

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anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or without documentation will not be published.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

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A week of 'NO MORE' domestic violence

while still holding on to the part of you that is thoughtful and caring feels contradictory to what we're taught about being a man.

The stereotypical definition of manhood was in movies, advertising and music: Being a man means being in control.

In charge.
 In command.
 Of life and our relationships.

as your weaknesses.

It means never using your strength — physically or verbally — to harm the women in our lives, whether it be your wife, girlfriend, co-worker, mother, daughter or neighbor.

A real man provides protection, safety and acceptance; a weak man dishes out pain, insecurity and denial.

In either case, they are

and Sexual Assault." Across our nation, 1-in-3 women will experience domestic violence during her lifetime, with 1-in-4 being the victim of a sexual assault.

Men also are not immune to this type of violence, with 1-in-6 men having experienced abusive sexual experiences in their lifetime.

Whether you are a survivor of domestic abuse or want to show your support for those who are, I hope you will take an opportunity this coming week to participate — either at community meetings, by supporting legislation or volunteering to help victims of abuse.

As a culture, each of us must make a commitment to avoid claiming the baggage that perpetuates violence on our families and each other; as a community, we must make a commitment to each other to support — and when necessary speak up for — our friends, family members and neighbors who we suspect may be victims.

Most importantly, to end the cycle of domestic violence, we must be willing to carry on with that commitment well beyond next week.

For more information on NO MORE Week, visit nomore.org/campaigns/nomore-week-2020.

From the Managing Editor's Desk

Ned Hickson

Seeking true equilibrium is even more difficult today because, unlike 35 years ago, the unhealthy stereotypes that define "manhood" are relentlessly perpetuated through social media and the near-constant presence of advertising that sells body wash, music, movie tickets, clothes and video games by depicting what it looks like, sounds like and feels like to "be a man."

It is baggage our culture has been carrying for generations, repackaged and presented in more ways than ever before.

The fact is, being a real man does mean being in control.

But not of others; it means being in control of yourself enough to understand, acknowledge and accept your strengths as well

reflections of our inner self. The question is: What kind of reflection do you want to see when you look in the mirror each day?

As wonderful as our communities in Cottage Grove and surrounding areas are, they aren't immune to domestic violence against women, children and men.

There's no denying that the cultural threads of domestic violence are woven into the fabric of our society. Though we have made strides in some areas by recognizing and discussing matters of physical and verbal abuse, that baggage is still out there circling on the carousel.

This Sunday begins NO MORE Week, March 8-14, which nationally recognizes how "Together, We Can End Domestic Violence

LETTERS

LET THE VOTERS DECIDE

I would like to extend to Lane County Commissioner Jay Bozievich a great big "thank you" for his common sense approach to SB 1530 and HB 4167.

As Commissioner Bozievich mentioned, these bills are not transparent and exempt important information from the public and contain the "emergency clause."

It is sad indeed that we, the voters, do not have more logical people in government that can see the real effect of these proposed laws.

Thank you, Commissioner Jay Bozievich.

Governor Brown and her cohorts should let the voters decide.

—Dick Gilkison
 Cottage Grove

PARKING 'VIOLATION' IS ABSURD

I got home from work today to find an orange sticker on the windshield of my 1984 Toyota pickup, parked outside my house.

I drive the pickup to work on rainy days. The sticker was from the local police and said that if the vehicle wasn't moved by March 1, it would be towed. I immediately drove the pickup to the police station and the officer I spoke with told me that as long as I drive the car around the block every three days, it'll be fine.

That's absurd.

There are no signs, anywhere in Cottage Grove, with that information. I don't have a driveway on my property, so I'm forced to park on

the street. My neighbor is on the City Council and one of his vehicles stays parked on the street for weeks at a time; as far as I've seen, he's never had a warning sticker on it.

My pickup doesn't look great but it runs just fine and the tags are valid. I'd hate to think there's a policy that targets 'lower class' vehicles; that seems like ripe grounds for a lawsuit.

Let this letter serve notice: the pickup is always parked in the exact same place along the curb, even if it's been driven multiple times during the week.

As far as I'm concerned, towing it should be illegal.

—Matt Emrich
 Cottage Grove

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Subscription Mail Rates in Lane and Portions of Douglas Counties:

10 Weeks	\$11.50
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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 THURSDAY of publication, please let us know.
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