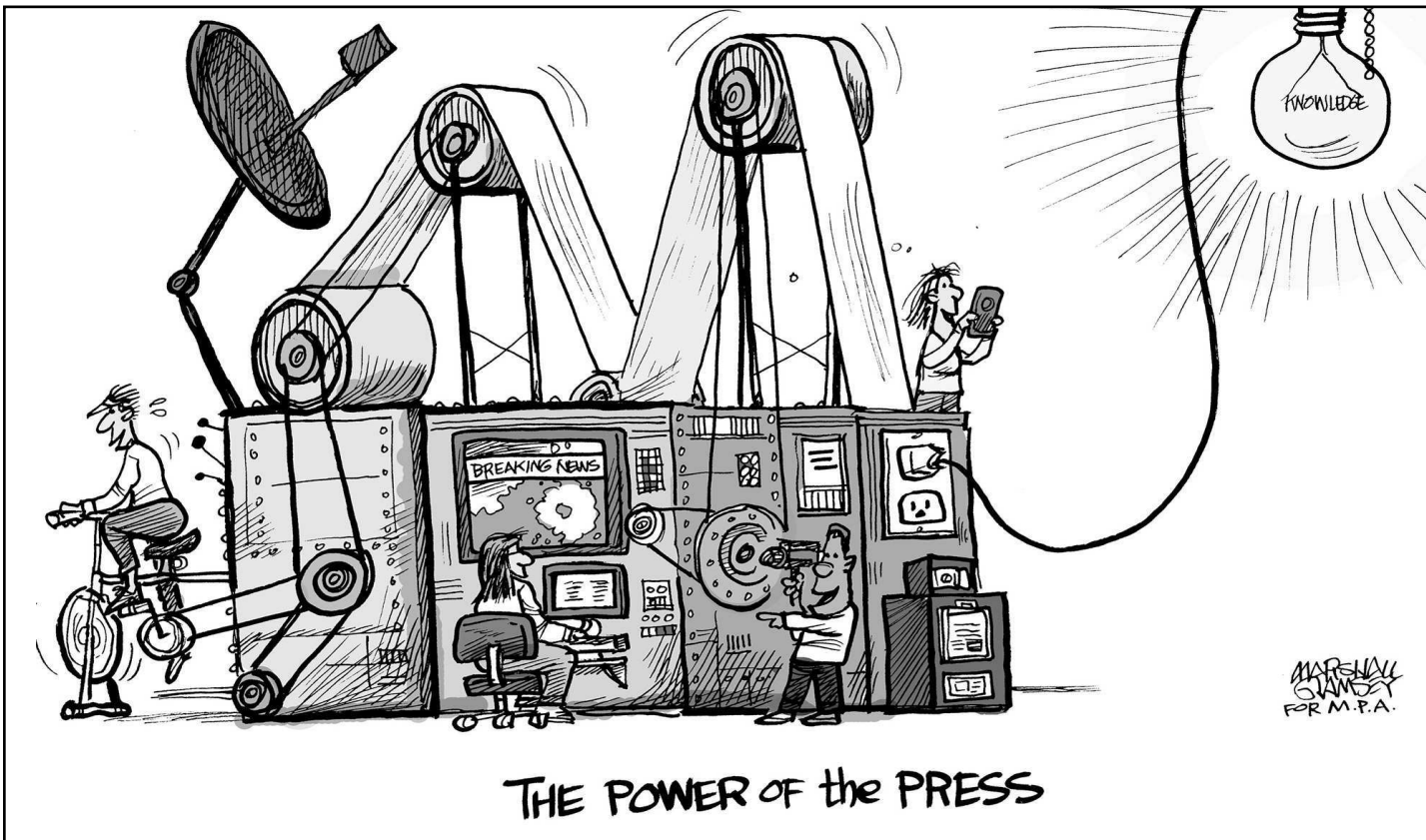


Siuslaw News  
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# Opinion

**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)



THE POWER OF THE PRESS



## Celebrating National Newspaper Week

ing compared to many of their large metro and national counterparts.

"Community papers are doing better than many large, daily papers because they provide news coverage about things that matter to their local community that would other-

Siuslaw News. And while each brought their own style and focus, there has been one important understanding that continues to define us as a community newspaper:

To our readers, we are not just *the* newspaper; we are *their* newspaper.

intimidated I felt sitting at my desk listening to the constant sound of keyboard hammering emanating from behind partitions on either side of me.

Twenty years later, it's a sound that I have come to love in the same way a mechanic appreciates the sound of an engine hitting on all cylinders, or the way a music conductor savors the convergence of musical notes into a singular harmony.

(Keep in mind I still type with two fingers, so my contribution to that harmony is more like the cow bell, but still...)

As we head into National Newspaper Week (Oct. 7-13), I'd like to thank you, our readers, for supporting your local newspaper. Not only with your subscription or twice-weekly trip to the office to buy your copy, but also for your participation and contributions — through letters, emails, phone calls and conversations in my office — that help make the Siuslaw News one of those 7,500 non-daily community newspapers that is continuing to grow.

In the words of Thomas Jefferson in a letter to Col. Edward Carrington on Jan. 16, 1787:

*"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."*

wise be overlooked without them," said Al Cross, director of the Institute for Rural Journalism at the University of Kentucky.

In fact, in 2017, the combined readership of those 7,500 non-daily newspapers was almost 20 million more than that of daily newspapers, with non-dailies tallying 65.5 million subscribers — compared to 45.5 million daily-paper subscribers.

