

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 their Government for a redress of grievances.



LETTERS

Postcards for fourth-graders

The fourth-grade class at Aviston Elementary, located in southern Illinois, is learning about the United States and the different environments,

climates, resources and highlights found in each region.

The kids in the class think it would be fun to receive postcards, souvenirs, resources or any information about our great country from each of the 50 states.

We hope that people who read this letter will be interested in mailing our class items pertaining to their state.

Our address: 4th Grade at Aviston Elementary 350 South Hull Street Aviston, Ill., 62216.

A sincere thank you to any-

one who is able to contribute. We appreciate the excitement you will add to our learning experience.

Sincerely,
—Mrs. Neimeyer’s 4th grade class

Aviston, Ill.

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Sentinel 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anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or without documentation will not be published.

Letters containing poetry or from outside The Sentinel 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.

Send letters to:

nhickson@cgsentinel.com or cmay@cgsentinel.com

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The ripple effect of thankfulness

not, we have come to instinctively reach for a blindfold when it comes to how we see each other and anyone with a differing viewpoint.

outlets, social media and notifications on phones, computers and tablets, our attention is constantly being diverted away from real interaction with each other

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.

There will be several opportunities in the weeks ahead to meet with friends, neighbors and community members in the spirit of the holidays.

It is within moments like these that we are reminded of the things that unite us as people within a community rather than by our partisanship.

Our best wishes and sincere thanks to Sentinel readers, letter writers and the community for providing so many moments each day for which to be thankful.

Write to Cottage Grove Sentinel
Managing Editor Ned Hickson at
nhickson@cgsentinel.com.

From the Managing Editor’s Desk

Ned Hickson

It’s a mindset that runs completely counter to being thankful — because it narrows 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

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 with one another.

As we enter into the holiday season, 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

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



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