

Covid from A6



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

**School children received breakfast and lunch sacks from South Lane School District Tuesday morning. Food will continue to be distributed through the week and also on March 30 and 31 at CGHS, London and Dorena schools.**

policy in light of the outbreak, though both providers recommend on their websites that customers use electronic or telephone options whenever possible in lieu of visiting the offices in person.

Following Lane County Public Health guidelines, the Cottage Grove Police Department is also taking steps to minimize risk, though Police Chief Scott Shepherd assured that the essential service will continue as usual.

“One of our biggest concerns is just trying to keep everybody healthy,” said Shepherd. “We clean surfaces that are heavily used and we pay attention to our own

personal hygiene and try to limit exposure.”

Policing tactics in dealing with offenders have changed only

slightly to accommodate the threat of the virus, Shepherd noted.

“If it’s somebody who is not a habitual offender and we don’t think would be a nuisance to the public, we’re opting to issue citations rather than physical custody,” he said. “But that’s a

case-by-case basis.”

Cells in the Cottage Grove Municipal Jail house single individuals and the department is continuing to monitor inmates’ conditions.

Shepherd added that citizens with issues which don’t require face-to-face interactions are

asked to call the police department instead.

Emergency responders with South Lane County Fire & Rescue, too, are continuing to follow guidance documents provided by the Oregon Health Authority and Lane County Public Health such as screening practices, illness recognition and wearing personal protective equipment.

Public transportation in Cottage Grove, however, was faced with disruption when Lane Transit District (LTD) announced Monday that, beginning March 17, the Cottage Grove Connector service would be canceled until further notice. The limited Saturday fixed route schedules to Cottage Grove are to be implemented on weekdays instead.

“We all need to do our part to reduce everyone’s risk to the coronavirus,” said Aurora Jackson,

LTD’s general manager in a press release. “In addition, LTD’s team continues to clean the buses every day with high-powered disinfectants and other cleaning protocols.”

When riding the bus, LTD suggests riders follow guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to reduce the exposure and spread of the coronavirus.

Though the LTD Connector service is suspended, local transportation nonprofit South Lane Wheels will continue its “Door-to-Door” service for the time being.

Other local services such as the Cottage Grove Public Library and Community Center are slated to remain closed until March 30 and events in the building have all been canceled, though the city is looking into delivery options for those wanting to check out books of the library, said Meyers. The Cottage Grove Armory, too, is closed until April 13.

Virtual meeting instructions for public meetings are to be provided at the top of the respective agenda pages on the city’s website at [cottagegrove.org](http://cottagegrove.org).

Questions about COVID-19 can be answered by visiting Lane County Public Health and the Oregon Health Authority websites or by calling the Lane County Public Health Community Call Center line at 541-682-1380.

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**KNOW**  
**Coronavirus**  
 EDUCATE • PREVENT  
 PROTECT

The discovery of the new coronavirus, (COVID-19), leaves many people with questions. Your best defense is to learn the facts.

**EDUCATE** – Get information from public health experts leading the effort

**PREVENT** – Learn how to stop this and other viruses from spreading

**PROTECT** – Learn how to keep you and your family healthy



For this information and updates, visit [peacehealth.org/coronavirus](http://peacehealth.org/coronavirus) or [lanecountyor.gov/coronavirus](http://lanecountyor.gov/coronavirus)