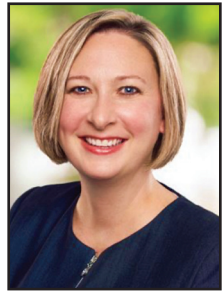


Opinion

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)



An update on our vaccination process

will send you an email or call you notifying you of upcoming available dates to get your vaccine. You simply pick the date and time best vaccine with whomever can get you scheduled first. Once you get the vaccine, all agencies are required to enter your

As we’ve heard for many months, vaccines have been scarce at both the state and county level. That will be changing soon.

Oregon expects to receive up to 80,000 Johnson & Johnson vaccines by March 22. Currently, Oregon is receiving around 80,000 doses of Pfizer and Moderna (combined), so these Johnson & Johnson doses will effectively double the amount of vaccine coming into the state.

This also means Lane County’s allocation will double. We have been preparing for an expanded vaccine rollout for some time and have every confidence that with the help of strategic partnerships with our hospitals, University of Oregon, pharmacies and local providers, we will be able to quickly and efficiently administer these doses. Stay safe.

—Heather Buch
Lane County Commissioner - District 5

From Your Commissioner’s Desk

Heather Buch

for you. However, the appointment times get filled up fast, so don’t delay if you see that email come through.

It is important to note Safeway/Albertsons pharmacies, Costco pharmacies and Health-Mart pharmacies get their vaccine doses directly from the federal government and not through Lane County, so they will have separate scheduling methods.

They generally won’t have a waiting list and will simply let you know if there are any available appointments to sign up for. If not, you have to keep checking back.

I recommend pre-registering for the Lane County’s waiting list, check the pharmacy websites and get your

vaccine information into the central state database called “Alert.”

It may take a few days for your information to get updated in the system but, once it is, any authorized entity will be able to notify you when you are ready for a second dose in the same way you were notified for your first dose.

If you have pre-registered, are eligible and have not yet received an invitation to schedule an appointment, please know that we will get to you. There are tens of thousands of people in Lane County who are currently eligible and we have only received a fraction of the doses necessary to vaccinate all of those people. There is, however, good news on the way.

As your commissioner, I field a lot of questions on the COVID-19 vaccine. Most folks want to know when they will be able to get their vaccine and how to get it scheduled.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) determines who is eligible and when (which you can view online at www.covidvaccine.oregon.gov/).

Many need help registering for their vaccine, which you can do through Lane County at www.cognitoforms.com/LaneCounty-COVID/COVID19VaccinePreregistration or by calling 541-682-1380.

Ask a friend if they need help registering.

After you are signed up, the second most common question is “When will I be notified to schedule an appointment?”

Once you are pre-registered, Lane County

LETTER FROM THE MAYOR AND CITY MANAGER

Mayor Jeff Gowing and the City Manager Richard Meyers have issued the following statement regarding comments that were made about a local volunteer:

“It has recently come to our attention that individuals within the community are belittling, demeaning and attacking a volunteer with the City of Cottage Grove because of mental health issues.

We find such behavior disgusting, prejudicial and entirely inappropriate. Such behaviors are based solely in hate and fear. For years, the City of Cottage Grove has supported efforts to

strengthen the access to mental health services and fought against prejudicial or discriminatory actions or comments that continue to perpetuate the stigma associated with mental health challenges that our citizens face.

Mental health issues must be treated the same as any other medical or physical condition. Statements or actions that question the abilities, belittle or discriminate against anyone who received treatment for mental health challenges or who are addressing mental health issues are not appropriate in a civil and respectful community.

Such actions must be identified for what they are, discrimination and prejudice. We will not be intimidated by such demeaning and prejudicial actions or statements.

We will also do all in our power to identify such behaviors and protect all members of our community from such mistreatment.

All selections of employment or volunteer service within the City of Cottage Grove are and will be based on bon-a-fide job qualifications and we will not be intimidated by prejudicial or discriminatory comments, behaviors or accusations.”

LETTER to the EDITOR

A word about Community LendingWorks

The city has partnered with Community LendingWorks.

Yes, they are a nonprofit, but they are more than that.

They are a certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI). That is certification that they receive through the U.S. Department of the Treasury demonstrating that they meet specific financial institution requirements and follow specific regulations like credit unions and banks.

In fact, banks or credit unions can apply for CDFI certification. The only real difference from banks or credit unions is that CDFI is specialized in serving low-income communities with the primary mission of promoting community development.

Community LendingWorks is the only CDFI in the region. They have provided small business loans and grants throughout the region — Lane, Linn and Benton counties to name just a few. They have served the cities of Corvallis, Albany, Eugene-Springfield, Co-burg, Creswell, Yachats, Veneta,

Cottage Grove and many others.

Just like any other credit union or bank, they protect the confidential information associated with their clients. Just as anyone with a loan with a credit union doesn’t want their loan amount, payment information or financial history given out freely, the customers of a CDFI are protected the same way. You as a member of a credit union cannot demand that the credit union tell you who is borrowing money that is deposited with them.

The organizations that support and work with Community LendingWorks are extensive and represent the finest and most committed businesses, financial institutions, foundations, tribes and government agencies in the region.

Once again, Community LendingWorks is more than just a nonprofit located in Springfield. They are a regional financial institution with a proven track record of thousands of grants and loans through a wide variety of programs and funding sources with the sole purpose to strengthen local communities by benefit-

ing low income individuals and small businesses.

They completely handled all loan and grant applications based on approved guidelines.

The City of Cottage Grove, employees or elected officials had no part in the selection of any of the grants or loans.

The city is excited to be partnering with an amazing regionally recognized institution that has a proven track record of successfully helping people and businesses throughout the region succeed.

Through Community LendingWorks and with help from Lane County and State of Oregon funding, the city was able to take \$25,414 and turn it into \$85,000 of grant funding to help 11 of our local small businesses survive the closure and restrictions of the COVID pandemic.

The loan program has also helped with low interest loans to four businesses for a total of \$40,000.

—Richard Meyers
City Manager

USPS#133880 Copyright 2021 © 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
Email: rep.cedrichayden@state.or.us
- **Rep. Peter DeFazio**
(House of Representatives)
405 East 8th Ave.
#2030
Eugene, Ore. 97401

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

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

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

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 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 ©2021 Cottage Grove Sentinel