

**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)



## LETTERS

**GOING TO MISS WEELDREYER**  
 Cindy Weeldreyer, former Lane County Commissioner, retires as secretary from Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel as of July 31. She has served well as board member and recording secretary for the five-year life of the board. As this reader remembers, she has contributed many hours to bettering her community, including her eight years of service to the county as a commissioner; many years of service leading various organizations in Cottage Grove, such as Beds for Freezing Nights, various

food programs for the hungry, to name but a few; and currently as executive director for Bohemia Mining Days. She is also creator and author of "Around the Grove" newsletter. Cindy has not only contributed her expertise as recording secretary, but in her knowledge of developing programs and her insight into the community. She will lend her expertise, in a lesser degree, to the carousel project as an advisor and working with Nadine Kelley in grant writing for phase 2 and 3, to develop a permanent home for the

carousel. This group of volunteers has moved the project further and faster, in a five-year period, than any other volunteer carousel group in the west, with the exception of Shelby, Mont. I will miss working with Cindy on the carousel project. She and I have worked together on several boards — she is a wonderful team member.

—Donald Williams, President, Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel.



## We've come a long way since The Dixie Chicks controversy — but in the wrong direction

opportunity to voice her opposition to the impending war. "Just so you know, we're on the good side with ya'll," Maines said. "We do not want this war, this violence, and we're ashamed that the president of the

"dis" the president when you're on foreign soil. I was living in Texas at the time and I can tell you that the sense of betrayal felt by the Lone Star State ran deep. Ultimately, the backlash ended what had been a

U.S. Congress have used terms like "shameful" and "bizarre" to describe President Trump's continued support of Russian president Vladimir Putin's denial of election meddling — in 2016 and in the future — the vast majority have offered little more than finger wagging and generalities. The president offered no such generalities in specifically calling out the FBI and the Robert Mueller's investigation into collusion between foreign and domestic interests in swaying the 2016 election. In an era where taking a knee in protest has created so much controversy and division, it would seem we've come a long way since the Dixie Chicks' remarks drew disdain from so many Americans. But, apparently, we've come a long way in the wrong direction.

### From the Managing Editor's Desk

Ned Hickson

United States is from Texas." Reaction from the other side of the pond in America was swift and, as the coming weeks and months would prove, unrelenting. Many country fans and Americans in general felt the group betrayed a sacred trust between the American people and their elected president, regardless of which side of the vote they had landed on. Simply put: You don't

cosmic rise to superstardom. Now, 16 years later, in a not-so-subtle twist of irony, it's the American people and the intelligence agencies representing their interest around the world who have been — and continue to be — disrespected by the comments made by their president while on foreign soil. The reaction? Swift ambiguity. While a few in the

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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.

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