

Cottage Grove Est. 1889 Sentinel



Look inside for the winners on A10 and A11

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WEATHER



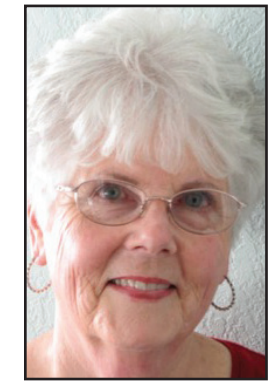
Mostly cloudy with a high of 74 and a low tonight of 46.
Full forecast on A5

COMMUNITY — B



City golf course in full swing see B1

BETTY KAISER



Chatterbox: Surviving sheltering in place see A5

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Falling through the cracks of COVID-19

One Cottage Grove resident confirmed to have the virus serves as a cautionary tale

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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(Editor's note: The name and gender of the affected person in this article has been hidden to protect their identity.)

As someone living with asthma and hay fever, Dana is accustomed to the occasional unwelcome bouts of

coughing, troubled breathing and tightness in the chest.

"I thought it was that," Dana said about the day they called their physician. "I didn't actually expect the test to come back positive."

On April 11, test results from an urgent care center in Springfield confirmed that Dana, a Cottage Grove resident, had contracted COVID-19.

When a case of COVID-19 is

confirmed in Oregon, a mandatory reporting protocol requires physicians notify the local health authority. Upon learning of Dana's case, Lane County Public Health (LCPH) swiftly contacted Dana and began the process of contact tracing.

According to Dana, officials at the agency surmised that it was likely Dana contracted COVID-19 while at their workplace on or be-

fore March 21. Ironically, this was the date Dana had resigned from their position as a healthcare worker at a long-term healthcare facility in Eugene due to the facility's lack of personal protection equipment (PPE) and a fear of catching the virus.

"PPE was in very short supply and, being immunocompromised,

See COVID 8A

Social distant dancing



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Grovers beat cabin fever with a choreographed dance routine on a recent sunny weekend in Bohemia Park. Tuesday, Oregon Governor Kate Brown announced the loosening of some restrictions for recreational areas in the state (See page B1), which could provide area residents with more options for outdoor recreating as spring approaches.

'Some counties could reopen May 15'

Lane County has meanwhile developed its own reopening blueprint

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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After more than a month of lockdown due to COVID-19, certain Oregon counties may soon be eligible to begin a reopening process, said Gov. Kate Brown during a May 1 press conference.

"In certain parts of the state, we see almost zero cases and few

hospitalizations," she said. "It is my hope that some counties or regions could have the ability to begin the process of reopening as soon as May 15."

Since the governor issued her "Stay Home, Save Lives" executive order March 23, Oregonians have been under direction to remain home unless necessary and maintain social distancing practices in

public while many businesses have been forced to close shop or implement public health protocols.

"Oregonians have taken extraordinary actions to keep each other safe during this pandemic," said Brown. "We've all felt the difficult repercussions of those actions — some much more than others,

See BROWN 7A

Local fundraising effort aids Grovers in need

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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In the midst of layoffs and widespread economic hardship, Health Hub owner Samantha Duncan has established a fundraiser to offer a small reprieve to locals suffering from cash flow problems.

"I just saw a lot of people post-

ing on Facebook and other places that they had not been able to access unemployment," said Duncan. "They weren't getting calls back, they were waiting and they were pretty strapped for cash. And also the stimulus checks hadn't come out yet."

While services exist in Cottage Grove for food, housing and util-

ity support, Duncan observed that certain barriers such as mobility have prevented some from accessing aid and direct cash relief to these community members could be a viable alternative.

"People in the community had also been asking me where they

See AID 6A

OSP investigates I-5 shooting complaint, makes drug bust

On Sunday, May 3, at approximately 11:47 p.m., Oregon State Police Troopers received a report from a motorist that he had been shot at while driving on I-5 in northern Douglas County.

The motorist continued to travel northbound on I-5 for approximately 20 miles (with a flat tire) before troopers located him in a rest area in Southern Lane County.

The subsequent investigation revealed the driver was under the influence of marijuana and his paranoia led him to believe he had been shot at after a tire on his vehicle had a blow out.

Troopers located approximately 95 grams of marijuana, marijuana items and \$29,790

See OSP 6A

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