

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anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or without documentation will not be published.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

dsherwood@cgsentinel.com

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District 4 State Senator
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- **Rep. Cedric Hayden**
Republican District 7 State Representative
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Ore. 97301
Phone: 503-986-1407
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- **Rep. Peter DeFazio**
(House of Representatives)
405 East 8th Ave.
#2030
Eugene, Ore. 97401

Oregon federal representatives

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- **Sen. Ron Wyden**
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- **Heather Buch**
Lane County Commissioner - District 5
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Cottage Grove Sentinel

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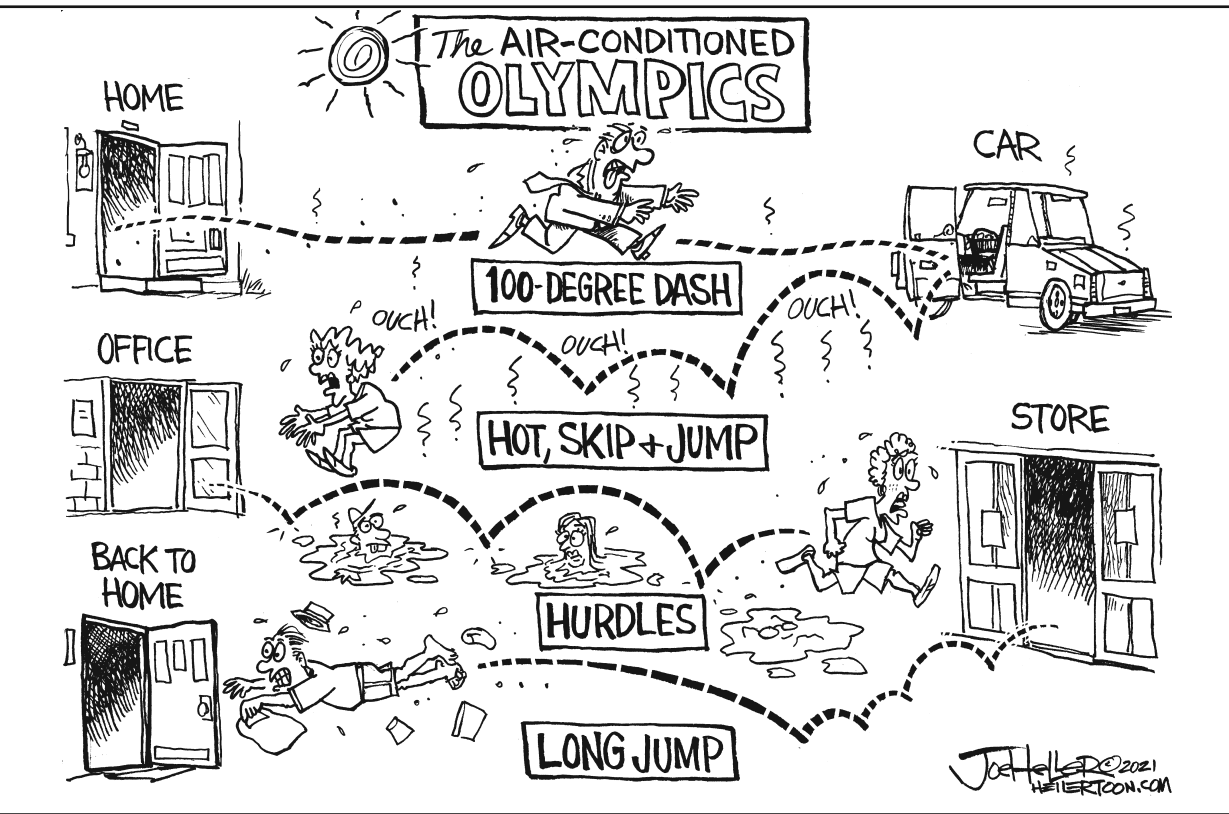
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LETTERS

OATH BREAKERS AMONG ELECTED OFFICIALS

Our founding fathers' biggest priority, before any other, was to pass the Oath Act. The Oath Act was the first act signed into law by President-elect George Washington.

The Oath Act as written in Article VI, Clause 3, of our Constitution, states that those who are elected "shall be bound by Oath." The sworn oath is taken on Jan. 3.

The elected officials do "solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic."

On Jan. 6 of this year, our elected officials gathered under congressional law to count the electoral votes. The vote was delayed because of objections from members of the Republican Party.

While the vote was delayed, the halls of Congress were attacked by a mob of Trump supporters. After the mob was pushed out, the vote was taken, and Biden was declared the winner.

On Jan. 20, Biden took the sworn Oath of Office and became our official constitutionally elected president.

Today, there are many Republican elected officials who promulgated the "lie" that the election was stolen. All those sworn officials who deny that Biden is the duly elected president have

broken their oath, and should be considered guilty under the Sedition Act, for opposing or resisting the US Constitutional Law.

When somebody breaks their oath, there should be consequences. Otherwise, we become a lawless nation with no constitutional laws to govern us.

—Michael T. Hinojosa
Drain

EPUD NOT TELLING THE PEOPLE

Dear Reader,

I just discovered that our wonderful electricity supplier, Emerald People's Utility District, is planning to borrow \$35,000,000 of cash to hold and use for various projects.

On July 20, the Board of Directors voted 4-1 to accept the recommendation of the executive team. Director Ron Davis is the only one who voted to be debt-free.

For years as I served on their Finance Committee, we worked to pay down the long-term debt early to free up cash that would be available to make needed improvements and keep rates competitive.

That debt is nearly paid in full, but the Board of Directors and Executive team voted to borrow again without a clear disclosure to the people or for what purposes. We the ratepayers did not directly receive any notice in

their newsletter or newspapers of this scheme.

They already hold cash reserves of \$13m as of their Dec. 31, 2020, audited statements with an additional \$4m per year when the last of the existing debt will be paid next year plus \$6.4m average net income over the past seven years available. That is surely enough to work the planned capital improvements as we go.

They are seeing the low 2.09 percent interest cost as an opportunity to get cheap money. But borrowing always has hidden costs: investment fees, fidelity bonding, staff salaries to play banker, and the interest cost of \$731,000 per year which could be directly used for the projected capital improvements.

We currently have a government at all levels which is a poor example of fiscal management. Do we have anyone serving us with the sense to pay cash for what we need without borrowing from tomorrow?

Contact your EPUD Director at epud.org and the finance office at 541-746-1583. Ask them to live within their cash flow budget for the benefit of the people. Do not presume upon the future.

—Larry Bottemiller
Cottage Grove

