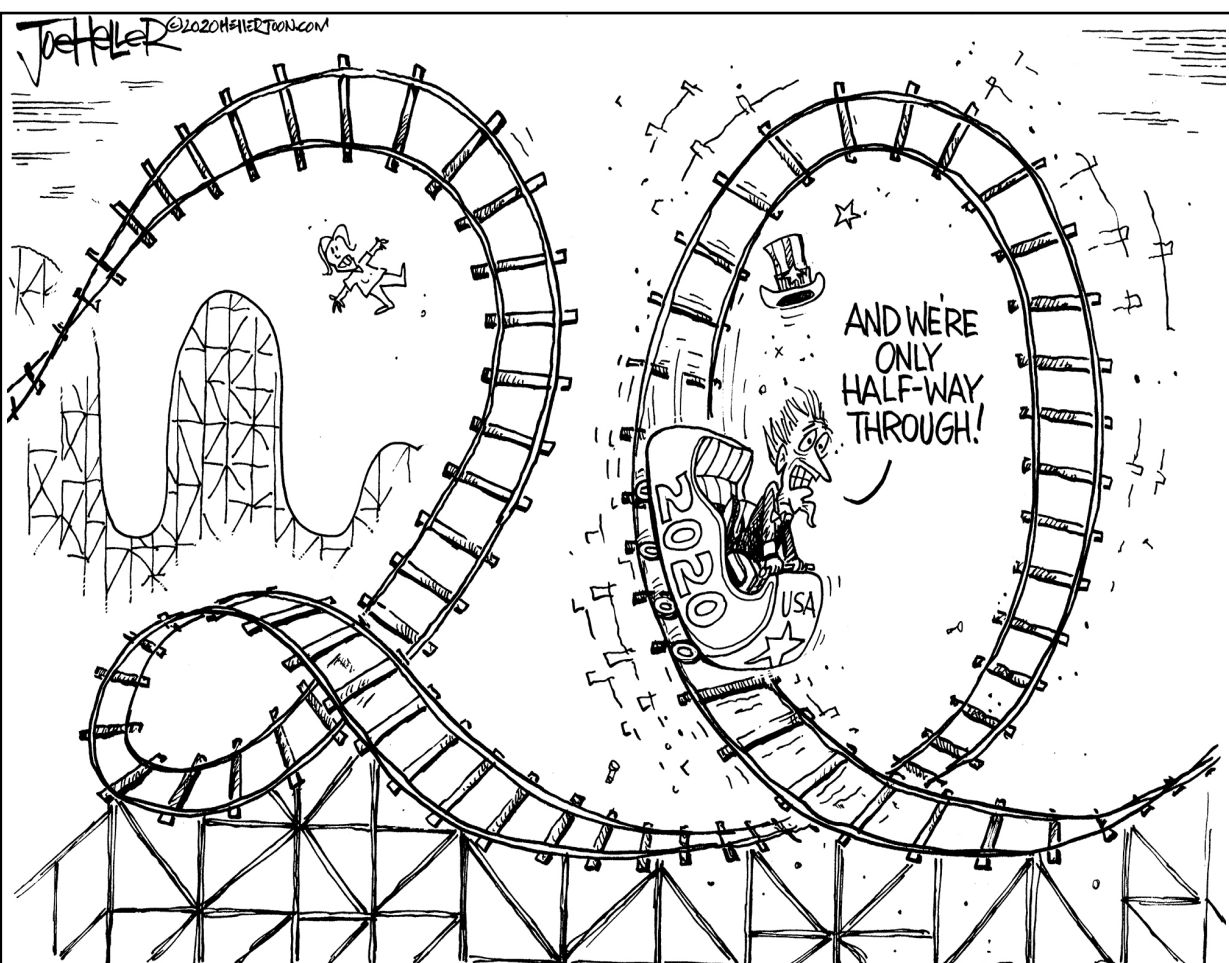


**Siuslaw News**  
 P.O. Box 10  
 Florence, OR 97439

# 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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Jenna Bartlett  
 Ned Hickson  
 Susan Gutierrez  
 Cathy Dietz  
 Ron Annis

Publisher, ext. 318  
 Editor, ext. 313  
 Multimedia Sales Director, ext. 326  
 Office Supervisor, ext. 312  
 Production Supervisor

**DEADLINES:**

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**NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION RATES:**

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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that are anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or documented will not be published.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](mailto:nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com)

**LETTERS**

**COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR POC**

Recently on social media, in response to the current racial climate of our nation, there has been a call to list resources of safety and support for either the Black Lives Matter movement, POC and LGBTQ peoples.

I was sharing many links and resources for communities far beyond Florence and, although it is helpful for those communities, I began to think about my own and where these same people are represented here.

I was happy to discover Siuslaw Outreach Services and its commitment to inclusion. I

have also reached out to a few of the many churches here in Florence to see if they will share that they are a safe place for people to reach out to if they feel they are being discriminated against or have experienced racism.

Essentially, my goal would be to compile a sharable list of places and programs here in Florence that are dedicated to non-discriminatory practices and are creators of safe spaces for people of all colors, religions and identities.

I have heard on more than one occasion that "racism doesn't exist here."

