

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)



The enduring reasons we thank Mom

This year perhaps more than any other, my wife deserves something special for Mother's Day. That's because in spite of our youngest daughter's many teenaged mood swings, my wife has somehow managed to avoid what I'm sure has been a strong (some might even say natural) urge to eat her young.

This hasn't been easy. As I mentioned, our daughter is experiencing the physical and emotional challenges that accompany adolescence. One minute she is merrily talking about her favorite kind of cheese; the next minute, she is blaming cheese for ruining her life.

As a father, my instinct is to fix the problem by addressing the root of the issue by going directly to the refrigerator and throwing out everything that is — or has the potential of becoming — a cheese-like

substance. My wife, on the other hand, understands there are complex emotional issues at work, and that, in spite of my good intentions, the likelihood of me being able to resolve such issues is akin to having a bomb successfully deactivated by a goat.

Thanks to her motherly intuition, my wife was able to explain to me that what our daughter says — and what she really *means* — are two completely different things.

As I understand it, this is the first step to becoming a woman. Being a man, I am no stranger to this concept. However, I was in denial when it came to my daughter. Mostly because I didn't want to admit that she is growing up; time is slipping away. Though I kept this realization to myself, it was clear that my wife's insight-

fulness is something that only comes with motherhood. It's a bond that starts during that first nine months, when mother and child reach a special understanding that if Baby doesn't stop using mommy's bladder for step aerobics,

mommy will eat a raw jalapeno. In this way, even before birth, a child learns Mom will endure physical or emotional discomfort if it means providing a valuable life lesson; because that's what Moms do best. Endure. If you don't believe me, then I have two words for you: Breast Pump. True, not every mother utilized this torture device, but the mere thought that she *could have* is reason enough for a child to be respectful. Truth be told, if it were

up to fathers to provide breast milk to the human species, we'd all be nursed by monkeys. And remember that breast pumping came after nine months of losing control over most of her bodily functions, including — but not limited to — food cravings. These cravings came as a direct result of Baby's needs inside the womb, even though, in many cases, those needs could gag a contestant on *Dumpster Diver*. Keep in mind that during this process, she was still merrily preparing for Baby's arrival by hanging borders, assembling mobiles, making trips to the doctor — all while visiting the bathroom once every three minutes. So, make sure to give a big "Thank You" to all the wonderful mothers out there, especially those who are celebrating their very first Mother's Day this year! You know who you are. If you don't, you might try turning down that breast pump a notch or two...

From the Managing Editor's Desk
Ned Hickson

LETTER

COUNCILOR'S OUTBURST WAS AN EMBARRASSMENT
Mayor Gowing and Councilor Boone recently spent \$6,000 to go to a conference in Washington D.C. and then reported virtually nothing about the trip.

So I attended the April 22 Cottage Grove City Council meeting to ask councilors to create a policy that says officials traveling at taxpayer expense are required to write a report as to the purpose of their travel. This would ensure that residents and future city councilors would know why

that travel was necessary and what it accomplished.

What I got in response was what I view as verbal harassment by Councilor Mike Fleck, who accused me of being "angry" and then, while wagging his finger, "scolded" me (his word). He then wrongly claimed that Cottage Grove taxpayers who live outside City limits have no right to speak at Council meetings.

It is the right of all Grovers to expect financial accountability by public officials, and our duty to call it out when that accountability is ignored.

My thanks to Councilor Boone for at least making an effort to reply to my request and also to Councilor Solesbee for disciplining Mr. Fleck. I felt Mr. Fleck's rant was an embarrassment to the whole city council and to his constituents.

I feel he owes me, his fellow Councilors and all Cottage Grove taxpayers an apology for his failure to listen to what was being requested and his unprovoked outburst.

—Allan Katz
*Cottage Grove taxpayer
Bennett Creek Road*

Celebrating local heros during Small Business Week

Try to go one day without having a small business impact your life. In fact, try to go one day without having at least a dozen small businesses touch your day. It's impossible.

There are nearly 378,000 small businesses in Oregon. Beyond the two out of three net new jobs they create; and, beyond their employment of half the state's workforce, small businesses are woven into the fabric of our daily lives.

Consider an average day. You wake up in your home that was built by small contractors. The framers, roofers, electricians, plumbers and painters were all likely from local small businesses.

Your breakfast — be it the milk, the juice, the cereal, the eggs, the toast, the

jam — all came from a farm. And given our local agricultural abundance, it's very likely it was sourced locally.

The business that paved the roads of

GUEST VIEWPOINT
By Jeremy Field
Regional Administrator Pacific Northwest SBA

your commute, the businesses that repair the car, bus, bike or plane you ride to work — or the businesses that built those parts for these modes of transportation — are most likely small businesses too.

These are the local heroes we celebrate during National Small Business

Week (May 5-11)

Every year since 1963, the President has declared National Small Business Week as a time to shine a spotlight on the impact of small businesses on our economy and communities.

During this year's celebration, I challenge you take a moment to realize how many touchpoints you have with small businesses every day. It's something we often take for granted.

Small business owners are one of our state's greatest resources and a thread in the fabric of what we seek to achieve as a community. During National Small Business Week, join me in honoring the small businesses and entrepreneurs that are woven into our lives.

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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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