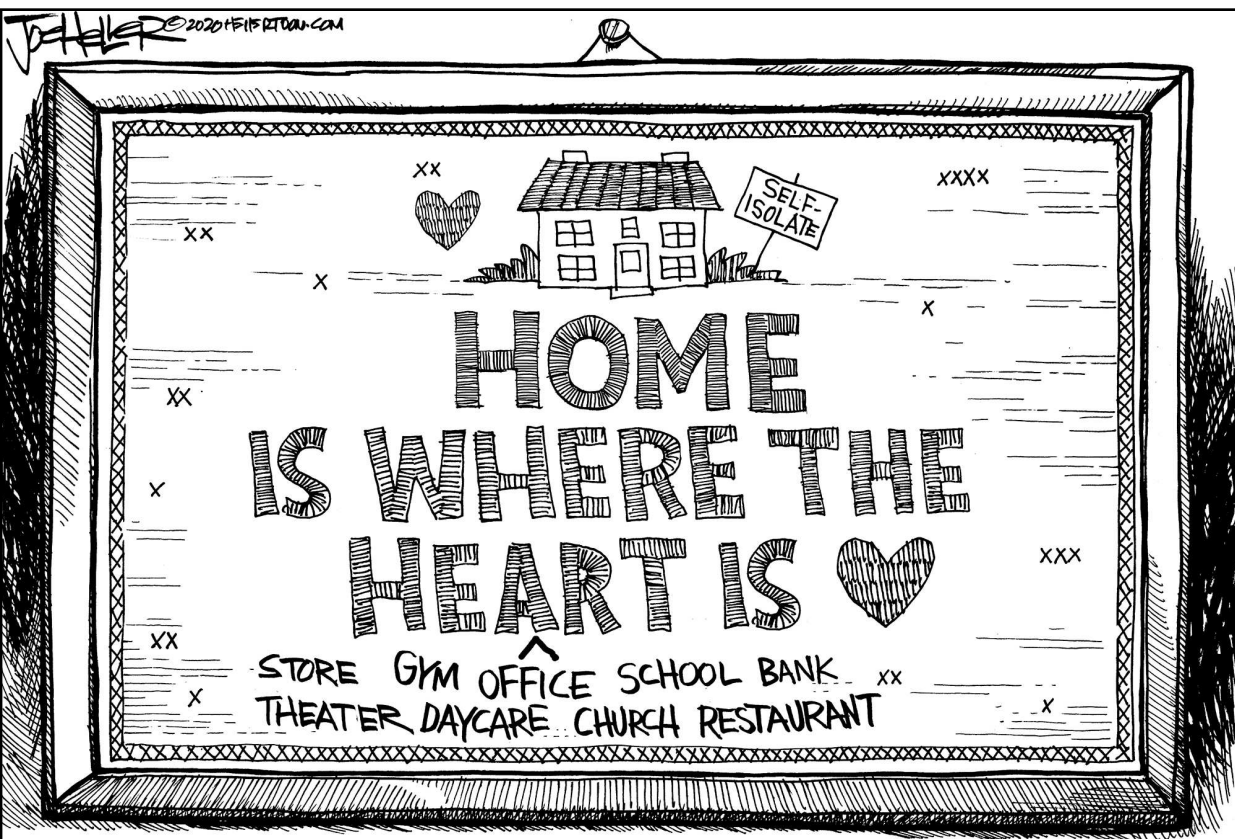


Siuslaw News
P.O. Box 10
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Opinion

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)



Bringing you the news remotely

maintain the tight-knit connection we have as journalists and friends; in a time where distancing is the fallback position, finding ways to engage with those who mean the most

We are updating our free-access coronavirus webpage (www.TheSiuslawNews.com/coronavirus) throughout the day and sharing news, information and community-related

whether it's to let us know something, ask a question or simply just to say hello. In the age of instant communication, the sudden requirements of social distancing reminds us that we humans are social creatures — and that we have taken for granted the value of engaging face-to-face.

At some point, we will emerge from our homes and the lives we are living virtually. We'll once again hear each other's voices, laughter and points of view in real time, without the delay of cyberspace. We'll gather in coffee shops, restaurants, our local movie theater, library and other favorite spaces to engage. Together again. Until then, stay well and thank you for your continued support in making us your news source.

