

# Cottage Grove Est. 1889 Sentinel

VOL. 131, NO. 15 • Your Local News Delivered Your Way: In Print. Online. On the Go!

**Coronavirus Coverage**  
Official updates provided by county, state and national health organizations  
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**WEATHER**

Sunny skies with a high of 73 and a low tonight of 38.  
Full forecast on A5

**A VIRTUAL EASTER**

Local churches host 'virtual' Easter services.  
A3

**SPORTS — B**

Keeping an open mind despite closures.  
B1

- **RECORDS**  
Obituaries  
Official releases  
A2
- **LORANE NEWS**  
A5
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Listings and public notices  
B7-B8

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## CG declares state of emergency

**BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD**  
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In a virtual meeting on April 13, the Cottage Grove City Council declared a temporary state of emergency within city limits and delegated certain authorities to City Manager Richard Meyers.

The Lane County Board of Commissioners issued an emergency declaration March 17, and Cottage Grove had since been operating un-

der that declaration. However, new developments in the city's need to address policy and permitting issues prompted Monday's declaration.

The emergency declaration gives the city authority to take steps including requesting state or federal assistance, entering into contracts with other governmental or private entities and emergency procurement of goods under Oregon Revised Statutes.

Also included in the resolution,

the city manager is delegated with authorities such as suspending enforcement of adopted policies, implementing leave recommendations and issuing orders to protect public health and safety.

Other actions listed in the resolution such as banning public gatherings, establishing curfews or implementing measures beyond those ordered by Lane County or the State

See **COUNCIL 6A**

## Candidates announced for May 19 primary

**BY MARK BRENNAN**  
FOR THE SENTINEL

The 2020 election cycle began in earnest April 3, when Oregon Secretary of State Bev Clarno began mailing ballots to voters for the May 19 Primary Election.

Oregon has voted by mail since 2000, so unlike other states which have been forced to move primaries due to the COVID-19 pandemic, voting will take place as scheduled.

The first to receive ballots will be military personnel and other voters that are currently out-of-country. Out-of-state ballots will be mailed April 20, and all other ballots will be mailed to voters April 30 — which is also the date official

See **PRIMARIES 7A**

## If a tree falls in the forest...



PHOTO BY DOUG KERR ("DOUGTONE")/TRAVE OREGON

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced the closure of all Oregon recreation sites, including local favorites such as Cottage Grove Lake and multiple sites around Dorena Reservoir (above). Read more about the closures and future plans on page B1.

## SLW executive director Linoz runs for state rep

**BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD**  
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Ruth Linoz has never been a politician, but she feels that might just qualify her for the job.

As a resident of District 12, Linoz is currently in the running for the district's seat in the Oregon House of Representatives.

Though an active and visible member of the Cottage Grove community for many years and executive director of local nonprofit South Lane Wheels, Linoz muses that some are surprised to learn she is actually a Springfield resident.

"I've done so much over the last 10 years that most people are sur-



COURTESY PHOTO

**Ruth Linoz is running for Oregon's District 12 representative.**

prised I don't live here," she laughed.

Running unopposed on the Republican ticket, Linoz will officially become the party's candidate after the May 19 primary election and go on to challenge incumbent Dem-

ocratic Representative John Lively, who has held the seat solidly for eight years.

Linoz has lived in Lane County for more than 35, working much of it in the transportation industry.

"I've been in the region long enough to see both the rural and the urban issues and I'm excited to represent," she said.

Linoz started her transportation career as a Lane Transit District (LTD) bus driver and later went into the service planning department, putting a total of 16 years into the organization.

In 2010, she was hired to be the

See **LINOZ 9A**

## West Coast gov's issue joint statement

*Three West Coast states will work together to reopen state economies*

On April 13, California Governor Gavin Newsom, Oregon Governor Kate Brown and Washington Governor Jay Inslee announced an agreement on a shared vision for reopening state economies and controlling COVID-19 into the future.

The following is a joint statement from the governors:

COVID-19 has preyed upon our interconnectedness. In the coming weeks, the West Coast will flip the script on COVID-19 — with our states acting in close coordination and collaboration to ensure the virus can never spread wildly in our communities.

We are announcing

See **GOVS 7A**

## CARES package major focus of Oregon congressional delegation

**BY MARK BRENNAN**  
FOR THE SENTINEL

Oregon's Congressional delegation has been busy since the passage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES), SB 3548, determining which aspects of the stimulus package apply to their constituents and the best manner for those con-

stituents to access the support offered by the bill.

The CARES stimulus package allocates \$2.2 trillion to various financial mechanisms intended to blunt the impact of the economic shutdown forced by the COVID-19 Pandemic and mandated by state and federal leaders.

CARES include provisions designed to provide direct financial

assistance to businesses, workers, corporations, medical organizations, educational institutions, and tribal entities.

However, as is often the case with many large-scale federal programs, the speed with which the legislation was created, and the changing circumstances on the frontlines of the battle against the virus, reveal gaps in the plan and new situations

which require adjustments and modifications.

Earlier this week, U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, along with other senators, coauthored a letter to Small Business Administration Administrator, Jovita Carranza, expressing concern over the lack of support for agriculturally

See **CARES 9A**

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