

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)



Save the date for BMD 2021

(Editor's Note: *Viewpoint submissions on this and other topics are always welcome as part of our goal to encourage community discussion and exchange of perspectives.*)

a one-day "Community Appreciation Celebration" as a fun picnic-in-the-park style event on Labor Day Weekend.

of how we conduct our personal lives. As much as our planning committee wants to call people together, we must first consider the health of our community and fellow human beings.

To our fellow citizens and those who participate in our spring and summer community events:

GUEST VIEWPOINT
 By Don Williams,
 BMD President

By Cindy Weeldreyer,
 BMD Festival Coordinator

Opposing the county and state health commissions would make it impossible to obtain liability insurance for a community event and would create legal problems as well.

Sadly, all of our annual large spring and summer gatherings have been canceled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

tacted colleagues in other community organizations, along with many civic leaders, and the idea was well-received.

Our BMD sub-committee continues to follow the mandate and recommendation of county and state officials. We would like the celebration as much as the community does but the safety and welfare of our fellow citizens must be considered.

It was difficult for the Bohemia Mining Days Board of Directors to make its decision last month to cancel the 61st annual festival.

The goal was to plan up to Aug. 24 in hopes the virus restrictions subsided and the health officials would allow a large gathering. If not, we would not continue planning a Labor Day Weekend event.

We continue to look for opportunities later this year to celebrate together. If that's not possible, we will plan a memorable Bohemia Mining Days Celebration next year.

Be assured we do not take this type of decision lightly and the decision was made with a great deal of thought and investigation.

On Friday, May 8, Governor Brown announced there would be no large gatherings through September, which halted our plans to bring us together in this fun way.

Save the date and we'll see you in "Bohemia City" July 16, 17 and 18, 2021.

Shortly after our press release announcing BMD would be canceled this year, we created a sub-committee to reach out to other organizations with canceled spring and summer events. The idea was to work together and plan

We each have our own opinion

LETTERS

BAN SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

Most nights at around 11 p.m., you can find my best friend and I in our kitchen sharing some hot coco and an existential crisis or two.

grades; instead, it breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces that never leave the environment. These plastics end up in our oceans, about 8 million tons per year, and find their way into our lakes and rivers as well.

sumers everyday. While the effort to limit single use plastics needs to be a world-wide one, every mile begins with a single step.

Most of them revolve around whether or not a future will exist for us considering the significant climate crisis facing the world today.

This puts marine life at risk, as they ingest plastic and are unable to digest, leaving them to essentially starve. The ocean and other waterways may seem like a world away, but we all rely on water and the wildlife within it to live.

By banning polystyrene at a county level, we are able to build support for a state-wide ban.

While there are many contributors to climate change, one that is particularly concerning is the use of single-use plastic.

This is why we need to dramatically reduce the amount of disposable plastics being handed to con-

Florence, Eugene, Ashland and Portland have already banned polystyrene. The residents of Lane County have an opportunity to lead the way towards a statewide ban and more hopeful midnight hot coco talks.

—Kaitlyn Champoux Creswell

Coronavirus, that's okay. But let's be kind

(Editor's Note: *Viewpoint submissions on this and other topics are always welcome as part of our goal to encourage community discussion and exchange of perspectives.*)

Some people don't agree with the state opening. That's okay. Be kind.

interviews after weeks without a job. That's okay. Be kind.

Dear Coronavirus: As we start to open up let's agree to one thing: You do you, I'll do me.

Some people are still planning to stay home. That's okay, too. Be kind.

Some will wear masks for weeks. That's okay. Be kind.

That's what America's about. None of us have the same circumstances (medically: high risk child/family member or a business about to go under, etc.).

GUEST VIEWPOINT
 By Paul O'Gorman
 Yuma, Az.

Some people will rush out, get their hair or nails done. That's okay. Be kind.

Let's all stay in our own lanes and keep the judgement down as we begin to reopen. No one should feel pressured either way.

Some are still scared of getting the virus and a second wave happening. That's okay. Be kind.

The point is everyone has different viewpoints/feelings. That's okay. Be kind.

Just a thought, as governors are trying to figure out how to ease back into normal, please remember:

Some are sighing with relief to go back to work knowing they may not lose their business or their homes. That's okay. Be kind.

We each have a different story. If you need to stay home, stay home. But be kind.

Some are thankful they can finally have a surgery they have put off. That's okay. Be kind.

If you need to go out, just respect others when in public. And be kind.

Don't judge fellow humans because you're not in their story. We are all in different mental states, that we were months ago.

So please remember:
 Be Kind.

USPS#133880 Copyright 2020 © 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

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
 Website: www.leg.state.or.us/hayden
 Email: rep.cedrichayden@state.or.us

Oregon federal representatives

• **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 Skeel, Inside Multi-Media Sales Consultant... Ext. 1203
 csommers@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+	\$33.00
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 THURSDAY 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 ©2020 Cottage Grove Sentinel