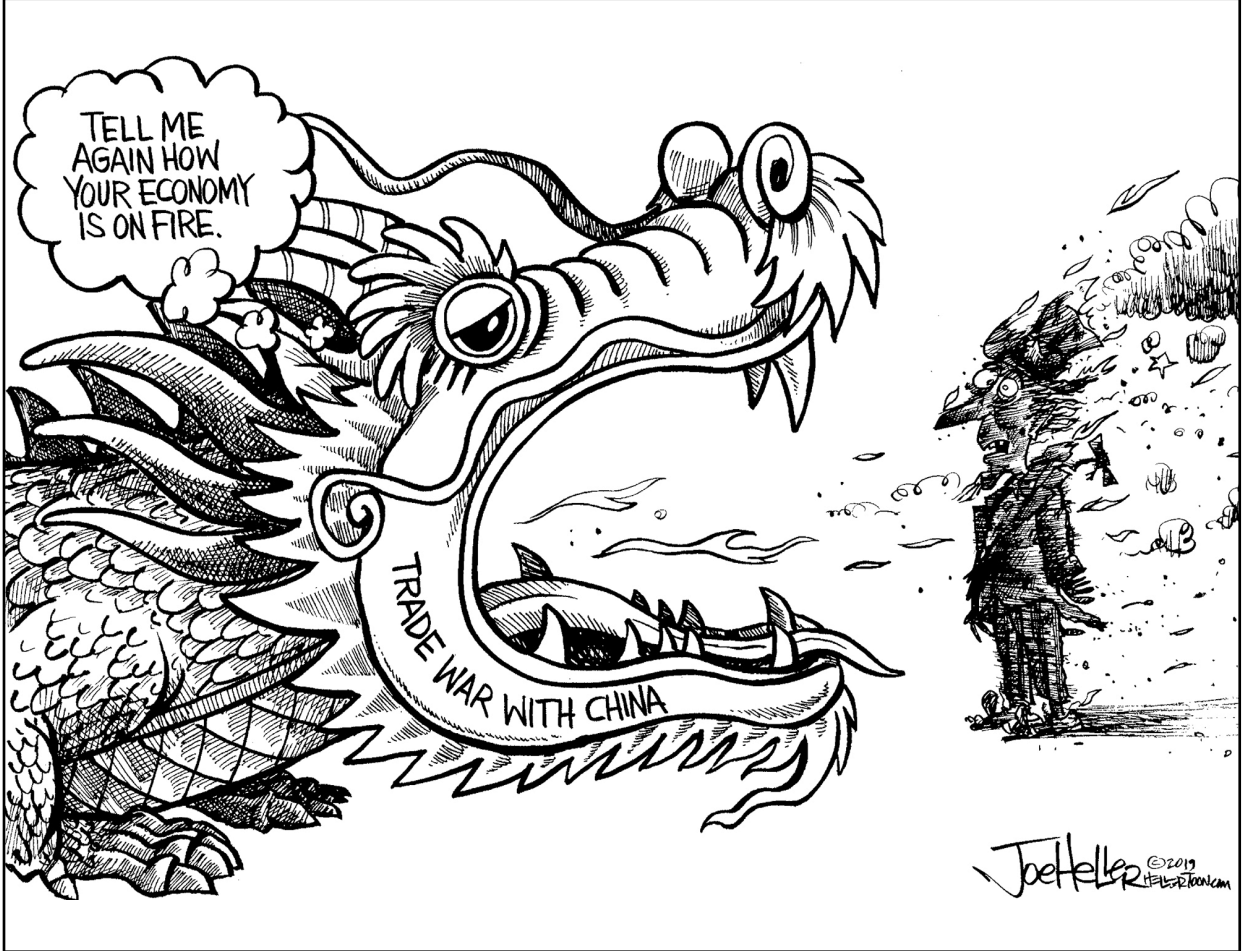


Cottage Grove Sentinel
116 N. Sixth St.
Cottage Grove, Ore. 97424

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)



Con artists devising new way to scam older Oregonians

Identity theft, investment fraud and scams rob millions of Americans of their hard-earned money every year.

Research shows that more than \$20 billion was stolen from about 13 million victims in 2017, according to the latest Javelin Strategy and Research reports on identity fraud.

