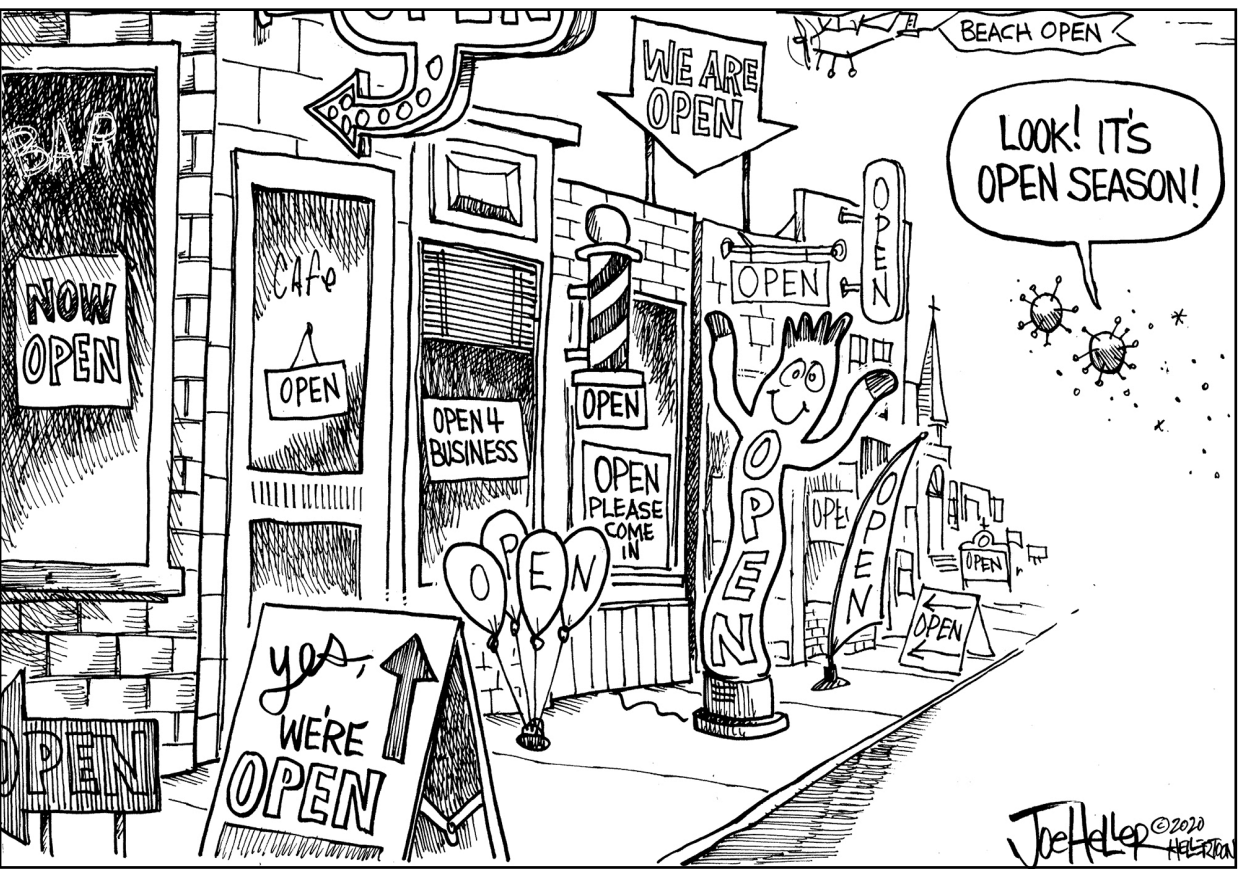
Cottage Grove Sentinel
116 N. Sixth St.
Cottage Grove, Ore. 97424

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anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or without documentation will not be published.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

I'll gladly do 'the least' I can to protect you

I'll be the first to admit that wearing a mask is a pain. Glasses fog up, and it shifts when I talk with folks. I even snapped my own ear lobe with the elastic once (I don't recommend it, especially if you are within earshot of others).

However, a simple thought always crosses my mind reminding me that the inconvenience of wearing a mask when I go into a public space is a small price to pay for protecting my fellow community members and visitors alike.

