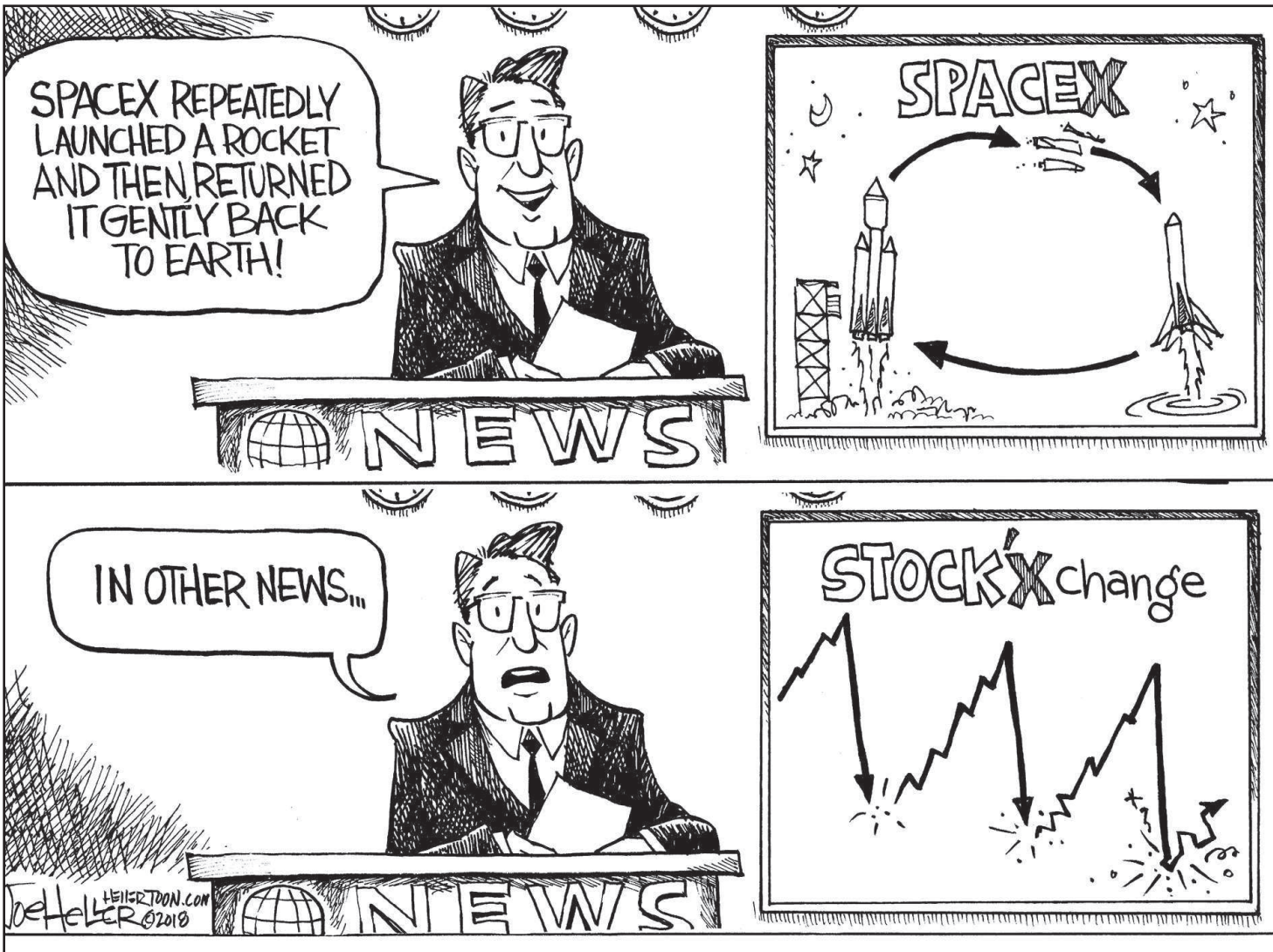


OPINION

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anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or without documentation will not be published.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

LETTER

Thankful former residents, teachers

We are former residents and teachers from Cottage Grove, who unfortunately moved to Paradise, Calif., within the past year. Although we lost everything in the Camp Fire, we feel fortunate to have wonderful friends and family.

