

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)



The ripple effect of thankfulness

how we see each other and anyone with a differing viewpoint. It's a mindset that runs completely counter to being thankful — because it nar-

and toward a nebulous relationship with those we hardly know. The result is a growing inability to live in “real” time and in the moment

There will be several opportunities this afternoon to meet with friends and community members during the Florence Holiday Festival, which kicks off at 3:30 p.m. with hay rides, hot cider and cocoa and a visit from Santa, along with live music between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m., and the official tree lighting at 6 p.m. in Old Town.

From the Editor's Desk

Ned Hickson

While I don't necessarily subscribe to the theory behind trickle-down economics, I have become a firm believer in the trickle-down effect of national discourse and its ability to permeate how we feel about our lives — and, just as importantly, in recognizing the good in each other. The overt divisiveness that has arisen within our society over the last few years has conditioned us to accept pessimism as a natural part of our daily perspective. Forget about wearing rose-colored glasses or beer goggles; more often than not, we have come to instinctively reach for a blindfold when it comes to

rows our vision and minimizes the chance of recognizing any good that exists within our peripheral. To put it plainly, it's hard to appreciate a sunset while facing east. Admittedly, I'm no exception. And not just because I have a lousy sense of direction. In today's constant barrage of information, opinion and analysis through news outlets, social media and notifications on phones, computers and tablets, our attention is constantly being diverted away from real interaction with each other

with one another. As we enter into the holiday season, and especially the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. I hope we can all take time to gather around the table and talk about what we're thankful for in one another; the things that unite us in appreciation; and the common good that defines us as a family, community and ultimately as Americans. I believe the trickle-down divisiveness around us can be diluted if we allow the ripple effect of thankfulness to provide some much-needed levity.

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LETTERS

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WHALE DEMOLITION COULD BE FUN

Doing a 50-year anniversary re-enactment of the demolition of the whale sounds like great fun. Hopefully, for the sake of the town, they don't find a way to recreate the smell. Then again, it *will* be an election year...

—Dennis Smith
Florence

were fantastic and lifted everyone's spirits. The veterans came next, driving their legendary Jeeps and trucks. Then a vehicle came by flying the Confederate battle flag and another came by flying the “Don't Tread On Me” flag. It was insensitive and so inappropriate to drag divisive, disrespectful and generally offensive symbols into such a beautiful parade honoring our servicemen and women.

— Gene Olson
Florence

DON'T DRAG DISRESPECTFUL SYMBOLS INTO VETERANS PARADE
The Florence Veterans Day parade on Nov. 11 had a marvelous and memorable beginning when a large group of grade-school kids came down the street handing out to hand-colored pictures of the four branches of the United States Military services titled “Thank You, Hero” to veterans. And then those young kids shook my hand. They amazed me and made me so proud. And then the parade came and the Siuslaw High School band came by. They



WHERE TO WRITE

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