

**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)



## Emergency preparedness is a critical precaution

We’ve been in fire season for some time now and it is very important for anyone who lives in our rural and wildland urban interface (WUI) areas to be familiar with the county’s evacuation levels and notification methods.

It is also crucial to have a family emergency plan that you’ve practiced in advance with your two-weeks-ready supply kit or ‘go-bag’.

Emergencies can come at any time and in any season. Here is how to be prepared:

Know the three evacuation levels:

**Level 1 - BE READY:** This means pack your valuables and supplies that you’ve gathered to be two weeks ready. This includes important documents, medical equipment or medication, extra food, water, clothing and more. There are numerous checklists available online to help you ensure you have everything you need.

Additionally, prepare your home both inside and out. Shut your windows and doors, remove flammable objects and place them away from the home, shut off gas at the me-

ter, turn off pilot lights and BBQ appliances.

Leave your lights on inside and out so firefighters can see your house when it is smoky. Connect your garden hose but don’t leave your sprinklers running as they can affect water pressure. Make sure your pets are nearby and prepare farm animals for transport.

Finally, check on your neighbors!

tion you will receive.

Do not stop for any further items to find or pack. Stay calm and follow your family emergency plan. Please follow instructions of law enforcement and emergency managers promptly.

### How will I be notified of an emergency?

There are a variety of notification methods and it is important to

www.lanecountyor.gov/emergencyalerts

### Create a Wildfire Action Plan

This plan should include all members of your family and could be different from family to family.

Some critical items to determine are mapping various escape routes, designating an emergency meet up location, pet and livestock transport locations and designate an out-of-area friend or relative as a single point of contact should you be separated.

Ensure you have fire extinguishers nearby and train family members on how to use them.

Make sure each family member knows how to shut off main control systems.

Also, keep extra emergency supply kits in your car (I have a go-kit in my trunk at all times).

This is a summary of some widely recognized emergency preparedness techniques. You can find more comprehensive checklists and information at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) or at [www.lanecounty.org](http://www.lanecounty.org) and click on Emergency Preparedness.

Stay Safe!

### From Your Commissioner’s Desk

Heather Buch  
 Lane County Commissioner  
 District 5

**Level 2 - BE SET:** Monitor the news either on television, radio or the Sheriff and local fire department’s social media pages.

Review your family emergency plan and ensure your supply kits are in your vehicle.

This may be the last notification you’ll get. If you feel unsafe, you could leave the area now and take this time to help others that may need extra time to move out of the area. Don’t wait to be ordered by authorities to leave.

**Level 3 - GO NOW:** Immediately evacuate! This is the last notifica-

utilize them all:

1. Your Neighbors – #1 Best return on investment when all systems fail
2. Landlines (reverse 911)
3. Cell phones (Wireless Emergency Alerts)
4. Radio (Emergency Alerting System or EAS)
5. TV (Emergency Alerting System or EAS)
6. Identify your trusted sources for information
  - a. Emergency Call Center 541-682-3977
  - b. Lane County Facebook Page
7. Sign up for county emergency alerts here:

### LETTERS

#### GOVERNOR SELLS OUT OUR HIGH SCHOOLERS

Once again, Governor Kate Brown has bypassed public administration process and public comment by signing a law under the table to please her woke, social flavor of the month politicians and school officials supporters.

This time, because these people are embarrassed that too many minorities flunk high school math and reading proficiency tests, she signed a law that eliminates these tests. She signed this law on July 14 without issuing a press release or entering it into the public record.

How progressive!

Oregon already is well into the lower half of all states in standardized tests results, according to a recent U.S. News and World Report assessment, among others.

Instead of working to improve grades she is dumbing down Oregon’s high schoolers. They may graduate believing educators who say they have the requisite life skills to make it in the world, but how many employers will hire them suspecting they cannot count or communicate?

Ironically, this misbegotten

cave-in will hurt most the minorities these elitists profess to shield. Minority students sometimes have a steep educational and economic hill to climb. This law will not aid their ascent.

The law shields only those who have abdicated their responsibility to prepare our students for the work force.

—Robert Tully  
 Cottage Grove

#### TAXPAYER GETS STIFFED AGAIN

In this week’s *Sentinel* (Aug. 12), it ran an article about the old Harrison School site.

First, the South Lane School District sold the old Harrison site because it was old, had asbestos and lead issues and we were told we needed a new school. So, we had a bond measure and built a great new Harrison School.

The SLSD sold the old site for \$345,000 less than the appraised \$745,000 because of the above stated issues.

Contractor A buys it under the conditions listed in the paper; take out asbestos and lead and upgrade facilities or tear it all down. Contractor now says he did not see any of the listed conditions in the contract and has

not done any of the corrections determined by SLSD.

Contractor A says, “There was no requirement or preference communicated to interested purchasers that the old school building be renovated or removed.”

Are you kidding me? Is the SLSD competent enough to put such important things in writing or is the contractor blowing smoke?

And now the ACE school is looking to buy the property, and who do you think helps fund ACE coffers? Why, I believe it is SLSD.

So, not only did the property get sold for under value, but now ACE will be asking for monies I am sure are from SLSD to help make the school safe for their kids, which is striking because SLSD could not put money in the old site and make it safe for kids before they got the bond measure to build the new school — but will it now budget monies to ACE to correct these safety issues?

You guessed it — a shell game. And who will finally pay for it? Why, you and me.

I truly hope I am all wrong on this issue. We will see.

—Rod Cameron  
 Cottage Grove

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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.

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