

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)

Be Thankful, 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.)

“You know what this town needs?” Have you ever asked that question, then immediately followed it with your own answer? If you care much at all about the place you call home, I’d be willing to bet that you have. Your friends, neighbors and family members probably have, too.

The desire to improve the world we live in is, after all, a fundamental driver of positive change. Such thinking often forms the building blocks of progress and prosperity, the first steps to accomplishing something lasting and worthwhile. In fact, it’s easy to imagine such conversations occurring among people of all walks of life, in all cultures, for as long as people have gathered together to talk about anything at all.

As much as we may love our community, there are still many possible answers to this age-old question. Some might reply that better roads are sorely needed, while others would wish for more green space or better lighting downtown. And a great many people, no doubt, would say that what Cottage Grove really needs is a certain type of restaurant, store or other business.

This is where one type of often-overlooked local hero comes in. For as long as Cottage Grove has been anything more than a collec-

tion of homesteads, local entrepreneurs have been brave enough to answer the question of “You know what this town needs?” and then seek to provide that answer for those around them.

Locally owned businesses have formed the backbone of this town for as long as it’s been a town at all. And at a time like this, when uncer-

GUEST VIEWPOINT

By Jon Stinnett

Downtown Cottage Grove Program Administrator

tainty still looms large and the way forward for small-business owners is far from clear, they need our support more than ever.

One of the most satisfying aspects of life in Cottage Grove is the ability to purchase the goods and services we need and want from people we know and trust. Such purchases strengthen community bonds, helping us weather life’s many challenges together. It’s also easier to expect fantastic customer service from someone who knows and truly cares about us.

Shopping locally supports our friends and neighbors and keeps dollars circulating in our community. Small-business owners are among the most enthusiastic supporters of the non-profits and other organizations that provide recreational opportunities to our youth, cultural programs for all of us, and basic necessities for those less fortunate. Our financial support helps them help their community.

And there are other benefits to shopping locally. Buying goods produced nearby cuts down on packaging waste and travel costs and reduces our impact on the environment. Shopping locally creates jobs in our community, allowing others to choose Cottage Grove as a place to make a living and raise a family. The existence of robust start-ups and other small businesses helps convince others to innovate, think creatively and bring the next thing that Cottage Grove needs to town.

The past year and a half has been a time of trials, adjustments and insecurity for many if not most of us. And yet, at this time of year, we still gather together to profess our thanks and gratitude for the many gifts in our lives. Small, locally owned businesses are a gift that keeps on giving.

This holiday season, as we profess our appreciation to each other, let’s make a special effort to thank the local entrepreneurs and small-business owners who help make life in Cottage Grove truly special. And this weekend, while we’re scurrying about seeking the next great deal or the hottest holiday gift, let’s choose to spend our money where it really counts, then say a hearty ‘thank-you’ to the people brave enough to make their living bringing us what we want and need.

Downtown Cottage Grove supports local projects that honor our heritage, strengthen the local economy and beautify our community.

LETTERS

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

In last week’s *Sentinel* (Nov. 24), the Letter to the Editor on the Opinion page entitled “A Shameful and Embarrassing Protest” proves that multiple people viewing a given event will see totally different things.

I witnessed the event outside the Chamber of Commerce office where a pediatric vaccine clinic was being held and saw a group of mostly, what appeared to be, young girls and senior citizens; not exactly an imposing or threatening sector of our society.

I noticed a sign saying, “Educate before you vaccinate.” I witnessed some young women handing out a flyer with vaccination information on it. While the authors of the letter may take umbrage with the information that was presented in said flyer, how can they be against people being provided with information? Is it not always best to have as much information as one can gather before making a decision, especially if it is a decision regarding what goes into our bodies — let alone our children’s bodies?

What I want answers to is: Who called these people — Newberry, Kelsh and a couple of their friends — to provide protection and safe passage? Who had the authority to call these four people in for such duties on city property? What are their qualifications for such a service when we have a fine police department here in town, who obviously didn’t see the need for security or protection at this event?

The only shameful behavior I see here is an unknown group calling four unknown, unidentifiable people to oversee security of an event on city property.

Lastly, shame on Newberry and Kelsh and your plus two for making this about race. Do you not believe that people of color, as you

reference them, deserve to have all the information they possibly can acquire when making such an important decision for themselves and their families? It is you who should feel embarrassed and ashamed with your racist “people of color” references and attempts to deny information to these same people. Shame on you.

—Rosie Ladd
Cottage Grove

A STAND FOR MEDICAL FREEDOM

To the authors of last week’s opinion letter titled “A Shameful and Embarrassing Protest”:

I was one of the first people to the Chamber of Commerce rally and I was one of the last to leave. During the event I was within 10-15 feet of the main entrance at any given time, so it’s easy to say that I had a good sense of the happenings during the entire event.

I’d like to say that in no way did we, as a group or individually, attempt to intimidate or force families into the streets. We did not block intersections nor the entrance way to the Chamber or spout off about people killing their children.

I did say to people that I was sorry for their loss and it was intended as a loss of freedom because this is in fact being forced through fear and job losses, etc.

We will continue to stand for medical freedom/no force and hope that everyone really educates themselves before giving themselves and their children something that cannot be reversed.

—Sara Secord
Cottage Grove

A VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

This letter is in response to the Letter to the Editor on the Opinion

page entitled: “A Shameful and Embarrassing Protest.”

As one who stood up that day for children in my community, I found this letter to be shameful and embarrassing ... and full of inaccurate statements.

I was there when the clinic opened until it closed up an hour early. Not once did anyone in our protest group behave in a way that was anything but kind, peaceful, or respectful. What the “complaining” community heard as “loud” that day was most likely the very loud music being played by the DJ the clinic had there that day.

If anyone felt intimidated by our signs and presence, perhaps their consciences were battling with truth and wisdom? Many in the community supported our protesting this jab clinic with positive “honks” and “thumbs-up” as they drove by.

Our mission is simply to try to save the lives of children who have no choice but to go along with what their parents choose for them. We want to wake parents up to the dangers of this jab with truth on our signs and get parents to think.

It alarms us that many parents don’t seem to be researching the ingredients in this shot — or the documented side effects (including death) before choosing to have their kids get this jab. It’s heart-breaking to us. We protest to educate parents ... and hopefully keep them from making a mistake they may regret for the rest of their lives.

We are a voice for the children and want to see their parents empowered with information and faith, rather than blind obedience and fear. Standing up for the voiceless is never shameful or embarrassing — it’s an honor!

—Diane Christiansen
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

- **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**
District 7 State Representative
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Ore. 97301
Phone: 503-986-1407
Email: rep.cedrichayden@state.or.us
- **Rep. Peter DeFazio**
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
- **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

Advertising

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

Subscription Mail Rates in Lane and Portions of Douglas Counties:

13 Weeks	\$15.00
One year	\$46.00
Senior 62+	\$35.00
e-Edition year	\$35.00

Rates in all other areas of United States: 10 weeks, \$19; 1 year, \$60; 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.