As the *Houston Chronicle* said in its editorial, "[The president's] broad brush stroke undermines the collective credibility of thousands of American journalists across the country who are the watchdogs over their branches of government."

This includes local, county and state governments, orga-

LETTERS

BITS AND PIECES OF FLORENCE HISTORY

I wanted to thank all the people who made the special edition of "City of Florence; 125 years" possible. As a relative newcomer to this town, I thoroughly enjoyed learning the bits and pieces of Florence history highlighted.

Great job!

—Cris Peep
Florence

JOURNALISTS ARE NEEDED TODAY, NOW MORE THAN EVER

As a Florence resident and contributing columnist to our paper, I was thrilled to see the *Siuslaw News* mentioned in the Aug. 15 *New York Times* editorial about media supporting the First Amendment on #FreePressDay (www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/08/15/opinion/editorials/free-press-local-journalism-news-donald-trump.html).

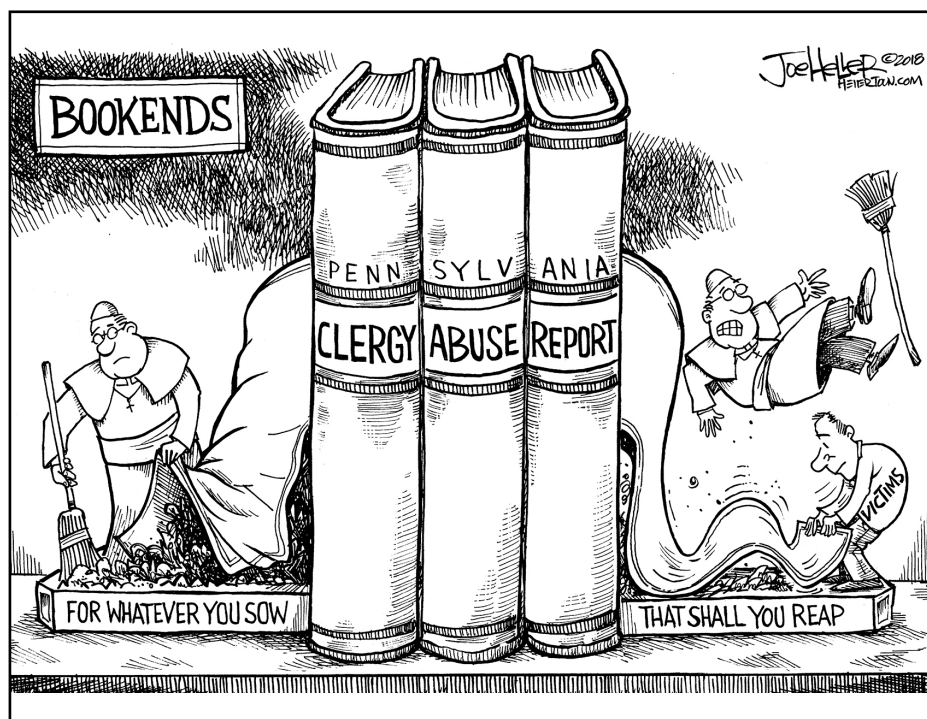
Despite many Americans' disenchantment with today's media, journalists are needed more than ever to protect the freedom of information. Fake media existed long before the term became a buzz word, but we relied on vigilant reporters to read in between the lines of news sources, websites and press releases to discern fact from propaganda.

As the *Times* editorial emphasizes, journalists are not "the enemy of the people" — we are the people — the voices of the voiceless, champions of the underdog, the spotlight on corruption; and also that helpful informant of daily road closures, accident reports and weather alerts, including community posts on Facebook during "off-hours."

But like first-responders, there never really are any off-hours in public service labors of love.

Journalism is the soul of democracy. It's why our forefathers established freedom of speech and freedom of the press as the First Amendment instead of the fifth or 15th.

Thanks to our local press for upholding this sacred tradition and for participating in *The Boston Globe's* national call for media solidarity (www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/editorials/2018/08/15/editorial/Kt0NFFNrxqB16NqgennvL/story.html)



The *Times* editorial concludes with a wise reminder: "If you haven't already, please subscribe to your local papers. Praise them when you think they've done a good job and criticize them when you think they could do better. We're all in this together."

—Catherine J. Rourke
Freelance Journalist
Florence

THANKS FOR FORUM ON PARKS MASTER PLAN

I'm writing to express my thanks to the team from Lane County who gave a comprehensive presentation on the draft master plan for Lane County Parks at a community forum in Florence.

The team included Dan Hurlley, the new head of the Public Works Department; Brett Henry, the new manager of the Parks Division; and Charlie Conrad, a parks supervisor.

They did an excellent job of describing the work of the task force in coming up with the plan, and the input received from Florence and Mapleton during previous workshops.

I am a member of the task force representing the coastal district and a founder and coordinator of Friends of Harbor Vista Park. I especially appreciated the

acknowledgement given to me and the Friends by Dan and Charlie for our contributions to the master plan and our demonstration of how partnerships, like the Friends group, can help implement the goals of the plan.

Especially notable in the plan is the strategy to create a position for a county-wide volunteer coordinator and the establishment of an umbrella non-profit to assist other Friends groups. In outlining this strategy, the presenters specifically pointed to the successful fundraising effort by the Friends of Harbor Vista to purchase a sound system for the park. The effort was community based and assisted by the *Siuslaw News* in an article about the Park.

Jay Bozievich, the county commissioner representing the coast, was in the audience along with a number of people eager to give input.

Sometime in the late fall the finished master plan will be presented to the county commissioners for approval.

Lane County residents can still review the master plan online and give input on a comment form until Aug. 30 at www.lanecounty.org/parksplan.

—Michael Allen
Task Force Member
Florence