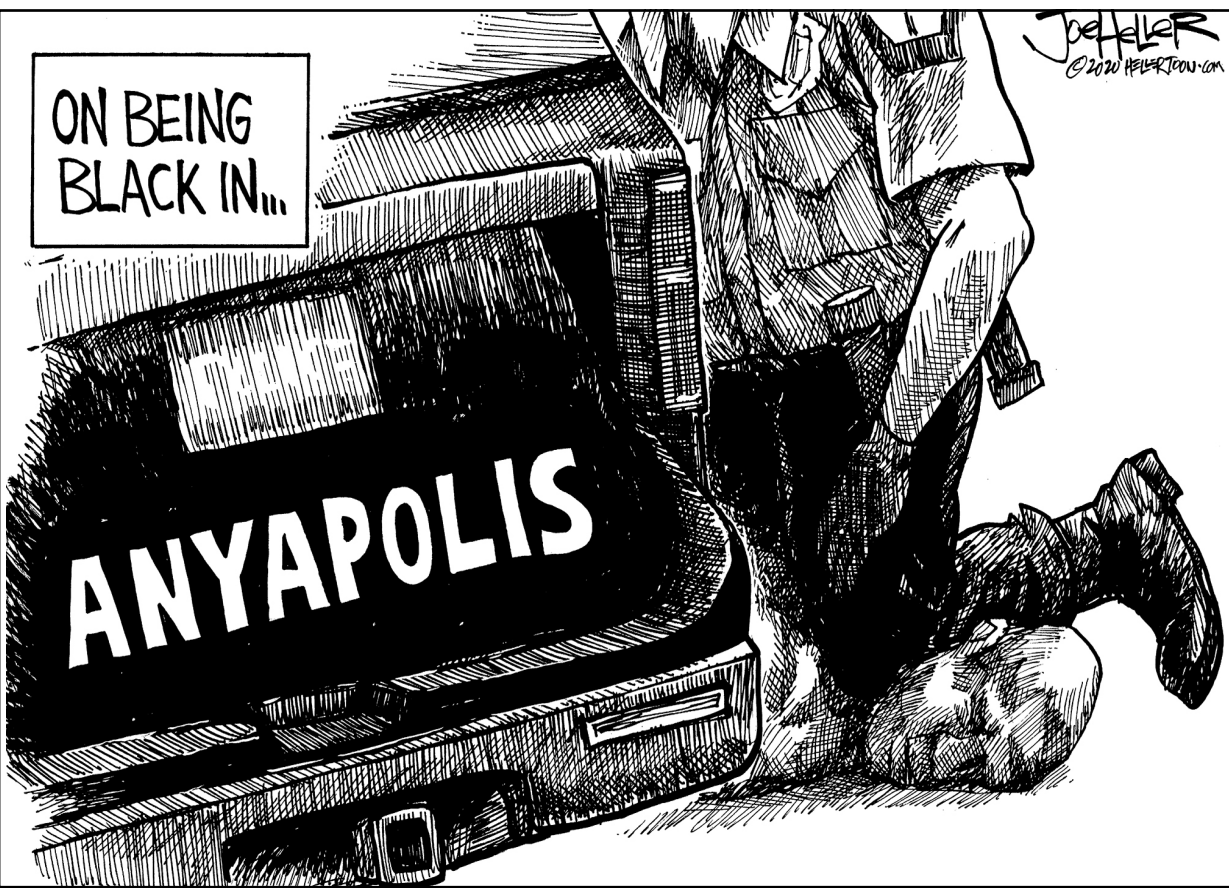
Is this something our com-

munity truly believes? If so, what have we done to prove that statement is true?

Currently, our world is standing up and saying that racism *does* exist. Is Florence somehow exempt from that message simply because of where we are located on the planet?

I would like to call upon our city officials and church leaders to help me show that Florence, a town visited by people from all over our nation and the world, is a diverse community of families and people that are United Against Racism.

—Bonnie Rollin  
 Florence



**'I can't breathe'**

**(Editor's Note:** Viewpoint submissions on this and other topics are always welcome as part of our goal to encourage community discussion and exchange of perspectives.)

"Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind. And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

—John Donne

Last words, gasped out, A cry for life.

We are not merely diminished, we are shamed that any man would choke out the life of another in the name of law.

**GUEST VIEWPOINT**  
 By Cyan Orr  
 Florence

We are shamed that such an action is written in any policeman's code. We are shamed that any soul could be less than repulsed by the choice of another to pass this ultimate judgment

without regard for rights, for life, for humanity. We are doubly shamed that still another life is destroyed by our own refusal to expose and eradicate the racial bigotry that roils beneath the surface of our seeming civilization. It was more than one lone black man choking in this obscene confrontation. Our country, our constitution, our democracy was suffocated in those nine minutes. Each and every one of us is gasping for one last breath.

**WHERE TO WRITE**

<p><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</p>	<p><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</p>
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<p><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</p>	<p><b>WEST LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER JAY BOZIEVICH</b>                  125 E. Eighth St.                  Eugene, OR 97401                  541-682-4203                  FAX: 541-682-4616                  Email: Jay.Bozievich@co.lane.or.us</p>