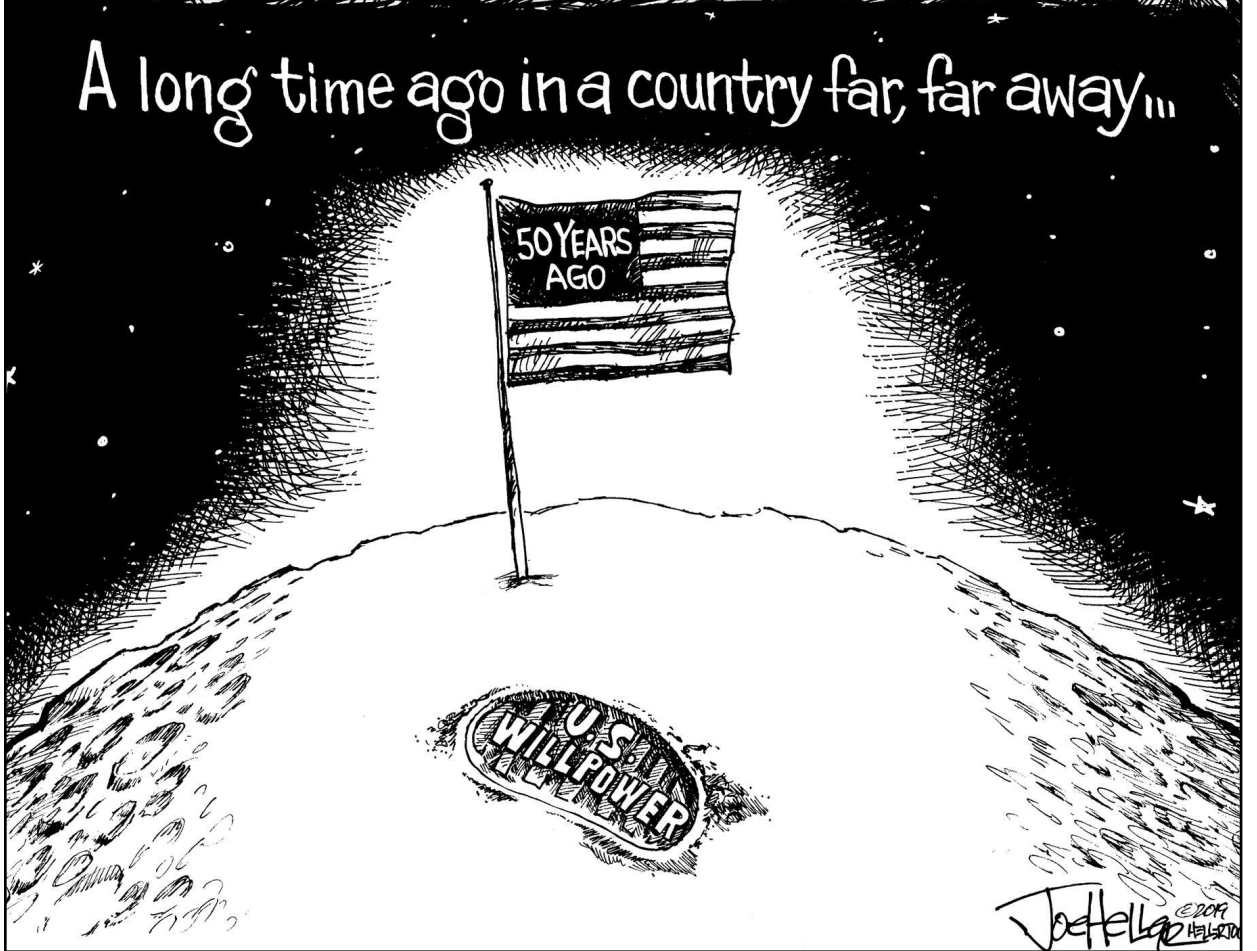


**Cottage Grove Sentinel**  
 116 N. Sixth St.  
 Cottage Grove, Ore. 97424

# 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)



## Opposition for opposition's sake serves none of us well

proposes. This includes our own Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley, who once told *Politico* that he would automatically "filibuster any and all Supreme Court Justice nominees Trump puts forward." It was only a year prior

also runs the risk of delegitimizing future challenges within our system of checks and balances when they could matter most. This isn't the time to overreach or grandstand simply for the sake of being in opposition or

ministration has put into play since taking office? Absolutely not. Truth be told, I haven't found myself in support of most decisions made so far. But for every Neil Gorsuch that members of Congress fervently oppose purely for the sake of opposition, a Betsy DeVos is confirmed to a post without any real qualifications thanks to divisiveness and the mindset of settling old scores.

