

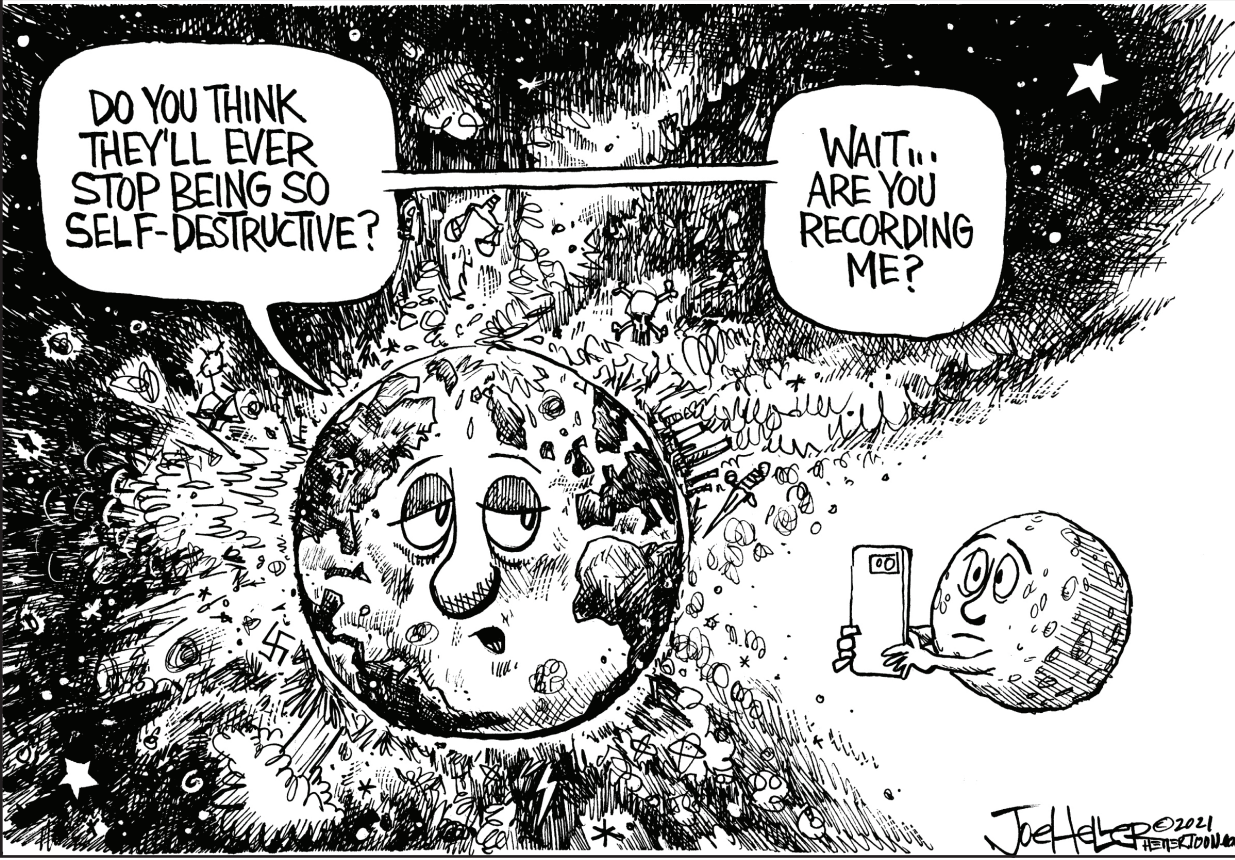
Cottage Grove Sentinel

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anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or without documentation will not be published.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

LETTERS

FILL IN THE BALLOT BUBBLE FOR MARK BOREN

To everyone in South Lane County, please join me in supporting Mark Boren for Lane Community College, Zone 1, Board of Education.

I have known and worked closely with Mark for the past 15 years in my role as basketball coach at Elmira High School.

