Cottage Grove Sentinel

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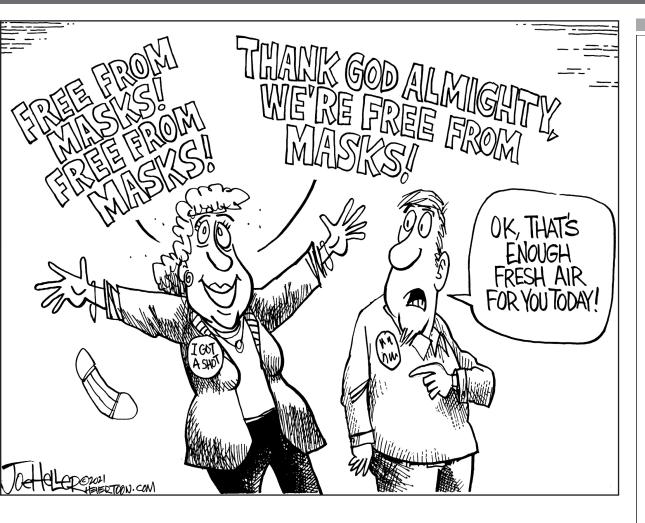
Cottage Grove, Ore. 97424

## The First Amendment

C ongress 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)

Opinion



## LETTERS

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CGHS SPIRIT ROCK

I am a junior at Cottage Grove High School and I'm tired of seeing my Black peers being underrepresented.

The spirit rock in front of the high school has been a symbol for student expression for many years and recently I used it to let my Black peers feel validated in an atmosphere where they often feel everything less than validated.

A Black Lives Matter flag was hung in a classroom and students signed a petition to get it taken down. However, there is a "blue line" flag in the School Resource Officer's office that often is meant to represent the Blue Lives Matter movement, which has had no opposition. In fact, I've had to paint over the spirit rock a few times because "Black Lives Matter" had been crossed out, further invalidating students of color and their right to feel equal at my school.

dents learn together, but it becomes more divisive every day. Students are often more concerned with whether or not they agree with a movement than how to help fellow peers who are struggling to fit in.

We should all be actively trying to figure out how to embrace one another's differences instead of using them against each other.

> —Kailyn Barnes Cottage Grove High School

### Kudos to Cindy

I would like to commend Cindy Weeldreyer on her Lorane. No doubt he took advantage of services offered from an OAC agricultural agent.

Today Oregon State is a land, sea, sun and space grant university.

I'm keeping my fingers crossed that Measure 20-319 will have passed.

As a nearly 20-year OSU Extension Master Gardener volunteer in Lane County I have seen the value of sharing research-based information to area gardeners.

All of the other programs supported by Extension have touched Cottage Grove residents — 4-H, Food Preservers, Nutrition Education, Forestry, Small Farms, Home Horticulture and more. USPS#133880 Copyright 2021 © COTTAGE GROVE SENTIN

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*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

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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 Email: rep.cedrichayden@ state.or.us

• **Rep. Peter DeFazio** (House of Representatives) 405 East 8th Ave. #2030

# 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

School is meant to be a community in which stu-

wonderful article of May 13 regarding OSU Extension's history with Cottage Grove. As a grad of OSU, I had forgotten some of that history as well as learned some new things.

Cindy wrote about Oregon Agricultural College as being a land grant college founded in 1868.

My great grandfather was a recipient of the Homestead Act with a land claim in Although not all of the faculty/agents of those departments work exclusively with Lane County their offices are located in Eugene.

All are women, including Cottage Grove's own Melissa Fery.

> — Catherine Burke Cottage Grove



Eugene, Ore. 97401



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 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 Zeahna Young, Sports Reporter... Ext. 1204 zyoung@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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