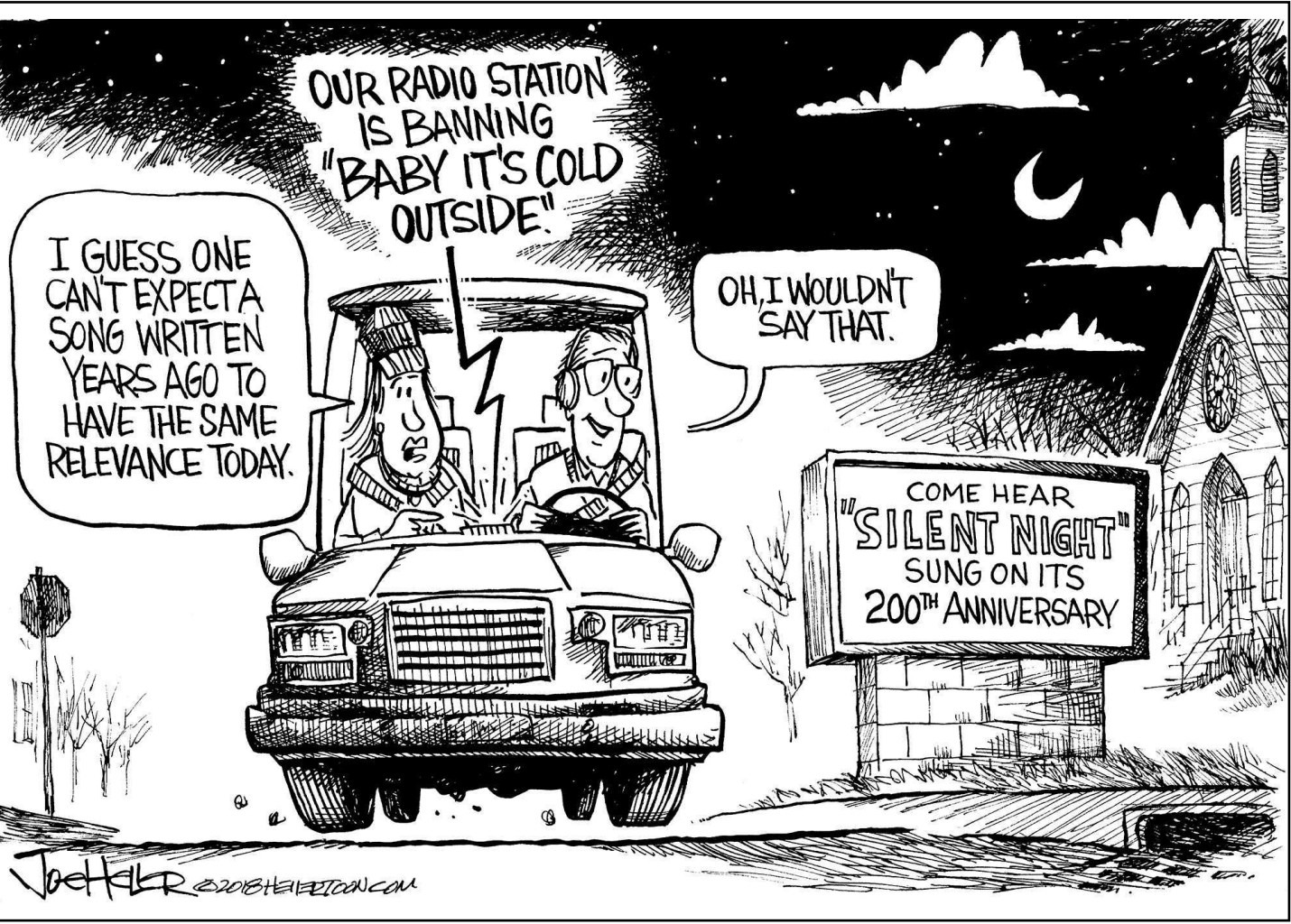


Siuslaw News
P.O. Box 10
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Opinion

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)



(Last week, *Time Magazine* announced its Person of the Year for 2018 as “The Guardians,” referring to journalists around the world who have sacrificed — imprisonment and even their lives in 52 instances as of Dec. 10 — in the pursuit of reporting truth to power at all levels.

Along with journalists Jamal Khashoggi, Maria Ressa, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, *Time Magazine* recognized the *Capital Gazette* newspaper of Annapolis, Md., which lost five staff members — Rob Hiaasen, Wendi Winters, Gerald Fischman, John McNamara and Rebecca Smith — to a lone gunman June 28.

In recognition of *Time’s* selection, what follows is the original editorial that ran the morning of June 29 in the *Siuslaw News*...)

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

Pausing to remember a moment in ‘Time’

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

what it means to be in that line of work. The good and the bad. Because of the shootings in Maryland yesterday, I know this will be a hard day for you and the folks in the Siuslaw newsroom...”

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.

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.
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.

As *Time* Editor-in-Chief Edward Felsenthal wrote in his editorial regarding the magazine’s selection of “The Guardians” as the 2018 Person of the Year: *This year we are recognizing four journalists and one news organization who have paid a terrible price to seize the challenge of this moment. They are representative of a broader fight by countless others around the world who risk all to tell the story of our time.*

From the Editor’s Desk

Ned Hickson

Gazette landed on people’s front porches and in newspaper stands around Annapolis.

Because it’s what journalists do.

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

In a Facebook message this morning from a friend and past editor here at the Siuslaw News, she wrote, “I couldn’t sleep last night thinking about every newsroom and editorial office I’ve ever been in and

But *only* a pause. 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.

Ultimately, the relationship between every newspaper and its readers — much like journalists and those who agree to



GETTY IMAGES

LETTER

ABANDONED CAT

A neighbor passed away this summer. His old cat was left to fend for itself.

This 9-year-old cat laid in the road waiting to die. One neighbor took “Cat” in but was allergic.

The cat was then back on the street in cold weather. I took the cat in but had to keep it in the garage.

The cat got sicker, so I called our local humane society but was told, “Sorry, we are full and are a no-kill shelter.”

They had no way of knowing when they would have room available.

Then I called a local vet, who said they would need to do a check-up before deciding if it was necessary to put the animal down. It would cost \$65 or more.

I called Greenhill in Eugene and was told I could bring the cat in on Monday. Greenhill will assess the cat to see if it lives or needs to be out down.

Warning: If you take in a sick or abandoned animal, be prepared to be stuck with the bill or the animal.

— Pat Rongey
Florence

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DEADLINES:

Wednesday Issue—General news, Monday noon; Budgets, four days prior to publication; Regular classified ads, Monday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Monday noon; 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; Display classified ads, Wednesday 5 p.m. Soundings, Tuesday 5 p.m.

NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

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

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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.

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 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.

Email letters to:
nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com

WHERE TO WRITE

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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
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