Mark has spent his life dedicated to the well-being of his community and its schools. He worked for 15 years in Special Education as an Instructional Assistant for Lane ESD.

He then began his career as a Training Officer, among other positions, for Lane Fire Authority (previously Lane County Fire District #1) and has been with them over 24 years.

He and his wife raised five children in Veneta where he has lived the past 30 years. Currently, Mark serves as the Board Chair of the Fern Ridge School District, is on the Leadership and Advisory Board of Bushnell University, and on the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee of the Oregon School Activities Association among his many service activities.

His experience in school finances began with a role on the Fern Ridge School District's Budget Committee and continues in his role as Board Chair.

Mark has dedicated his life to the youth in our county and believes in the potential of all students to find success in life. He is a creative, organized and caring

leader.

I will be filling in the bubble for Mark Boren for LCC Board of Education.

—Nick Garman
Cottage Grove

RE-ELECT SHERRY DUERST-HIGGINS TO SCHOOL BOARD

Dedication, leadership, service above self — these are some of the characteristics I think about as I draft this letter in support of Sherry Duerst-Higgins in her bid to be re-elected to our local school board.

We have been so blessed to have Sherry serving our community for so many years!

Help Sherry continue to do great work in our community by re-electing her to the school board.

—Mike Fleck
Cottage Grove

IN SUPPORT OF WILDE FOR LANE ESD

I enthusiastically endorse Rose Wilde for re-election to the at-large position on the Lane Educational Service District board. Many know of her stellar work at Lane ESD.

That seriousness of purpose is reflected also in my experience working with her during the last few years where I experienced the same work ethic and passion for the well-being of our communities.

Rose understands the importance of shaping policy to effect

systems-level change. At the same time, she dives into the work on the ground. She has volunteered with students with special needs, worked to address child abuse prevention in communities from Oakridge to Mapleton, and taught courses in empathy and healthy relationships.

As a result, she has a broad and deep understanding of issues in our community.

Rose understands that career and technical education can benefit every student, preparing our children for the jobs available now and in the future while also giving a solid foundation in academics. Her time spent getting to know people from all different walks of life helps her understand that one size does not fit all in education.

Rose takes initiative to make change and has vast stores of knowledge and skills to bring to the work. She is quick to admit when there are gaps in her knowledge and works to close them. She is humble and quick to admit mistakes, understands the value of relationships, and is generous with support to her colleagues.

At this time when we have many challenges facing our schools, we need people on the board with proven records for addressing them.

I will cast my vote for Rose Wilde.

—Nadia Telsey
Eugene

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
Email: rep.cedrichayden@state.or.us
- **Rep. Peter DeFazio**
(House of Representatives)
405 East 8th Ave.
#2030
Eugene, Ore. 97401

Oregon federal representatives

- 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
- **Heather Buch**
Lane County Commissioner - District 5
Email: Heather.Buch@lane countyorg.gov
125 E. Eighth Ave.
Eugene, OR 97401
Or call 541-682-4203

Cottage Grove Sentinel

541-942-3325

Administration

Jenna Bartlett, Group Publisher

Gary Manly, General Manager... Ext. 1207
gmanly@cg sentinel.com

Gerald Santana, Multi-Media Sales Consultant... Ext. 1216
gsantana@cg sentinel.com
Carla Skeel, Inside Multi-Media Sales Consultant... Ext. 1203
csummers@cg sentinel.com

Editorial

Ned Hickson, Managing Editor... 541-902-3520
nhickson@cg sentinel.com
Damien Sherwood, Lead Reporter... Ext. 1212
dsherwood@cg sentinel.com
Zeahna Young, Sports Reporter... Ext. 1204
zyoung@cg sentinel.com

Customer Service

Meg Fringer, Office Manager, Legals, Classifieds... Ext. 1200
mfringer@cg sentinel.com

Production

Ron Annis, Production Supervisor... Ext.1215
graphics@cg sentinel.com

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