

Cottage Grove Sentinel

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In accordance with the latest health department recommendations, *The Sentinel* is limiting its office hours:
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Monday-Friday
Community members can still contact us by phone at 541-942-3325 or by email

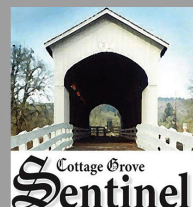
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WEATHER



Mostly sunny with a high of 56 and a low tonight of 33.
Full forecast on A5

COMMUNITY — C



Coronavirus Coverage
Special COVID-19 updates, official info
C1

SPORTS — B



State mandates put athletics on hold
B1

- **RECORDS**
Obituaries
Official releases
A2
- **LORANE NEWS**
A5
- **CLASSIFIEDS**
Listings and public notices
C7-C8

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Governor issues executive order on social distancing

By JARED ANDERSON
FOR THE SENTINEL

In a press conference on Monday (March 16), Oregon Gov. Kate Brown stated, “I’ve been weighing the economic impacts of mandating the closure of places where Oregonians gather. I will be issuing an executive order on new social distancing measures for Oregon, effective March 17, for at least four weeks.”

According to Brown, the order will include the

following:

- A statewide cancellation of all events and

macies and retail stores excepted.

“Although I urge Or-

“We are looking at a variety of tools that we have, including requests from the Oregon legislature, and of course the federal government.”

— Oregon Governor Kate Brown

gatherings larger than 25 people, with essential locations like workplaces, grocery stores, phar-

egonians to avoid gatherings of 10 people or more,” the governor said.

- Restaurants, bars and

other establishments that offer food or beverages for sale are restricted to carry-out and delivery only, with no onsite consumption. Food service at hospitals, workplaces and other essential facilities will continue.

“I am also urging all other businesses to evaluate your practices to accommodate social distancing measures. Basically, can your business do the equivalent of restaurant takeout? If you cannot do that,

I strongly urge you to close your doors to customers temporarily,” Brown said.

- As with my previous orders on social distancing, any establishments not complying with these measures will be subject to a Class C misdemeanor, as established in Oregon State of Emergency statutes. Under Oregon law, a Class C misdemeanor is punishable by up to 30 days in jail,

See **BROWN 5A**



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Oba Ramen staff and members of the school district distribute meals to school children on Tuesday.

City, community respond to COVID-19

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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With Lane County’s first confirmed case on Tuesday of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), authorities in Cottage Grove have implemented preparations

while certain services have been restricted in accordance with health authority recommendations.

While the State of Oregon and Lane County have declared states of emergency, however, the City of Cottage Grove has yet

to take that step.

“We’re running under the Lane County emergency because Lane County and the county commissioners are the board of health for the entire county,” said City Manager Richard Meyers. “We’ve been thinking

about it, we’ve talked about it and we don’t think we need to. But if something else happens or we need to do something that is beyond health in order to make sure things happen right, then we’d

See **CITY 6A**

Restaurant, bar owners share reservations over closures

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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On Monday Gov. Kate Brown announced a four-week ban on seated dining in Oregon’s bars and restaurants and prohibited gatherings of more than 25 people in a dramatic effort to curb the spread of the coro-

navirus.

By the next day, when the ban went into effect, Cottage Grove restaurants and bars had already readjusted to a new take-out and delivery model to continue serving the community. Despite the speedy adaptation, though, many business owners are concerned

how the drastic change will play out.

“It’s going to be bad for our economy,” said Axe & Fiddle owner Bart Caridio. “It’s going to bad for everything that I can see.”

Caridio regards the governor’s move as an overreaction and lacking planning.

“It seems like it

would have been good for the people who are shutting all this down to have things in place for all these displaced employees,” he said, referring to the staff layoffs occurring locally and throughout the restaurant industry.

As majority owner of Plank Town Brewing

See **CLOSED 3A**

SLSD names Curtis as superintendent

The South Lane School Board has announced that Dr. Yvonne Curtis is the new superintendent of the district effective July 1.

According to board chair, Sherry Duerst-Higgins, “Dr. Curtis has the experience that will benefit our school district, putting our students first to improve graduation rates, supporting student success in all PK-12 academic areas and programs and meeting the needs of our diverse communities in our school district and building positive relationships within our community.”

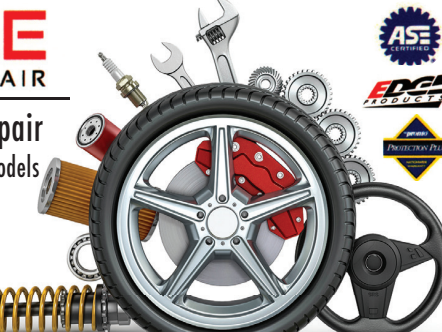
Curtis is currently the interim superintendent of the South Lane School District. She has extensive experience in Oregon public education K-12, including 23 years of administrative experience as a principal, director of student achievement in the Eugene school district, eight years as a superintendent in Forest Grove, and deputy superintendent of instruction in Portland Public Schools.

Curtis received her doctoral degree from the University of Oregon and her Master of Teaching degree from Lewis and Clark College.

“I am deeply honored and grateful for this opportunity to lead the South Lane School District working collaboratively with the school board, strong leadership team and deeply committed staff members,” said Curtis. “Already, I have experienced a warm

See **CURTIS 6A**

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