

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)



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Siuslaw News

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DEADLINES:

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that are anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or documented will not be published.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

LETTERS

THANK YOU

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped on Dec. 28 with pouring and finishing the pad for the new Habitat House going up at Seventh and Kingwood streets.

—Ivy Medow
Florence

WARM SOCKS FOR

HOMELESS

On behalf of the staff, volunteers and clients at Siuslaw Outreach Services, I want to express my sincere appreciation for Jenna Bartlett, the staff at the Siuslaw News and its readers for the wonderful donation of 1,400 pairs of socks for the homeless.

We are so blessed to live in a community that supports so many who are facing some sort of crisis. Already nearly half of those socks have been distributed.

Thank you!

—Bob Teter
Executive Director, SOS

A SIGHT TO BEHOLD

Now that the new City Hall Palace is almost to completion, do you think they will repair that pothole/puddle at the corner of First Street and the Highway that

we have been driving through for the last 10-plus years?

Possibly that project is on some future "Vision" program.

The condition of the roads in Florence is deplorable, and in the meantime both Public Works and city offices have seen major investments in improvements to the benefit of the city and not its citizens who are footing the bills.

When, if ever, will the bumpy, potholed roads in this town ever get to look as good as the new facilities they lead to?

—Hank Leach
Florence

New year, new look and new goals



I spent part of my New Year's weekend here in the newsroom as I do each year, tackling an annual and ongoing re-organization project of files and materials that have been staring at me for more than two decades — and the gaze of which has grown stronger after becoming editor in September 2016. The project entails sifting through boxes of old newspaper editions, special publications, documents, journalistic guidelines and historic reference materials that have been collecting along a wall of shelves in our newsroom since before I began as sports editor here in 1998.

With the new year looming, it was once again time to sort through the past in order to benefit our newsroom's future. (Coincidentally, it also got me out of washing the dog, but you didn't read that here.)

Over the course of a few hours, I time-traveled through about 50 years of local history captured

in aged clippings, folded newspaper pages, pamphlets and long-defunct smaller community publications like "The Fog Dog" and "Beachcomber," all of which played a role in chronicling our area's colorful past.

They are also things you'll never find with a Google search. They exist

challenges and particular moment in time.

That being said, I'm not making a resolution as much as offering you my continuing resolve, as editor, to continue striving for your trust and partnership on these pages each week.

"Integrity" is a term that has come into question within the realm of jour-

each issue.

Which brings me to something I'm sure you've already noticed, which is the new look of the Siuslaw News. Though the width is an inch narrower, we changed our masthead to allow more space at the top, along with a smaller ad at the bottom. We also moved the information box from the bottom to the side. The end result is more vertical space, allowing us to keep the same amount of news space while adopting a slimmer, less cumbersome newspaper that also helps cut costs as newsprint prices continue increase. It's a goal that will help ensure the longevity of this small, community newspaper as it heads into its 129th year — so that someday, when another Siuslaw News editor is reading and organizing the archives of our history, like me they will be moved by the same sense of responsibility and privilege that now rests easily in that series of boxes along the shelves in our newsroom.

From the Editor's Desk

Ned Hickson

nalism far too often over the last few years, particularly at the national level where the need to be first is sometimes more important than the responsibility of being factual. And while we aren't perfect, we certainly try — even if it means holding a breaking news story to make sure the information is complete and not based on speculation or assumption.

As we head into 2019, I look forward to the conversations we'll have together on the phone, through emails, visits here in my office or while waiting in the grocery line. It's these conversations that build the trust and partnership I spoke about earlier, and the integrity I hope you will feel is reflected on these pages with

now only in the memories of those who wrote the stories, lived the experience or, in this case, remain preserved in the archives of a small newsroom. I have to admit, I came into the New Year without any concrete resolutions aside from the usual — and ongoing — intentions of eating healthier, exercising more and procrastinating less (something I invariably keep putting off).

However, my trip through the past served to reinforce the unique responsibility and privilege we have, as a newspaper, to be the keepers of the past, chroniclers of the present and spark conversation for the future — all while serving as a reflection of our community's hopes,

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