From the Editor's Desk

Ned Hickson

helps us keep moving forward. Despite the challenges of distance and the near-hourly influx of new information, we are committed to do what it takes to report on the things that impact us here in the Siuslaw region — whether it be a new executive order from the governor or how local organizations and community members are working together to fill the needs of those in our area.

activities as we receive them — both on our website and through social media. Our phone lines (listed top right) are being forwarded to our personal devices so that we can receive your questions, concerns and information. I hope you'll not only utilize our website (www.TheSiuslawNews.com) and Facebook page to stay informed throughout the day, but also as another way to connect with us —

LETTERS

IMAGINE THAT?

President Trump told us to imagine how this Easter could be beautiful — people going to churches, businesses open and the stock market rallying ("like never before"). I looked at the growing numbers of the infected and dead, not only in New York, but elsewhere around the country and the world, and listened to Gov. Cuomo as he pleaded for much-needed ventilators. I think about my small town and its one small hospital and ICU with three beds — and wonder how many other small towns that have not been hit yet with the virus will handle a sudden shift. If we are trying to get back to business as usual at the expense of human lives, then we are already dead. Don't buy into the denial and the bull. We have to remember that many are risking their lives to stem the rising tide of the pandemic, and each of us can do our part. Imagine that you don't have to reinvent the wheel to take the first step toward helping your neighbor or family or stranger. You don't even have to make the world's greatest casserole or solve every problem of the economy right now. For now, you need only to stay home if you can. We know this works. To be alive is to care. Call your loved ones; wave to your neighbor, and thank those who are on the frontlines by trying to stay healthy and not infect others. I love that in Italy and Spain and elsewhere, people are opening their windows and singing to each other and applauding their healthcare

workers. They don't just clap a couple times — it is a long, standing ovation. Imagine that appreciative audience growing in health and in number, while the numbers of the sick and the dead diminish, and our healthcare workers finally get to go home to rest and recover. Imagine that.

—Lynn Untz
Florence

farms and forests of the 21st Century. Non-chemical, organic farming and forestry has been proven economically sound, practical and sustainable. The old model of clear-cut and spray forestry is critically obsolete and in this time of a life-taking pandemic, extremely dangerous.

—Richard Gross
Deadwood

PANDEMIC ULTIMATELY HUMAN CAUSED

These are interesting and disturbing times for many reasons. The causes for the strange occurrences — the world wide pandemic, for instance — appears to be nature's wrath toward people. But I think a closer look might reveal many viral and mutagenic destructive forces are created in human laboratories. For example: tens of thousands of gallons of herbicides have been aerially sprayed on forests, plants and animals, soils, waterways and people. Yes, people directly sprayed with the inevitable toxic drift pushed by helicopter rotors, causing spasmodic coughing, nose-bleeding, skin rashes and many more diseases and maladies. According to numerous studies, many people experience compromised lymph, endocrine and immune systems for their lifetimes resulting from exposures to cancers and viruses such as coronavirus. All farming was organic before WWII. After the war, unused toxic chemicals' cousins developed for wartime "found" a market in

MILITARY COULD BE BIGGER HELP AT HOME

Due to the coronavirus, we should remove all of our military troops from Iraq and Afghanistan. They can provide much-needed nurses and doctors along with security personnel. Let those countries in the Near East deal with the virus on their own. And what about the supplies that our military has? Why has their stockpile of necessary medical equipment and things like MRE's not been made available? The reality is that the coronavirus will not be over in a few months and if we are diligent we may slowly curtail the spread of the infection. Until a vaccine can be developed and everyone in the U.S. is inoculated the virus will continue for years. I turn 80 on the day the Summer Olympics were to start and that will not happen. Neither will other sport events, opera, Broadway shows or new movies. I may just find some small shack on a river and fly fish, paint and talk to myself with the time I have left.

—Win Jolley
Florence

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DEADLINES:

Wednesday Issue—General news, Monday noon; Budgets, four days prior to publication; Regular classified ads, Thursday 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.

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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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