

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)



Expect better from ourselves in 2020

the horizon and many of the challenges and debates — along with the machinery driving division over discourse — still in place. However, I also believe in the natural pendulum swing we regularly take as a society in our ever-constant need and desire to correct ourselves in the pursuit of something better. I still believe that, despite how our divisions have been amplified over the past year, ultimately we share more common ground than our surface tribalism would have us believe. Over the past year, Viewpoint, Letter to the Editor or story. We spoke over coffee, breakfast or, on a couple of occasions, a beer. Maybe two. And in each case, division quickly gave way to respectful discourse given the opportunity to share our thoughts face-to-face. It's through these kinds of conversations, held in real time rather than through a digital vacuum, that I've seen a genuine desire for a return to a civil exchange of viewpoints rather than pot shots. We can expect better for 2020 — and should.

From the Editor's Desk Ned Hickson

I've had encouraging glimpses of our pendulum swinging away from far right or left and back toward something in the middle. I met with several folks who wrote in to express displeasure with an editorial, Guest

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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

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- 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

LETTERS

EVENT A SUCCESS THANKS TO COMMUNITY SUPPORT

We'd like to thank each person who helped make the 2nd annual Village Green Christmas Market a magical experience. We welcomed more than 14,000 guests from throughout Oregon, Washington, and California. We know an event of this scale would not be possible without the support of the community, and would like to thank you all. We would also like to thank each staff member who gave their time and assistance during the busy holiday season — we couldn't do this

without you. When guests visited, they were treated to 500,000 lights, a traditional German Christmas market featuring 12 local vendors, photos with Santa, live music and more. Throughout the event, we welcomed families starting new traditions, many brought their dogs to experience the joy of the Christmas season, and we even had a trained goose! Sponsors were also a vital part of this event. We would like to thank our generous sponsors Paulaner, Banner Bank, Magnolia Gardens, Apothecaria, The Grove Bar and Grille, Bi Mart, Taylor's Towing

and Auto Wrecking, Northwest Community Credit Union, and Country Farms Ranch Supplies, as well as Walmart and Cottage Bowl for allowing our guests to park in their lots. We hope everyone who came enjoyed the Village Green Christmas Market. We are looking forward to continuing to build this tradition for years to come. We have some exciting plans for 2020 and hope you and your family will join us.

—Jake Aura and Connie Ourada
The Village Green

Cottage Grove Sentinel

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