

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)



Seven more minutes of childhood

now seems like an eternity. Lying there, listening to the details, I regretted not pushing the button one more time. A hundred more times. A thousand. In that same moment, I also understood that the

during playground conversations as children put their own interpretive spin on the language of adults heard from the radio, television and from discussions between parents after they thought their children were asleep.

neither of us wanted to. At different levels, we both understood that moving meant setting things into motion that could somehow never be turned back. Slowly, I drew my hand away from the alarm clock and gestured for her to join me on the bed.

From the Managing Editor's Desk
Ned Hickson

But of the three, being a father watching the sparkle in my then six-year-old daughter's eyes noticeably fade just a bit continues to be the memory that lingers most. My alarm clock went off the same as it always did back then, coming to life with the morning news — my preference over the annoying, high-pitched alternative of chatter. Instinctively, I swatted the snooze button and bought myself another seven minutes of sleep. In the years since, I've thought a lot about those seven minutes, and how the simple push of a button postponed a bitter reality for just a little longer. When the news came on again, word of the first airliner crashing into the World Trade Center stopped my hand just short of another seven minutes of blissful ignorance — a time span that

impassive gaze of terrorism could only be averted for so long, and that, eventually, I'd have to meet it — along with the questioning gaze of my daughter. As a parent, I debated whether I should shield her from these events, essentially pushing the snooze button to allow her at least a few more minutes of childhood before waking her to this new, colder world. But how long, I wondered, would it be before she discovered reality on her own? There are at least six news stands near our home, all with their front pages displayed at eye level for a child her age. I thought about the images that would be appearing in those small plexi-glass windows in the coming days and weeks. I thought about what she might overhear

My daughter suddenly appeared in the doorway, and I realized that I was still poised — frozen really — with my hand over the snooze button, still listening to the account of terrorism on the radio. It was at this point that fragmented accounts of an attack on the Pentagon began, along with word of a downed jetliner somewhere in Pennsylvania. And maybe a car bomb near the capitol — a story that was interrupted by word of a second airliner crashing into the trade center towers. "Dad, what's happening?" my daughter asked. She remained in the doorway, a departure from her normal routine of diving onto the bed. I noticed this instinctively, in much the same way she must've noticed my hand still hovering above the snooze button. Neither of us moved;

USPS#133880 Copyright 2019 © COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

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

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR REPS

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Oregon state representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
 Website: www.leg.state.or.us/hayden
 Email: rep.cedrichayden@state.or.us | <p>Oregon federal representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rep. Peter DeFazio
 (House of Representatives)
 405 East 8th Ave.
 #2030
 Eugene, Ore. 97401
 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 |
|---|---|

Cottage Grove Sentinel

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

Veronica Brinkley, Multi-Media Sales Consultant... Ext. 1205
 vbrinkley@cgsentinel.com

Carla Summers, 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

Nick Snyder, Sports/Community News Reporter... Ext. 1204
 nsnyder@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

Subscription Mail Rates in Lane and Portions of Douglas Counties:

10 Weeks	\$11.50
One year	\$43.50
Senior 62+	\$3.00
e-Edition year	\$35.00

Rates in all other areas of United States: 10 weeks, \$16; 1 year, \$56.50; e-Edition \$35. In foreign countries, postage extra. No subscription for less than 10 weeks. Subscription rates are subject to change upon 30 days' notice. All subscriptions must be paid prior to beginning the subscription and are non-refundable. Periodicals postage paid at Cottage Grove, Oregon. Postmaster: Send address changes to P.O. Box 35, Cottage Grove, OR 97424.

Local Mail Service:
 If you don't receive your Cottage Grove Sentinel on the Wednesday of publication, please let us know. Call 541-942-3325 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Advertising Ownership:
 All advertising copy and illustrations prepared by the Cottage Grove Sentinel become the property of the Cottage Grove Sentinel and may not be reproduced for any other use without explicit written prior approval.

Copyright Notice: Entire contents ©2019 Cottage Grove Sentinel

LETTERS

SHOUT OUT TO OUR FIRST RESPONDERS
 We live on Seventh Street in Cottage Grove, next to the house that burned on Aug. 13 and early morning of Aug. 14.

I am writing to give a shout out to our fire department and to the police for their quick and professional services in handling the very stressful night that we had. Without them and the way they did their jobs, I am sure we would have lost our house and all of the memories we have in it. One police officer even took my water hose and soaked the side of my house to help it from getting too hot and catching fire. He wound up getting quite wet. We are very, very thankful for their services and completely support them and the job they do for

us. Many, many thanks.
 —Bob and Heather Young,
 Cottage Grove

LOVE OUR LOCAL PAPER BUT ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

As a loyal 35-year subscribers to the *Cottage Grove Sentinel*, we are concerned that our community paper's subscription rate increases are getting out of hand. For the past 4 to 5 years, the rates have been increasing at what I feel is an alarming rate every year. To the people who are on fixed incomes, this is hard to overcome. It's no wonder that a lot of folks hate our cable TV providers, constantly raising their rates — sometimes as much as twice a year. Out of necessity, people are "cutting the cord" and leaving the cable

industry altogether. Hopefully, this will not be the case with *The Sentinel* in our future. Also, it no longer offers reduced rates for senior citizens. We love our local paper but enough is enough. We don't see the rationale for the yearly price hike since there is virtually no inflation these days.
 —George and Susan Zajic
 Cottage Grove

(Editor's Note: It's true that our annual subscription rate has gone from \$37.65 to \$43.50 since 2016. However, we do offer a senior discount special twice a year. At the same time, we have had to respond to increases in the U.S. Postal Service rates and a three-fold increase in the cost of both paper and ink. We also want to provide competitive wages for staff.)