If someone told me that there was a 1 percent chance that I could spread something to my wife, children or friends that could make them ill or potentially kill them, would I wear a mask to eliminate that 1 percent?

Of course.

In a heartbeat.

From the Editor's Desk
Ned Hickson

This is a special community, and if putting up with the inconvenience of wearing a mask means that I could potentially keep from unknowingly spreading a virus to 1 percent of *you*, I will put up with the foggy glasses and even the risk of earlobe snaps.

It's the least I can do for this community, and I'm glad to do it.

Anyone who has been out and about over the last couple of weeks since entering Phase Two Reopening can see how activity in The Grove has more than doubled. Yesterday alone, I saw license plates from California, New Mexico, Washington and British Columbia.

While we are relaxing restrictions allowing community businesses to resume some level of their operations — and as a result seeing a marked increase in visitors from well beyond a 50-mile radius — it doesn't mean it's also time to relax simple preventative measures to slow a potential spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

In fact, with so many new visitors coming to the area, I'd say it's *more* important than ever to do "the least" we can do to protect each other.

Somehow, the wearing of masks has become interpreted by some as a political statement as, once again, divisiveness has hijacked what was once common sense and common courtesy for one another.

If someone I cared about contracted a virus from me because I wasn't willing to do "the least" I could to protect them, it would be hard to live with myself — no matter who I would or wouldn't vote for.

In the end, it's up to each of us to protect those most at-risk in this community.

It's "the least" we can do for each other.

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LETTERS

An open letter to my Fire Chief

Really? You say you would kill to protect property? Have you shot another human before?

Folks, these are stressful days and not the time to spew violence and anger on an unforgiving and unforgetting social media platform.

Rant to a friend in private where their love and discretion will cover you.

Better still, examine your heart because your words reveal a dark and ugly treasure.

How much better to be standing in the confidence of your righteousness. Are you unjust or a bully? Perhaps you should change.

We are all here to learn and grow.

Show us a teachable heart that sees the image of God in all our fellow human beings.

Lead us in love.

—Sheila Hudson
Cottage Grove

Change is good until it goes overboard

I applaud NASCAR for banning the Confederate flag from its races, which was a move that has been a long time coming.

I can also understand why people in the South are removing Confederate statues, although I never gave any thought to a statute other than they are where pigeons poop.

But in some areas we are presently going overboard with the names of places. U of O wants to change building names; some individuals want to change the names of military base names like Ft. Polk (my basic training), Bragg and Hood.

We then have the renaming and logos on food products. I agree Aunt Jemima products and Uncle Ben's Rice should have been renamed years ago. But it gets a bit out of hand with Land O' Lakes removing the Indian Maiden from its logo.

Who is next on this ludicrous list? Navajo Freight Lines, Quaker Oats with a religious figure, black wild rice because it's considered derogatory?

Change is good until it goes overboard.

—Winford Jolle
Cottage Grove

Will they come for Jefferson, Washington?

We are now in the "times that try men's souls" of which Thomas Paine wrote. Will someone, anyone stand against the destruction of our sacred history by anarchists, radicals and the anti-government rabble mocking and abandoning American history by pillaging monuments of centuries of principled individuals named Columbus, Lee and other Confederate generals in the name of misdeeds?

Robert E. Lee fought for the cause of the Tenth Amendment over an all powerful federal government, which he detested.

At Appomattox, the army of the Potomac veterans saluted Lee before his meeting with General Grant in total respect for his honorable leadership during immensely trying times.

The defacement and decapitation of Columbus — that greatest of Italian explorers without whom we would be Europeans — is vile, childish and devoid of all perspective.

They are coming for Mr. Jefferson and the father of our country, which will completely debilitate western civilization — which seems to be the strategy. No more America for these midnight marauders with no heart, sense, historical perspective and certainly lacking doctrinal decency.

It is now or never; America or chaos. Who will stand?

John Adams said in his marvelous speech on Independence at Philadelphia, "Sir, we are in the midst of Revolution. There will be a great expense of blood gentleman. However I am not without apprehensions, sir ... but if I am to live, give me a country and a republic governed by laws, a *free* country."

That Republic is in danger of extinction unless good men with the voice of a John Adams appear.

— Gerry Rutter
Cottage Grove

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