

Cottage Grove Sentinel

1498 E. Main St., STE 104

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)*

Keep your community afloat: shop local

(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.*)

I am writing this because I feel it is important for our community to know that many of Cottage Grove’s small businesses, especially those in the bar, restaurant, and retail industries are struggling and some barely hanging on.

In conversations with other business owners and staff around town (in passing and not sought out), the consensus is the same “business is unusually slow these days – where is everyone and why

aren’t they coming out to support local businesses?”

Our community has already lost the Village Green, Koffee Kup, and most recently Jack in the Box due to the pandemic. If a large corporation is choosing to close up

GUEST VIEWPOINT

By Chrissy Chapman

Covered Bridge Brewing Group Owner/Operator

shop, how much longer can our small-town small businesses hang on?

Stores, restaurants and bars should be bustling with families and friends being together while they enjoy shopping for gifts and a bite to eat while out. I am very

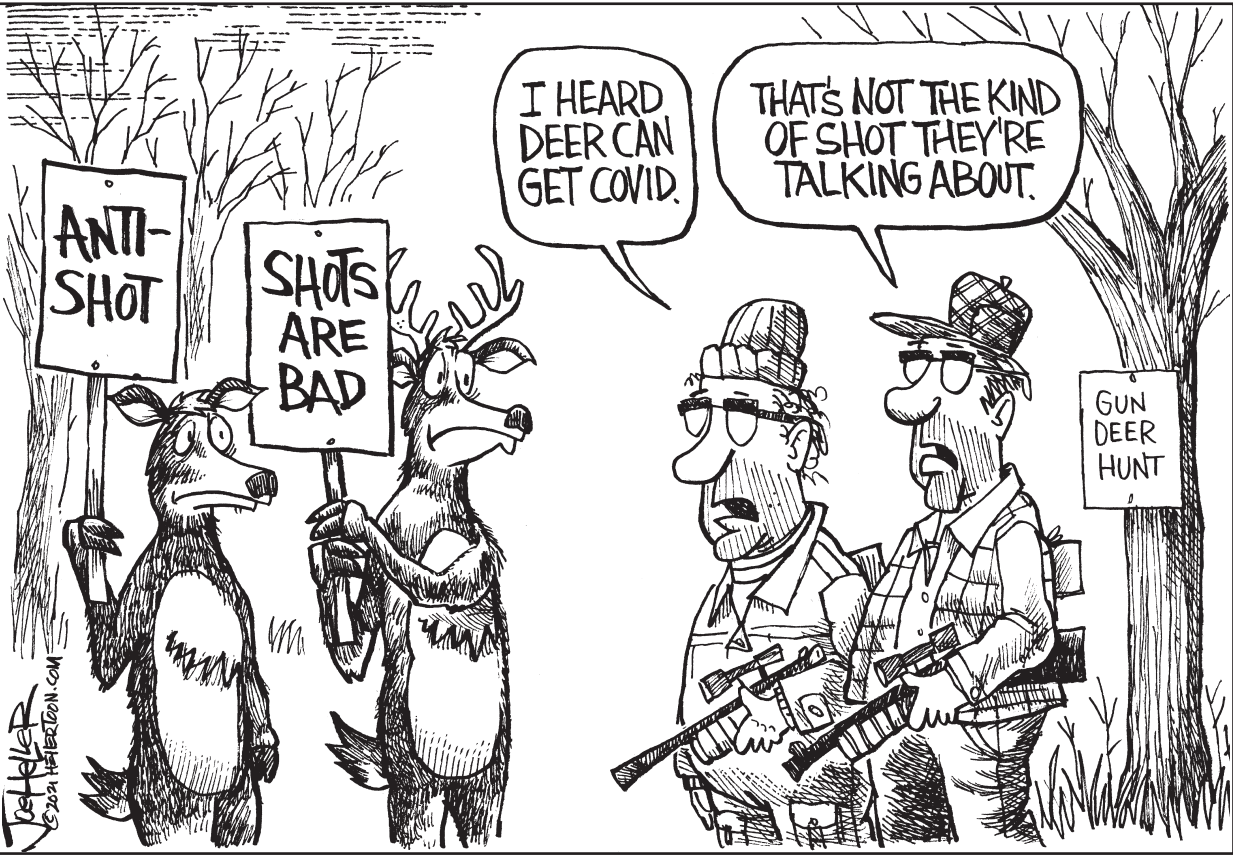
concerned for all of our local businesses, especially as we near winter and the slowest months of the year ahead.

I implore everyone in our community to get out and support as many local businesses as possible as often as possible. Something as simple as buying a gift card can go a long way in helping our local small hometown businesses survive the upcoming slow

winter season.

Please shop small and shop local this holiday season! Saturday, Nov. 27 is Shop Small Saturday.

Finally, I want to wish everyone a very safe and happy holiday season, from our family to yours.



LETTERS

A SHAMEFUL AND EMBARRASSING PROTEST

Last week’s *Sentinel* article about protests at the Pediatric Vaccination Clinic held at the Chamber of Commerce did not report about the harassing and intimidating behaviors directed at people of color. Four of us were called to help escort families and provide a protective presence. Collectively we saw and heard:

- Protesters crowding in front of the Chamber entrance on Main Street intimidating mothers and children. Some families were seen to be walking away from the clinic

before entering.

- Protesters blocking the sidewalk and forcing families with small children into the street.
- Saying things like “you have just killed your children” to parents leaving the clinic.
- A protester with a bullhorn at full volume saying, “Why are you pandering to those people who aren’t from here?”
- Veiled threats like: “We have to stop these people. We need to take our community back. This isn’t your town. Go home.”

The pro-choice/anti-vax protest poster invited people to protest

peacefully and respectfully. Everyone has a right to peacefully assemble and protest. Responsibility comes with that right. Organizers had the responsibility to maintain peaceful and respectful standards and behaviors.

Harassing and intimidating behaviors against people of color and others occurred. What happened was shameful and embarrassing for Cottage Grove and should not have been allowed.

—*Duncan Newberry and
Bruce Kelsh
Cottage Grove*

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:

dsherwood@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@lanecountyorg.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

Advertising

Gerald Santana, Multi-Media Sales Consultant... Ext. 1216
gsantana@cgsentinel.com
Carla Skeel, Inside Multi-Media Sales Consultant... Ext. 1203
csummings@cgsentinel.com

Editorial

Damien Sherwood, Editor... Ext. 1212
dsherwood@cgsentinel.com
Kendrick Murphy, Sports/Education Reporter... Ext 1204
kmurphy@cgsentinel.com

Customer Service

Office Manager, Legals, Classifieds... Ext. 1200
mfringer@cgsentinel.com
Kurt Krueger, Circulation... Ext. 1213
kkruieger@cgsentinel.com

Production

Ron Annis, Production Supervisor... Ext.1215
graphics@cgsentinel.com

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