

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anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or without documentation will not be published.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@cg sentinel.com



New publication day for *The Sentinel*

It also gave us more creative control over the look of feature photos and layouts to make them more dynamic.

All of these changes were made with a single purpose in mind: *To improve what we do as your community newspaper.*

nel's Facebook page has increased from less than a few thousand a week to nearly 3,000 visitors each day.

Things like that let us know we're on the right track.

Beginning Dec. 5, we'll be making another change

ple — are too late to make Wednesday's print edition.

As a result, the paper that comes out Wednesday is already nearly two days old — and whatever happened Monday or Tuesday has to wait almost nine days to see print.

That will all change Dec. 5, when *The Sentinel* will move its publication day to Thursdays.

That one-day shift will allow us to move our print schedule to Wednesdays, meaning those council and board meetings that happen Mondays and Tuesdays?

You'll be reading about them that same week on Thursdays.

They say most of us don't like change.

But in this instance, it's the kind of change I know our readers will benefit from as we continue our pursuit to improve what we do as your community newspaper.

From the Managing Editor's Desk
Ned Hickson

This has also included having a stronger and more consistent presence online and through our social media pages as a way to get you the most current information as quickly as possible.

The response has been tremendous, and we are both encouraged and appreciative of the positive comments, constructive feedback and hundreds of "likes" we get each week.

Activity on *The Senti-*

that will help us provide you with more timely news and information in print as well.

One of our biggest challenges in clearing that hurdle has been our print deadlines, which have meant getting our pages to the press by 5 p.m. on Mondays.

Because of this, anything that happens Monday or Tuesday evenings — city council and school board meetings, for exam-

Over the course of the past two years, we've seen some changes here at *The Sentinel*.

Those changes were subtle at first and began with re-organizing our inside pages to make finding information easier by establishing consistent pages for "Records," "Community News," contributed features, etc.

Then, this past April, we changed the look of our front page and introduced a sidebar to the left of the page to provide readers with a quick glance of the highlights in each edition.

Along the way, we also updated our text fonts to a cleaner, less stylized version that is easier on the eyes.

The Elliott has importance as research forest

(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.)

Elliott encompasses more than 41,000 acres of native mature and old-growth forest, providing critical habitat to endangered and threatened species as well

dren of Oregon with a decent education for the sake of the future of our state. However, we must also be able to provide a future for our children to

vests were to occur in the Elliott Forest, the total amount of carbon stored would be approximately 46.6 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2050, approximately 68.5 percent of the annual emissions of greenhouse gas for the entire state in 2007..."

The report also states: "...The significant impacts of climate change on our forests and their continued management requires that we evaluate the potential of our forests to store more carbon and include this in the potential outcomes of the state's management plans..."

It is time to stop selling off our planet's future. We must eliminate the antiquated concept that the value of a forest is measured only in board feet. We must find other ways to fund our schools.

And, we must not sell our public lands to private interests. It is time to look past expediency and economics. It is time to look forward instead of repeating the mistakes of the past. It is time to truly turn our forests over to the future of our children.

GUEST VIEWPOINT
By Cristina Hubbard
Executive Director of Forest Web, a grassroots environmental nonprofit based in Cottage Grove

as healthy streams and rivers that provide drinking water to the communities within its watersheds, and spawning grounds for Coho and Chinook Salmon in the Coast Range.

Fisheries experts have determined 25 percent of Oregon's wild Coho salmon are produced in its waters.

Despite the fires that devastated the Elliott 170 years ago, this native forest has thrived. Fire is a natural part of the life cycle of any forest. Today, the Elliott contains a rich diversity that includes Douglas fir, western hemlock, western red cedar, bigleaf maple and red alder.

With regard to the Common School Fund, it is vital that the state find ways to provide the chil-

utilize that education. In the face of climate change, the Elliott has greater value as a research forest than as a source of commercial timber. And, it has even more value to the environment as a standing contiguous forest, sequestering carbon.

Forest Web puts great effort into making government agencies and elected officials aware of public opinion regarding environmental concerns such as clear-cutting in state forests and the cumulative impact on our climate caused by logging our planet's richest carbon sinks.

Ecotrust's 2011 Carbon Analysis of Proposed Forest Management Regimes on the Elliott State Forest states, "If no har-

The Elliott is comprised of 93,000 acres of irreplaceable coastal rainforest. Within its borders, the

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