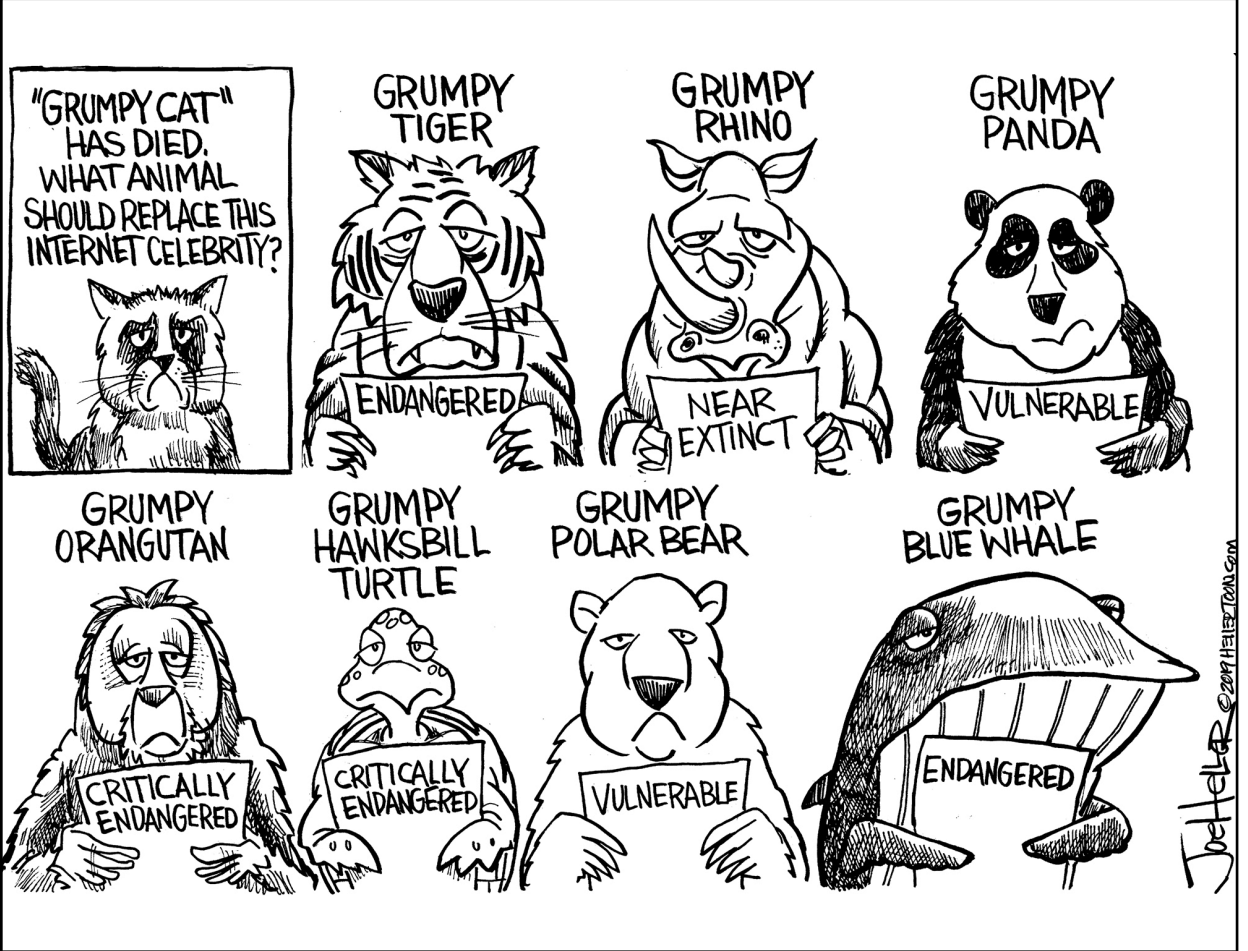


**Cottage Grove Sentinel**  
 116 N. Sixth St.  
 Cottage Grove, Ore. 97424

# 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)



## Help First Step stay open until school year ends

**(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.)**

care center for infants and toddlers is expensive.

The Executive Director, Karol Kuhn, has been volunteering her time for the past five years and, along

Its closing will leave a tremendous void in the community and create an unimaginable burden on community families with infants and toddlers

tions from every corner of our community, Parent Partnership asks that you remember how much it has given and provided to the community for over 30 years.

If every person who was impacted by Parent Partnership and its programs could donate just \$10 to \$20 each, they would be well on their way to meeting their goal.

Thank you for your support!

**(Editor's Note: Donations can be made at [www.facebook.com/Parentpartnershipcg/](http://www.facebook.com/Parentpartnershipcg/) or by sending donation to Parent Partnership, PO Box 1529, Cottage Grove, Ore. 97424. First Steps is a 501(c)3, so and all donations are tax deductible (EIN# 93-0986640).**

### GUEST VIEWPOINT By Karol Kuhn Simons Executive Director, Parent Partnership

with the Board of Directors, has done everything possible to cut costs so that all revenue go directly to its programs.

