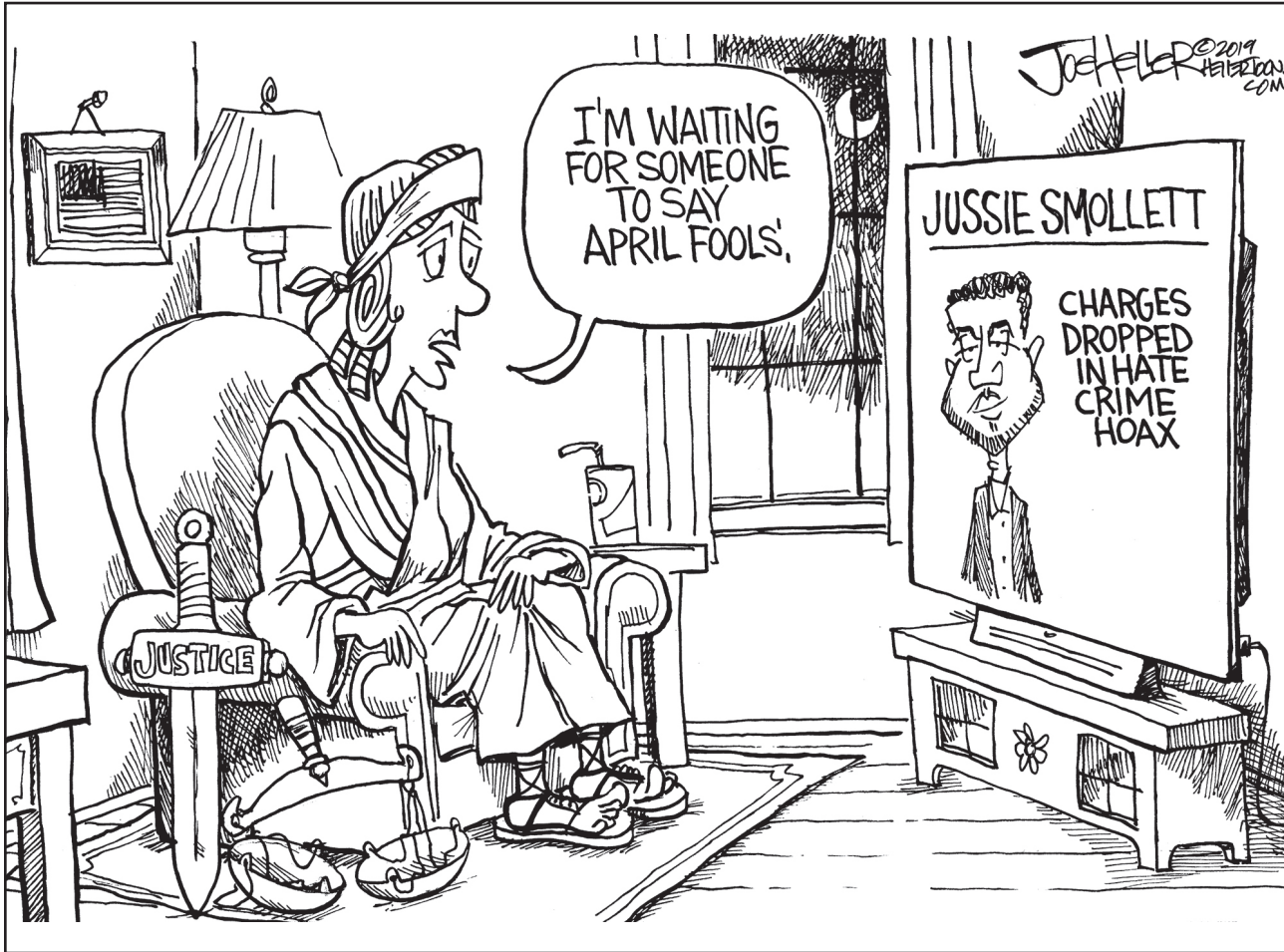


Cottage Grove Sentinel  
116 N. Sixth St.  
Cottage Grove, Ore. 97424

# 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)



## Learning the ins, outs and importance of journalism

**(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.)**

Journalism is something that everyone knows. But few understand just how important journalism is in connecting people, creating a sense of community and providing information so that community members can make informed decisions.

Those are just three examples of how important journalism is. Yet, I never would have considered some of them if it wasn't for the opportunity to job shadow Ned Hickson at the *Cottage Grove Sentinel*. This opportunity showed me new sides of journalism and the newspaper.

I learned through my experience at *The Sentinel* how much effort is put into putting out a newspaper every

week. It isn't a 9-to-5 type of job — it is a work-in-the-moment type of job.

I personally found this important because it always keeps the job fresh and keeps people on their toes, ready for anything. Most of all, it makes the

### GUEST VIEWPOINT By Tyler Rhyme Cottage Grove High School senior

job more interesting because anything could happen — and you must be prepared for anything.

Something else I learned was how important personal character is in journalism. We all are humans, and we all make mistakes. It's impossible not to. But being able to realize and correct your mistake — and not take it super personally — is important.

It shows how our local journalists not only want to get the information

out to the public, but also ensure it's correct. And when it isn't, admitting it and correcting it is just as important to them.

