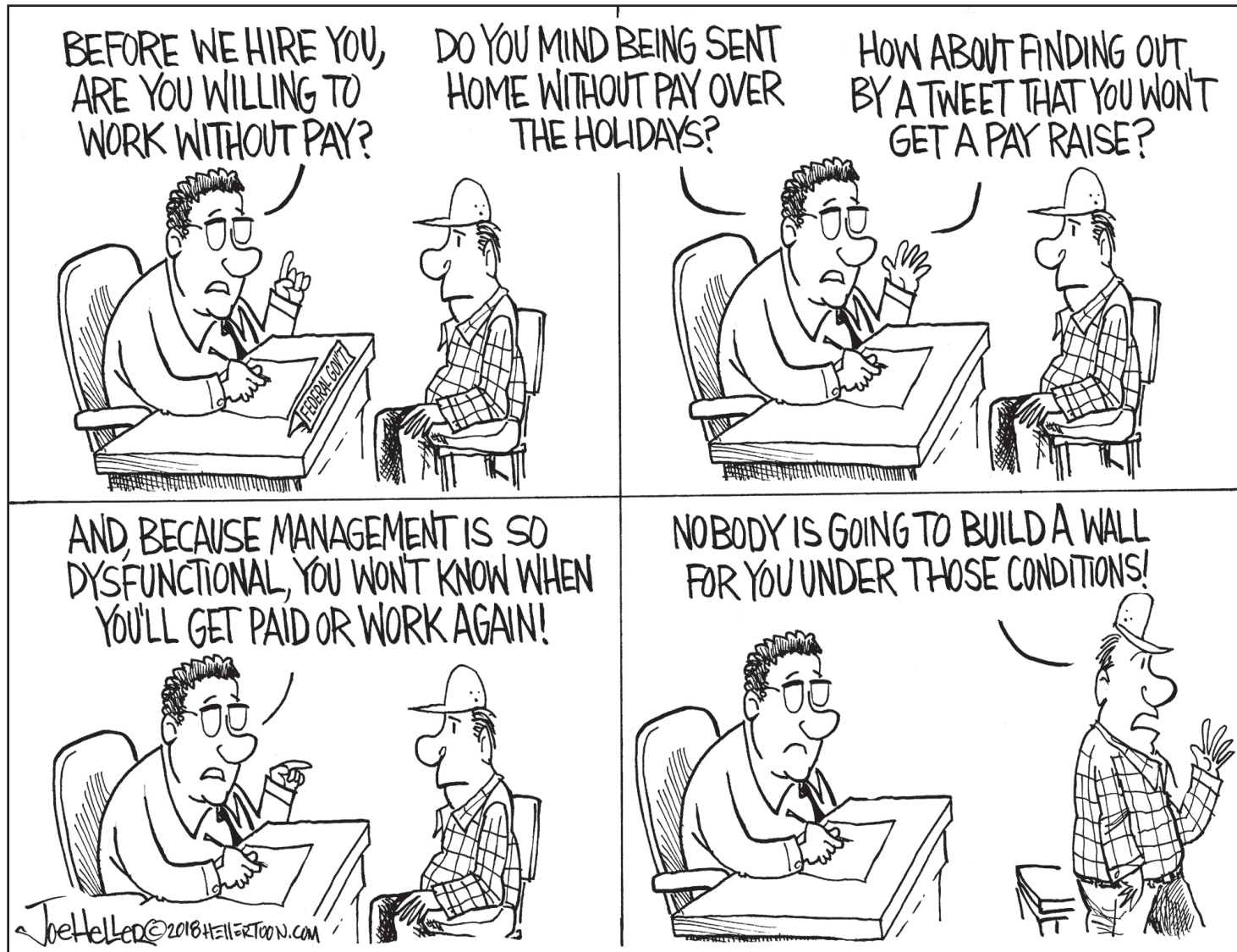


# OPINION

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anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or without documentation will not be published.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

## 'The Grove Report' — A new way to bring you the news and stories of our community



By Caitlyn May  
cmay@cgsentinel.com

On Sunday, Oct. 30, 1938, at 8 p.m., Orson Welles scared the heck out of the world — or at least the part of the country within the sound of a radio — as "War of the Worlds" came across the airwaves.

The broadcast was part of the golden age of radio and its dramatized alien invasion is replayed around Halloween each year, including here in Cottage Grove.

