

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anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or without documentation will not be published.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



A whisper rooted in thankfulness

you came to being in a serious accident. Or when the gas attendant asks if you want to use your .50-cent gas reward when you thought you only had 20.

“What? Yesss.” Oregon changed my life for the better. Twice, actually.

It wasn't until returning that summer to visit my father in L.A. that I realized something that changed my life: Everything I thought I knew wasn't nearly as important as how I'd come to know myself thanks to the life I was experienc-

in Atlanta for the next 10 years.

But during all of that time, the thought of returning to Oregon stayed with me, particularly as the gains in my career began costing something far more important: Time with my family.

So when, in 1998, the opportunity was presented to begin a new career as a journalist, my beloved Oregon changed my life for the second time.

This past Thanksgiving Day, those were the things I was thinking about and quietly giving thanks for as my family gathered around the dinner table which, if not for Oregon's surreptitious intervention in my life, I may not have been blessed to be sitting at.

As we continue through the holiday season — and the busy weeks ahead — I plan to make time for the many reasons to be thankful.

Not the least of which is being managing editor of this newspaper, working with our terrific news team and entire staff, and covering this incredible community.

From the Editor's Desk

Ned Hickson

First as a 15-year-old with my family, then again when I moved back as a 37-year-old with my own family.

In the first instance, it was culture shock just short of defibrillation as I went from the concrete jungle of Los Angeles to the blackberry hillsides of the Willamette Valley.

Instead of riding my Schwinn to school and spending afternoons running around the streets in my Nikes, I was canoeing over a flooded dike to meet my school bus and returning home to stack wood or dig post holes.

Usually in mud boots. I hated Oregon because it was the opposite of everything I'd known.

ing in Oregon.

Returning home at the end of that summer, I still remember stepping out of the car and onto our dirt driveway in a new pair of Nikes, realizing how those shoes — and that life — just didn't fit anymore.

This is home, I whispered.

Mostly because I didn't want my parents to hear and know they had been right. I was still a teenager, after all.

The lessons learned and perspectives gained from life as an Oregonian were things I carried with me after graduating from Siuslaw High School in Florence, Ore., and becoming a regional chef

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
- Gerald Santana, Multi-Media Sales Consultant... Ext. 1216 gsantana@cgsentinel.com
- Veronica Brinkley, Multi-Media Sales Consultant... Ext. 1205 vbrinkley@cgsentinel.com
- Carla Skeel, 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
- Nick Snyder, Sports/Community News Reporter... Ext. 1204 nsnyder@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

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