Losses from internet crimes are up 91 percent, with people over 60 often the targets, according to a new report from the FBI that shows cybercrimes cost Americans more than \$2.7 billion in 2018.

Con artists use a myriad of scams to steal people's hard-earned money, including phishing scams, tech-support scams, gold coin scams, oil and gas scams, sweepstakes and lottery scams, grandparent scams and many more.

Although their methods are different, research shows that the tactics scammers use are the same. When authorities ask convicted

A free workshop open to all ages will be held this Friday, May 17, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Cottage Grove Community Center.

con artists to describe the trick to scamming people out of money, they all say the same thing: “Get them under the ether.”

The ether is a heightened emotional state that makes it hard to think clearly and make rational decisions. Con artists ask questions that trigger an emotional response. Once they find something their “target” cares about that triggers emotions,

they will “throttle up” on that trigger and get the person to focus on it until they are in a heightened emotional state and ready to open their wallet.

This information and more can all be found in the “Con Artists Playbook.” The Con Artist's Playbook is part of the Fraud Watch Network, which contains this interview and others, along with access to information to help protect people from theft and fraud.

More tools and tips on how to spot and prevent scams will be offered by AARP Oregon and the

Lane County Senior & Disability Services fraud division at a free workshop this Friday, May 17, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Cottage Grove Community Center.

The Fraud Watch Network gives people free access to information about how to protect themselves and families.

Membership is not required and the workshop is open to people of all ages, allowing them to talk with others about active scams and how to find resources.

In keeping true to its mission of protecting the financial security of older adults, AARP has been working on this local campaign to fight identity theft and fraud in Oregon.

Get more information, watchdog alerts and more by visiting aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork or call 877-908-3360.

LETTERS

OLD COURTHOUSE DOESN'T MEET NEW SECURITY NEEDS

From the perspective of a law enforcement officer, I want to offer a few reasons why our current courthouse is inadequate and why we need to replace it now.

Our deputy sheriffs are charged with serving the circuit courts and providing for the safety of the public, the court staff, the in-custody defendants and the individuals seeking justice at the Lane County Courthouse.

Because of the courthouse's outdated and inadequate layout, inmates must be moved through public spaces where crime victims and witnesses are waiting. This leads to confrontations, stress, outbursts and even violence; that should be unacceptable to all of us and yet is unavoidable with the current building.

For similar reasons, inmates can enter courtrooms only by going through the workspaces of court staff and judges. These same inmates share our single elevator with staff, judges and attorneys.

This is especially dangerous because the elevator breaks down not infrequently.

The remodeling of the existing courthouse over time in order to accommodate three times as many

courtrooms as originally designed has not allowed for an appropriate emphasis on space design for safety and security.

When a community member wishes to seek a domestic violence protective order, they must do so waiting in a small public hallway. No separation of space results in deputy sheriffs having to respond to domestic disputes within the courthouse — or worse — in victims who are too afraid to come to the courthouse to seek an order.

Our courthouse was built for a different time before we had the security concerns of today. The courthouse is not as secure from external access as it needs to be.

Measure 20-299 will allow us to build a courthouse to meet today's needs. I will be voting “yes” for a new Lane County Courthouse.

—Cliff Harrold
Creswell

FOLLOWING EXAMPLE SET BY CLARENCE ‘THE WAVER’

Cottage Grove is such a caring community on so many different levels it makes me proud to be a Grover!

The most recent example of that is how quickly we came together to create a beautiful memorial bench for the late Clarence “The CG Wa-

ver” Kreamier on the corner of 16th and Main streets.

The community Facebook page has many heartfelt stories about how his effort to brighten a person's day really did for some. As a community, we came together to honor a neighbor who served our country, supported his family and encouraged our community.

I “tip my hat” and applaud the efforts of those involved who made it happen.

Today as I drive through the intersection, I see a beautiful bench just begging for someone to sit for a spell and carry on Clarence's legacy of sprinkling a little goodness upon all who pass that way. Last week, I saw my friend, Dana Merryday, sitting on the bench waving at drivers passing by.

It made me smile as I tooted my horn and waved back at him. I plan to follow his example when I have a bit of time. I'll just park my car on 16th Street and spend 15 to 20 minutes waving to all of you.

I encourage others to follow Dana's example and make it a new tradition we share together.

I think “The Waver” would love it!

—Cindy Weeldreyer
Cottage Grove

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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.

Send letters to:
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