This is according to the National Newspaper Association (NNA), which also noted that 70 percent of those small non-dailies have a circulation of less than 15,000; Siuslaw News is among that smaller group, with a circulation of just over 6,000.

When I became editor here in September 2016, I'd had the good fortune of working with three terrific editors over the past 20 years I've spent here at

USC professor Judy Muller told the Stanford University Press that, while local journalism is certainly about police blotters, obituaries, bake sales and club meetings, "The best community newspapers also hold local governments and institutions accountable by covering meetings, asking questions and recognizing the good as well as the *not-so-good* because ... if not them, then *who*?"

While we've received equal amounts of accolades and criticism regarding our coverage of controversial issues ranging from housing and the homeless, to gun law and hate crime over the last two years, our almost-daily story meetings are underscored by the notion of "If not us, then *who*?"

I am reminded of my first day as a journalist covering sports here at Siuslaw News in November 1998 — and how

### From the Editor's Desk

Ned Hickson

### LETTERS

#### A THANK YOU TO DEADWOOD

My friend and I were driving through Deadwood a couple of weeks ago (on vacation) and had a flat tire on Highway 36, just before sunset. There was no spare in my rental car, only a small air compressor. Since the tire was gashed, the compressor did no good. We were out of cell phone range and it was starting to get dark. We were concerned for our safety and hoping someone would drive by with a working phone to call AAA.

And who would appear but Tammy Sheppard, who works for the Wilbur family. Tammy took us to the Wilbur's house, where Johnette Roane and Don Wilbur were hosting the Deadwood Cemetery committee meeting. Johnette immediately let us use their phone and Tammy left to find us a spare tire.

She returned later to make sure the tow truck driver took good care of us.

What could have been a dangerous and stressful event turned into a lot of fun! We had apple pie in the Wilbur's home and a friendly welcome from the committee members. We felt very cared for and safe. AAA tow truck came to the rescue and got us back to Yachats.

Just wanted to give a big shout out to Tammy, Johnette and Don for their most wonderful assistance and hospitality to two strangers in distress on a dark and winding road.

Thank you kindly.

—Linda McDill, Santa Fe, NM  
Donna Hightower, Pt Arthur, Texas

#### PRESIDENT'S CRASS WORDS ARE SHAMEFUL

Yesterday I watched as President Trump unnecessarily ridiculed a female reporter in the rose garden of The White House. Last night, I watched as he made hateful disparaging remarks about Christine Blasey Ford, seemingly just to rile up his rally supporters.

I am appalled at both acts of blatant cruelty and misogyny. To all who think he was totally justified in what and how he spoke, I address his rally comments. There are millions of us women out here who remember exactly the trauma of the sexual assault but have long ago forgotten the peripheral details surrounding it.

We can remember the smell of his body, his breath, his laughter of enjoying the dominance, the terrifying fear we felt. Most of us never talked about it until much much later, not even to our friends or family. We talk about it now because we are finally empowered and no longer ashamed.

We do not relinquish to you the right to shame us, or Christine Blasey Ford. President Trump is the one who should

be ashamed, of his crass words and insensitivity in both of these situations.

—Judy Kinsman  
Florence

#### ILLEGAL IS ILLEGAL. PERIOD.

I believe there was a misprint on the front page of the Siuslaw News (Oct. 3) with the headline "Groups Organize March to Support Immigrant Rights." I believe the word "immigrant" was misused as the article went on to talk about *illegal* immigrants. As far as I know, all legal immigrants — such as my own father — have rights ... *legal* rights.

An illegal entry person should not be classified as an "immigrant." He or she is an illegal entry person. Period. The article stated their only violation of the law is that of federal immigration law. Isn't that enough? Can any of us legally here, native born or legal immigrant, expect to violate laws and expect no punishment? We all know the answer to that.

I am glad the names of people and organizations that support the illegals were published for all to know. For all of you, look up the word "illegal" in the dictionary and see the definition — in case you have conveniently forgotten.

—Tony Cavarno  
Florence

### WHERE TO WRITE

<b>PRES. DONALD TRUMP</b> 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	<b>U.S. REP. PETER DEFAZIO</b> (4TH DIST.) 2134 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515 202-225-6416 541-269-2609 541-465-6732 www.defazio.house.gov
<b>OREGON GOV. KATE BROWN</b> 160 State Capitol 900 Court St. Salem, Ore. 97301-4047 Governor's Citizens' Rep. Message Line: 503-378-4582 www.oregon.gov/gov	<b>STATE SEN. ARNIE ROBLAN</b> (DIST. 5) 900 Court St. NE - S-417 Salem, OR 97301 503-986-1705 FAX: 503-986-1080 Email: Sen.ArnieRoblan@oregonlegislature.gov
<b>U.S. SEN. RON WYDEN</b> 221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg Washington, DC 20510 202-224-5244 541-431-0229 www.wyden.senate.gov	<b>STATE REP. CADDY MCKEOWN</b> (DIST. 9) 900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301 503-986-1409 Email: rep.caddymckeown@state.or.us
<b>U.S. SEN. JEFF MERKLEY</b> 313 Hart Senate Office Bldg Washington, DC 20510 202-224-3753 FAX: 202-228-3997 541-465-6750 www.merkley.senate.gov	<b>WEST LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER</b> <b>JAY BOZIEVICH</b> 125 E. Eighth St. Eugene, OR 97401 541-682-4203 FAX: 541-682-4616 Email: Jay.Bozievich@co.lane.or.us