

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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A community-focused approach is key to our future



anthropic actions of community members who built and maintain Bohemia Park and who for many years and in many ways have been advancing a vision of a Cottage Gove that embraces recreation, culture and youth development as well as a sense of pride in hometown.

I think of the modernization and expansion of the swimming pool, the evolution of the Brew Station and the community-focused approach to the

recently been getting attention and which I believe have great potential to be future icons of Cottage Grove. I would love to see our community rally together and be involved in the process of making these features excellent and uniquely Cottage Grove.

The first area of consideration that I am excited about is North Regional Park. This is the park located by the wastewater plant and is currently home to the disc golf course.

munity. Ideas swirling around involve adding a public restroom and drinking fountain, constructing a lighted and covered structure creating year-round usability, possible expansion of the footprint of the park and a redesign of the features.

We have an opportunity here in this park to do something special by making a positive statement about who we are as a community and that we value the interests of all our residents, in all age groups.

There is currently a survey put out by the city which I would invite everyone to participate in. The survey is on the city's web page at cottagegroveor.gov and on the city's Facebook page.

To get the survey on the webpage click on the "Click here for City News and Meetings" button on the city's main page. Then select the Skate Park Survey news item and the link to the survey is right there. You can also use the search box and just search for "Skate Park Survey".

My hope is that more and more people from Cottage Grove and surrounding areas embrace a hopeful outlook on Cottage Grove and that they feel invited to share their vision as it relates to how we as a community dream big and aim high when we imagine what the future of Cottage Grove will look like.

From the City Council's desk
Ward 4 Councilor Greg Ervin

Covered Bridge Brewing Group and the accompanying food cart army that has sprung up.

Public projects such the creation and improvements to the bike path and the reworking of the roads and sidewalks around Lincoln Middle School are more examples of a community who loves where they live and are willing to invest locally.

I could go on and on, but the point is, there is so much about this still small town to be thankful for and the momentum is moving in a good direction.

As we continue down the path of community-focused, continual improvement there are a couple of areas in our town which have more

This is one of the areas of town that has tremendous potential to be a standout feature. Planning for future improvements has already begun. Think of the possibilities that the geography of the park lends itself to: it has riverfront, wooded and open areas, hills and creeks.

If designed well, this park can become one of the most inviting spots in Cottage Grove. So many possibilities!

The other feature which is starting to get attention is the skate park located at the south entrance to town on Hwy 99.

There are currently efforts underway to re-imagine how our skate park can best serve its patrons and the com-

LETTERS

RESERVOIRS NEED BETTER REGULATION

In regard to the article concerning lack of water in the reservoirs close to Cottage Grove:

The reservoirs were originally constructed for flood control. Recreation is an added benefit.

Why does any more water need to be released than the amount entering the lake? If the water had not been held back, it would have been out to the Pacific Ocean months ago.

It seems senseless to let water out at a rate larger than is entering the reservoir. There is plenty of time late in the fall or early in the winter to let water out and still have room for flood control and it does not have to be an amount large enough as to cause problems downstream.

I have heard the argument: "Oh, the farmers need the water for irrigation!" or "The fish need it to make it upstream!"

Once again, without the dams, the water would have already been gone.

As happens quite often, some bureaucrat or our elected officials will make a decision or law that does not fit the criterion for the original intent of our lakes and is far from logical.

—Dick Gilkison
Cottage Grove

CLOSING & PASSING OF A COTTAGE GROVE INSTITUTION

I was passing through Cottage Grove last weekend and stopped by Sunshine General only to find it closed and vacant.

I enquired next door but all the fellow could tell me was that the store had been closed for some time and he'd only just heard the day before that the owner had passed away.

I did an internet search and found the obit from the Register Guard:

"Gordon Earl Beaman, 71, of Cottage Grove died July 20. Arrangements by Andreason's Cremation & Burial Service in Springfield."

A further search of the *Cottage Grove Sentinel* yielded a little more:

Best of South Lane County 2019
Convenience Store
Sunshine General Store

I had grown up stopping by the Sunshine General Store for ice cream after swimming with my mother. My father played jazz there.

Mr. Beaman ordered organic foods with which to stock his store from my employer for many years. He used to come to Eugene weekly to pick up those orders. He was always pleasant.

He has been missed this last year. I had suspected that his health was failing but always felt it was too personal a question to put to the air.

I wanted to say something about Mr. Beaman and wasn't sure who to tell. It seemed to me that the paper of the small town he called home would be a place to start.

We liked him and he is missed.

—G. E. Ford
Eugene

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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