

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)



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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anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or without documentation will not be published.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:

nhickson@cgsentinel.com

LETTER

THANKS TO THE SENTINEL FOR FACTUAL REPORTING

I want to congratulate *The Sentinel* for holding off on its reporting until having all the facts.

There is so much “fake news” nowadays that so many

of us have just lost confidence in any news story coming from the mainstream media.

For a year and a half, we were hearing about Russia's interference in the election.

Many who voted for Trump did so because of our lack of

trust of the Clintons and no other country had anything to do with it.

Please just continue to try to give us nothing but the truth.

—Dan Holt
 Cottage Grove

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Shared experiences are foundation of community



children that we are active participants as neighbors and as a community.

In an age where fewer and fewer people actually know who their neighbors are, and children are spending less and less time playing outside together, we run the risk of developing into isolationists with-

floor at the Armory, with some helping shore up younger skaters who were getting their first taste of the roller rink experience.

It's those moments that lay the foundation of community for our children who, in turn, build on that foundation for the next generation of Grovers.

Or maybe it's the merchant who made your child smile while dressed as a witch or clown.

Maybe you'll say something to them; maybe you won't. Regardless, you have made a connection that otherwise wouldn't exist without those shared experiences.

From the Managing Editor's Desk

Ned Hickson

in our own community.

Opportunities like last Thursday's trick-or-treat night, as well as Sunday's rollerskating event at the Cottage Grove Armory, provide opportunities to bring community members together and bridge the gaps we sometimes overlook.

On Sunday, rollerskaters of all ages and abilities circled around the hardwood

It's also those moments that carry over into everyday life and establish connections with others that we may not otherwise have made.

The next time you're standing in line at the grocery store, you may recognize someone who you helped — or who helped you — from landing skates-up on the Armory hardwood floor.

Cottage Grove has always done — and continues to do — its best to create those opportunities.

Things like the carousel project, Bohemia Mining Days, farmer's market, the thriving arts and music scenes, along with community enrichment programs through the library, Chamber of Commerce and local organizations all build a sense of community — and just as importantly, provide an example to our children of what it means to be a member of that community.

Last week, Main Street was filled with families, friends and neighbors participating in Cottage Grove's annual Halloween Trick-or-Treat in the Historic District.

While it was an opportunity to provide local children with a safe trick-or-treating environment, it was also much more than that.

For every child dressed as a superhero, ghost, police officer or firefighter, there was a parent or merchant in costume who was sharing in that experience. While it certainly added to the feeling of fun and festivity, it also sent an important message to our

Cottage Grove Sentinel

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