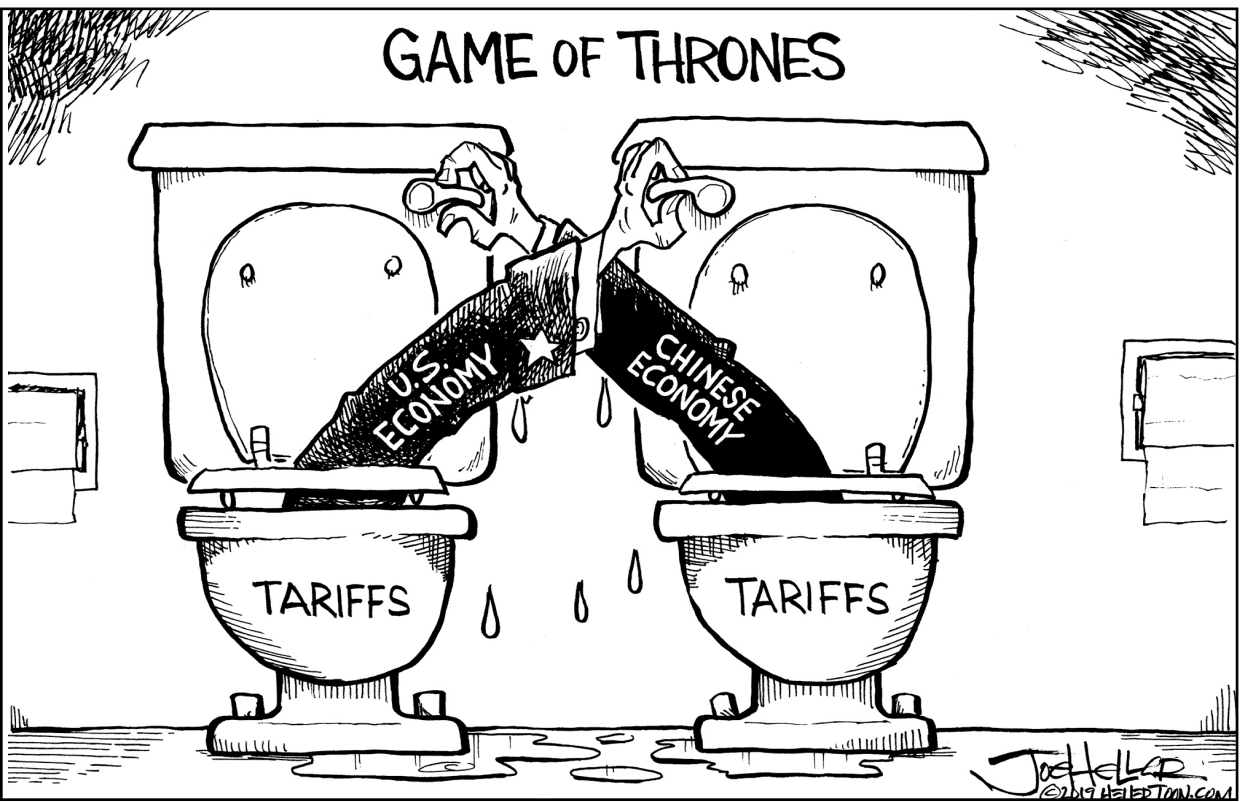


Cottage Grove Sentinel
116 N. Sixth St.
Cottage Grove, Ore. 97424

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)



Sharing the meaning of those little flags

neck, the earthy smell of the fresh-cut grass and the hushed snap of small American flags standing like sentries next to dozens of tombstones along the hillside at our local cemetery.

"How come some of them have little flags, and

then shook her head. "Well, they are usually trying to protect something," I explained. "Like where they live, or their beliefs, or the right to express themselves. These little flags are for people who fought for you and me — so that we could have all

ment, watching as the fabric of stars and stripes waved in the evening breeze. Hugging her knees to her chest, my daughter surveyed the hilly grass and the long shadows stretching away from the setting sun.

"There sure are a lot of little flags out there," she said finally.

"Yes, there are." She was silent again, and I began to wonder if I had laid too much reality on her.

After a moment, she stood and brushed grass from the seat of her pants.

"C'mon, Dad," she said, and reached for my hand.

"You ready to go?" "Uh-huh," she said. "After we fix those other flags down there. Some of them fell over. We need to make them straight."

This Memorial Day, take time to notice the little flags.

There are many. And they all deserve our attention...

From the Managing Editor's Desk

Ned Hickson

some don't?" my daughter asked.

Though we didn't have any family members buried there, I thought it would be a good opportunity to explain the meaning of Memorial Day to her.

"Do you know what war is?" I asked.

"When people fight," she answered, then clarified herself; "A whole bunch of people."

"That's right, but do you know why they fight?"

She thought a moment,

those things." "And they died while they were fighting?" she asked and crouched in front of a small flag that had fallen over. She looked at me, and I nodded.

"A lot of them did," I answered, watching as she stuck the little flag back into the ground. "But not all of them. Some died later, after they were done fighting for us."

"But they still get a flag, right?"

"That's right." We sat there for a mo-

LETTERS

GREAT COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR CG THEATRE

Thank you, *Cottage Grove Sentinel*, for the coverage of Cottage Theatre's exciting renovation project, ACT III.

In addition to the grants mentioned in the story, which are indeed key to the project's success, we are also raising funds by selling seat sponsorships and seeking individual contributions in any amount.

So far, more than 50 people have come forward to put their name on a seat, and there are plenty more seats available for sponsorship.

During the year, the local band

FAB (Fabulous Album Band) spearheaded Tony Rust a long-time theater volunteer, actor and director, held two concert fundraisers that raised nearly \$4,000.

And on May 4, Cottage Theatre hosted a big yard sale, which raised more than \$1,600 towards the project.

A big *Thank You* to everyone who has come out to support the theater. Since its humble beginnings under a parachute, to its impossible dream of a "real" playhouse, to today's ACT III remodel, Cottage Theatre owes its success to its many, many dedicated volunteers and its strong

community support.

Cottage Grove is about its people, its beauty and its history. Cottage Theatre, a one-of-a-kind gem in the community, offers a very special reason for visitors to come explore and experience all that Cottage Grove has to offer.

—Karen Snyder
Cottage Theatre volunteer and actress

(Editor's Note: For more information about supporting the theater, future productions or the ACT III project, visit www.cottagetheatre.org.



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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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