We value the lessons history has to teach us here at *The Sentinel*, and so this time, before something new

and possibly scary comes over the airwaves at you, we're going to give you a fair warning:

We're launching a podcast. Essentially, it's the same thing as "War of the Worlds," except it's not technically on the radio, it's more than one episode, it's about Cottage Grove and it's not at all scary.

*The Grove Report*, which will be available on our website and for download on our social media platforms, will come in two flavors: One will be published every Tuesday and will feature Zach Silva and I chatting about the news hitting the stands the next day — a preview, if you will.

We'll talk about how we found the story, the interviews we conducted and why something did, or did not, make it into the article.

Overall, it will be between five and 10 minutes or the perfect length for a quick jaunt into town, a school drop off or a coffee break.

The other flavor will come once a month in what journalists call the long-form story. These audio stories will focus on a specific event or issue. We may tell the story of a come-from-behind team headed for the playoffs, with voices of coaches, players and parents.

We could also venture into Cottage Grove's politics and talk homelessness with the city administration, state lawmakers, business owners and those who have found themselves on our streets.

We could do a deep dive on a hot-topic, such as in our first episode, due out Jan. 16, that focuses on the decision to close Latham School.

Zach will walk you through the narrative that touches on the school's 165-year-old history, talking with folks who spent decades at the school and explaining the finances behind its closure.

So, you may be asking

"Why now?" or even, "Why at all?"

Because as we started approaching the new year, we explored ideas of how we could approach new ways of telling the news and stories of our community. Some of those ideas I outlined my editorial last week.

As part of those discussions, we talked about where we wanted to go and how to get there — hence the podcast. It's a new platform that relies on the old standards of storytelling. To be honest, we're pretty excited about it.

Not only will it broaden our skills as journalists but it will allow our community to connect to the stories it shares with us on a new level and in a new way.

The first episode — a 90-second example of what you can expect — hits the website today. Then, on Jan. 16, we'll launch our new podcast with the story of Latham and we hope you give it a listen.

## LETTERS

### Build the wall, keep illegal immigrants out

To the readers of *The Sentinel*, I am wondering how many people it will take until they wake up and tell a certain political party that we need a wall to protect our borders?

How many people must lose their jobs to illegal immigrants or to environmentalists?

It seems a certain political party doesn't care about the people of the United States. They only care about their own pocketbook and their own needs.

This political party is in the environmentalists' pocket. They are the same ones that want to impeach the president and kill everything that he has done for this country and what he is trying to do for the United

States.

I believe that this political party should let the illegal immigrants move into their homes, take their jobs away and then see what happens.

If they lost their jobs and had to be in the unemployment line, getting little to no Social Security check [because they] are going to illegal immigrants and leaving less of the money you are entitled to just to support those illegal immigrants, [they might see things differently.]

They are also taking from our children education and not paying any taxes.

I say send the illegal immigrants home and build the wall on our borders.

But that's my two cents worth.

—Russell C. Brenchley  
Cottage Grove

### Come help city decide on Swinging Bridge

On behalf of the Friends of Cottage Grove Swinging Bridge, I would like to invite the community to the first Cottage Grove City Council meeting of 2019 — and it will be a big one for the Swinging Bridge.

This meeting will be at City Hall on Monday, Jan. 14, at 7 p.m.

The city issued a request for proposals to rebuild the Swinging Bridge back in December. The deadline was Monday Jan. 6 of this year and the submitted plans and prices will be presented to the City Councilors for consideration next Monday.

If there is a plan and cost figure that seems doable the question will be put to a vote.

Anyone who has an interest in how our dear old

Swinging Bridge should turn out, this meeting would be a very good one to attend. If you can not make it, contact your city councilor and make your opinion known.

I would hope to see as many of the Bridge Friends in attendance as possible. Wear a Swinging Bridge T-shirt if you have one. If not, I will have them at the meeting for anyone who needs to get one.

After nearly three years of community efforts, it is time to see what the next step will be.

And thanks to everyone who has contributed in so many ways to help bring back this important part of Cottage Grove's history.

Thank you, Cottage Grove!

—Dana Merryday  
Cottage Grove

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• **Rep. Cedric Hayden**  
Republican District 7 State Representative  
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Email: rep.cedrichayden@state.or.us

### Oregon federal representatives

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