That commitment creates a bond; a community of trust.

Lastly, I was able to learn that it is a worthwhile pursuit. That's because, with this type of job, you impact the community directly and are a key source of information. You are helping people stay informed, and that helps others in the community. These and many more are the reasons I feel journalism is beyond important, and why I have personally chosen to study it in college.

It provides a way to connect with the community and gives people a way to help others. But without the opportunity I was given at *The Sentinel*, I wouldn't have truly known how important a community newspaper and journalism truly are.

## LETTER

### WONDERFUL COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR CAROUSEL

I would like to thank the wonderful citizens of South Lane County and Chamber members who participated in Business After Hours at King Estate Winery and the temporary home of the restoration of the carousel on March 21. It was a record-breaking event for participation.

The mood was wonderful fellowship and networking.

The carousel is 95 percent complete, with only some electronics and lighting to be added. We are still moving forward with a temporary operating location at Brad's Chevrolet.

Stay tuned for events and fundraisers that the carousel committee is working on at the present time.

Coming up soon: Jr. tea parties for young people, with date, time and location yet to be determined. The committee is headed by Linda Sexton and Destiny Duerst.

The musical venue committee is working on quality musical programs once a month at Calvary Chapel. The carousel committee is very grateful that we are being allowed to use the sanctuary for quality musical family programs. We have a commitment from the Cascade Chorus, and the tentative date is the third Sunday evening in May. Prices will be kept at a minimum so families may enjoy the upcoming musical programs.

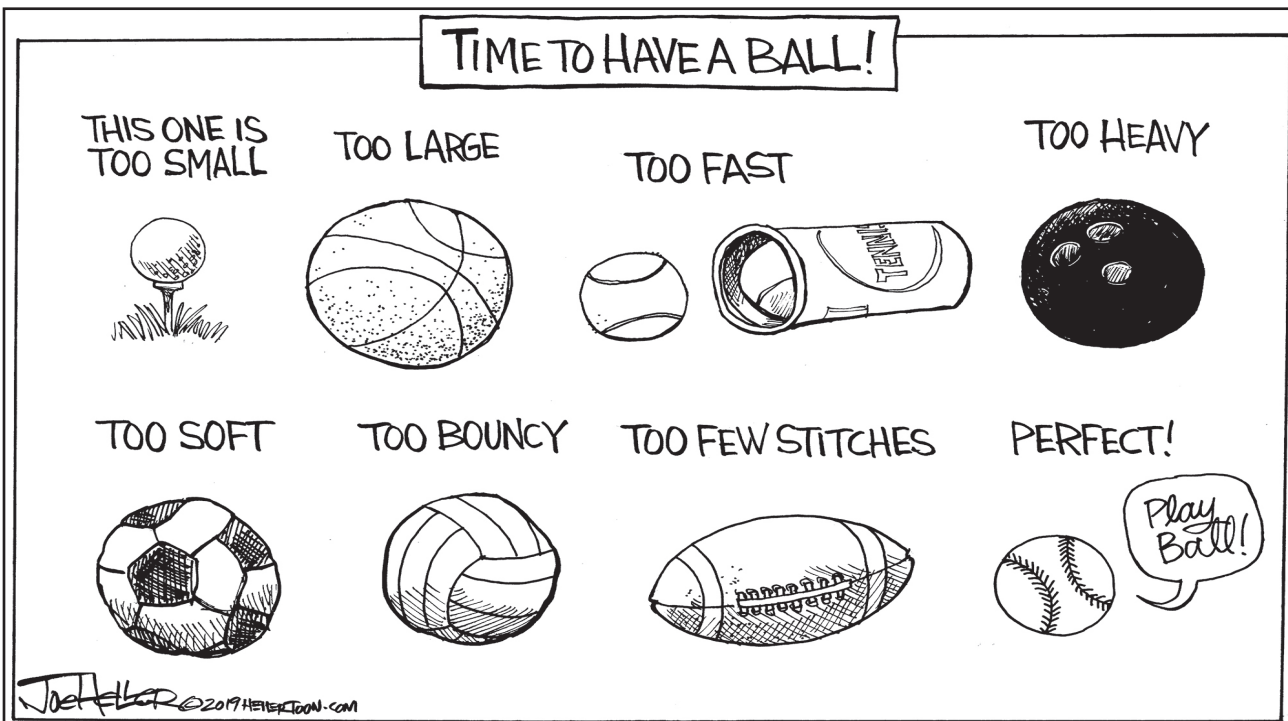
Carousel Board members Alice Nowicki, Ken Schrieber, Destiny Duerst, Cindy Weeldreyer, and Don Williams.

Linda and Don are presently looking at a golf tournament in September as a fundraiser for the carousel.

These are but a few of the fundraising events that will be coming to the South Valley to obtain property and build a permanent home for the Cottage Grove Carousel.

We also have opportunity of obtaining a mystery collection that may be a world record, where we could promote, not only covered bridges, bike trails, two recreational lakes and an operating carousel, but the world's largest collection of the mystery item!

—Don Williams,  
Board President, Friends of the  
Cottage Grove Carousel



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### 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.

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