**From the Managing Editor's Desk**  
*Ned Hickson*

to that statement that Republican leadership in our nation's capitol did something similar by refusing to consider then-President Obama's nominee, Merrick Garland, for the very same appointment. And the beat goes on. While I agree that any nominee seeking congressional approval should be scrutinized for their qualifications, to enter into that process with a preconceived conclusion and public promise to automatically deny approval merely continues the kind of partisan politics that have turned the wheels of government into the rusted grind of rickety gears that Americans have lost faith in.

playing it safe within party politics. Americans are divided because their representatives in Congress have allowed themselves to become divided, simply on the merits of which side of the aisle they happen to sit on. One of the most basic techniques of winning a war is to divide and conquer. Without question, we are already a nation divided. Our representatives in Congress must put aside their need to conquer each other and remember that the true casualties of this kind of political war are those who they are supposed to be representing.

A little more than 200 years ago, our nation opposed tyranny in order to pursue the dream of being free. It was part of a necessary step toward independence. Our forefathers were mature enough to recognize that opposition itself wasn't enough to secure our nation, but that it would take perspective and understanding to help us grow as individuals and a people united.

Perhaps more importantly, this kind of "obstructionist" mentality

Do I agree with or even support all of the decisions, executive orders and nominees the current ad-

As we continue through the early part of our nation's own "terrible twos," we need to remember that fundamental truth. Because unlike that stage we must deal with as parents, in the case of our nation we really do need to act as if the future of the world depended on it...

USPS#133880 Copyright 2019 © COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

### 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:**  
 nhickson@cgsentinel.com

### 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

• **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  
 Email: 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  
 Phone: 541-465-6732

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

• **Sen. Jeff Merkley**  
 Email: 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  
**Allison Miller**, Multi-Media Sales Consultant... Ext. 1213  
 amiller@cgsentinel.com  
**Gerald Santana**, Multi-Media Sales Consultant... Ext. 1216  
 gsantana@cgsentinel.com  
**Veronica Brinkley**, Multi-Media Sales Consultant... Ext. 1205  
 vbrinkley@cgsentinel.com  
**Carla Summers**, Inside Multi-Media Sales Consultant... Ext. 1203  
 csummers@cgsentinel.com

### Editorial

**Ned Hickson**, Managing Editor... 541-902-3520  
 nhickson@cgsentinel.com  
**Damien Sherwood**, Lead Reporter... Ext. 1212  
 dsherwood@cgsentinel.com  
**Zach Silva**, Sports Editor... Ext. 1204  
 zsilva@cgsentinel.com

### Customer Service

**Meg Fringer**, Office Manager, Legals, Classifieds... Ext. 1200  
 mfringer@cgsentinel.com

### Production

**Ron Annis**, Production Supervisor... Ext. 1215  
 graphics@cgsentinel.com

**Subscription Mail Rates in Lane and Portions of Douglas Counties:**  
 10 Weeks .....\$11.50  
 One year .....\$43.50  
 e-Edition year .....\$35

Rates in all other areas of United States: 10 weeks, \$16; 1 year, \$56.50; e-Edition \$35. In foreign countries, postage extra. No subscription for less than 10 weeks. Subscription rates are subject to change upon 30 days' notice. All subscriptions must be paid prior to beginning the subscription and are non-refundable.

Periodicals postage paid at Cottage Grove, Oregon.  
 Postmaster: Send address changes to P.O. Box 35, Cottage Grove, OR 97424.

### Local Mail Service:

If you don't receive your Cottage Grove Sentinel on the Wednesday of publication, please let us know.  
 Call 541-942-3325 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

### Advertising Ownership:

All advertising copy and illustrations prepared by the Cottage Grove Sentinel become the property of the Cottage Grove Sentinel and may not be reproduced for any other use without explicit written prior approval.

Copyright Notice: Entire contents ©2019 Cottage Grove Sentinel