We left an amazing teaching community that works tirelessly to improve the lives of students, often giving far more than for which they are paid.

Aside from their dedication to teaching, it is important for the community to understand the education community's constant demonstration of kindness, generosity, compassion, empathy, love and understanding of those either less fortunate or those experiencing hardships in life.

Our devastation was countered by cooperative efforts of Lincoln Middle School, Bohemia Elementary School and the teacher's professional support system SLEA.

Their kindness, along

with financial and emotional support, are helping to guide us through these troubled times and is most appreciated. There are many without our support systems who are struggling to recover and suffering far more than us.

If this amazing community can find it in its your heart to reach out and help these families, please do so. We feel like we are still part of an amazing group of professionals who are used to giving on a daily basis.

Cottage Grove should be proud of its teaching com-

munity and let them know, much like we let the fire fighting community know here.

We are humbled, grateful, and proud to have been so lucky to have been part of that community. Thank you to South Lane School District and thank you Cottage Grove for letting us be part of you.

You will always be part of us!

—Richard DeGeorge and Candace Ford
Former area residents and teachers

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The importance of never forgetting our 'Day of Infamy'

Yet, as the last shot was being fired in Vietnam, I already knew what Pearl Harbor was. I knew how a quiet Sunday morning was trans-

formed into a fiery nightmare by Japanese planes — and how, in less than nine minutes, more than 900 men became entombed in the wreckage that now rests like a shadow below the harbor's surface.

At the same time, and

perhaps more importantly, those images and stories that surface each year — much like the slowly recurring "black tears" of oil that still bubble to the surface from the USS Arizona — serve as a reminder of the ultimate price demanded by a world at war.

From the Managing Editor's Desk

Ned Hickson

formed into a fiery nightmare by Japanese planes — and how, in less than nine minutes, more than 900 men became entombed in the wreckage that now rests like a shadow below the harbor's surface.

I also came to know how the morning was filled with as many acts of heroism and sacrifice as moments of unimaginable horror.

Over the years, images in text books, commemorative issues from publications

like Time magazine and stories captured in movies impressed upon me the virtues of valor.

In an age when many entertain themselves with gaming systems that center around violent acts of war, the lessons learned from the sacrifices of the past are in

danger of becoming diluted by pre-packaged and rewards-driven "acts of valor."

Underscoring this is the gradual and inevitable silencing of those voices who lived through that infamous day in our history.

As a result, the lessons learned from those sacrifices in our past aren't digging nearly as deep a groove in the minds of our children and our culture as they once did.

History forgotten is history bound to repeat itself.

Ray Chavez was a quartermaster on the USS Condor stationed at Pearl Harbor the morning of Dec. 7, 1941. This past Thanksgiving Day, he died at the age of 106, quieting one of the few remaining voices from that horrific "Day of infamy" that jettisoned us into the heart of World War II.

Last Friday, Americans took time to remember the sacrifice made by those 2,403 servicemen killed in the attack, along with the 1,178 who were wounded.

But this year's remembrance also marked another somber occasion: It was first time a USS Arizona survivor wasn't present for the 7:50 a.m. commemoration of the more than 900 servicemen who remain entombed in the battleship.

All told, only five crew members are still alive from that morning attack: Lauren Bruner, 98; Lonnie Cook, 98; Ken Potts, 97; Lou Conter, 97; and Don Stratton, 96. This year, old age and failing health prevented any of those USS Arizona survivors from making the trip to Oahu.

As a child, I was only peripherally aware of the Vietnam War and even less so of the Korean War, which ended before I was born.



Cottage Grove Sentinel

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Subscription Mail Rates in Lane and Portions of Douglas Counties:

10 Weeks\$11
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No subscription for less than 10 weeks. Subscription rates are subject to change upon 30 days' notice. All subscriptions must be paid prior to beginning the subscription and are non-refundable.

Periodicals postage paid at Cottage Grove, Oregon.
Postmaster: Send address changes to P.O. Box 35, Cottage Grove, OR 97424.

Local Mail Service:

If you don't receive your Cottage Grove Sentinel on the Wednesday of publication, please let us know.
Call 942-3325 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

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