In spite of their efforts, Parent Partnership will be closing its doors this summer along with First Steps. This decision was not made lightly, knowing the program provides the only state-certified child care for children less than three years of age in South Lane County.

— especially teen parents attending school and dedicated school staff who need quality child care for their babies while they educate our community's children.

Parent Partnership is reaching out to the community to at least keep First Steps open until the end of this school year. To do so, they need to raise \$10,000.

Knowing that everyone is being asked for dona-

For more than 30 years, First Steps Child Care Center has been the place where local babies and infants have been rocked, fed, diapered, learned new words, taken their first crawling or walking steps, and been cared for by an amazing staff of caregivers.

It's been the cornerstone program of Parent Partnership since it was incorporated in 1989.

Over the past 16 years, budgets have gradually declined and twice Parent Partnership nearly closed its doors; running a child-

## LETTERS

### THANKS FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT, CHORUS AND VOLUNTEERS

We wish to thank all the fine citizens of South Lane county who came out to support the Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel project and enjoy a beautiful musical production by the Cascade Chorus.

Some time ago, the chorus offered to do a benefit to support the building fund for the carousel.

We are so fortunate to have Eugene's own Fred Craft, of Radio Redux and past TV and RG entertainment critic, as emcee.

The chorus was accompanied by two barbershop quartets.

The comments and reviews of

individuals after the show were extremely positive. Many in the audience had never seen the chorus before and commented it was one of the best musical shows they had ever.

Volunteers who have made the carousel project come alive, with donations of upwards of 5,000 hours. The Board of Directors and myself thank Calvary Chapel for opening its sanctuary for the benefit, Fred Crafts for his talents as emcee and, of course, the Cascade Chorus.

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

### COMMUNITY SPIRIT, SUPPORT IS IMPRESSIVE

I recently attended a concert sponsored by Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel featuring the Cascade Chorus. The talent and humor were outstanding — a truly "not to be missed" event.

The community spirit supporting this carousel project is impressive. As someone new to the area, I look forward to more events and opportunities to participate in the success of this exciting effort.

Thanks to all concerned for a wonderfully entertaining experience.

—Dorothy Brandt  
 New CG resident

## HOW TO CONTACT YOUR REPS

### Oregon state representatives

• **Sen. Floyd Prozanski**  
 District 4 State Senator  
 PO Box 11511  
 Eugene, Ore. 97440  
 Phone: 541-342-2447  
 Email: [sen.floydprozanski@state.or.us](mailto:sen.floydprozanski@state.or.us)

• **Rep. Cedric Hayden**  
 Republican District 7 State Representative  
 900 Court St. NE  
 Salem, Ore. 97301  
 Phone: 503-986-1407  
 Website: [www.leg.state.or.us/hayden](http://www.leg.state.or.us/hayden)  
 Email: [rep.cedrichayden@state.or.us](mailto:rep.cedrichayden@state.or.us)

### Oregon federal representatives

• **Rep. Peter DeFazio**  
 (House of Representatives)  
 405 East 8th Ave.  
 #2030  
 Eugene, Ore. 97401  
 Email: [defazio.house.gov/contact/email-peter](mailto:defazio.house.gov/contact/email-peter)  
 Phone: 541-465-6732

• **Sen. Ron Wyden**  
 405 East 8th Ave., Suite 2020  
 Eugene, Ore. 97401  
 Email: [wyden.senate.gov](mailto:wyden.senate.gov)  
 Phone: (541) 431-0229

• **Sen. Jeff Merkley**  
 Email: [merkley.senate.gov](mailto:merkley.senate.gov)  
 Phone: 541-465-6750

# Cottage Grove Sentinel

541-942-3325

### Administration

Jenna Bartlett, Group Publisher  
 Gary Manly, General Manager... Ext. 1207  
[gmanly@cgsentinel.com](mailto:gmanly@cgsentinel.com)  
 Allison Miller, Multi-Media Sales Consultant... Ext. 1213  
[amiller@cgsentinel.com](mailto:amiller@cgsentinel.com)  
 Gerald Santana, Multi-Media Sales Consultant... Ext. 1216  
[gsantana@cgsentinel.com](mailto:gsantana@cgsentinel.com)  
 Gina Nauman, Inside Multi-Media Sales Consultant... Ext. 1203  
[gnauman@cgsentinel.com](mailto:gnauman@cgsentinel.com)

### Editorial

Ned Hickson, Managing Editor... 541-902-3520  
[nhickson@cgsentinel.com](mailto:nhickson@cgsentinel.com)  
 Damien Sherwood, Lead Reporter... Ext. 1212  
[dsherwood@cgsentinel.com](mailto:dsherwood@cgsentinel.com)

Zach Silva, Sports Editor... Ext. 1204  
[zsilva@cgsentinel.com](mailto:zsilva@cgsentinel.com)

### Customer Service

Meg Fringer, Office Manager, Legals, Classifieds... Ext. 1200  
[mfringer@cgsentinel.com](mailto:mfringer@cgsentinel.com)

### Production

Ron Annis, Production Supervisor... Ext.1215  
[graphics@cgsentinel.com](mailto:graphics@cgsentinel.com)

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