

Cottage Grove Sentinel

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

Chance of showers with a high of 58 and a low tonight of 42.
Full forecast on A5

BETTY KAISER

Cook's Corner
A5

SPORTS — B

County, state parks reopen with caveats
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Josephine Martin, a resident of Magnolia Memory Care, sends a message to her family in lieu of personal visits, which have been restricted since March.

'Senior Living' during a global pandemic

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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With the loosening of coronavirus-related restrictions last week in Lane County, some residents are breathing a little easier and embracing the social opportunities afforded by the first phase of reopening.

Residents of senior living communities, however, still face a long road of lockdown amid the lingering public health threat.

"We, at Middlefield Oaks, have not had any confirmed cases," said Brittany Greco, community relations director of Middlefield Oaks Senior Living Community. "And I think it's because we have followed very, very safe protocols."

Senior living and long-term care centers around the country have severely restricted access due to the vulnerability of their resident age group and the coronavirus's tendency to inflict particularly severe damage on the elderly.

For two months of the COVID-19 spread in Oregon, Middlefield Oaks closed its doors completely and stopped admitting family, guests and new residents. Currently, the doors remain locked and temperatures are taken every time staff enter the facility where staff must also wash hands, fill out a form and receive new masks on a daily basis.

While families and guests are still not

See SENIORS 6A

The Grove reopens for Phase One business



PHOTOS BY NICK SNYDER/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Grovers turned out at The Brewstation (above) May 15 for the first day of the county's Phase One reopening, which allows restricted sit-down service in food and beverage establishments. While some local businesses have made adjustments to come into compliance with state requirements, others have delayed reopening as they strategize ways to meet the guidelines.



City Hall reopens to public access

Cottage Grove City Hall reopened to the public Monday, May 18, and will be open each day from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

The public is still strongly encouraged to conduct business with City Hall by phone, email or other electronic means when possible.

Those who must come to City Hall will be reminded to follow social distancing requirements.

The building will not be open for meetings other than official City meetings and with attendance limited to no more than 10. Virtual attendance is still strongly encouraged.

Under Phase One Reopening guidance, park playgrounds, picnic shelters/structures,

See CITY 6A

Preliminary Primary results released

The following 2020 Primary Election results were reported by the Oregon Secretary of State as of 9 a.m. May 20.

The totals posted for most races are not final and were updated after press deadlines on Wednesday by the Secretary of State.

Federal results
PRESIDENT- DEMOCRAT
JOSEPH R BIDEN
Democrat
67.43%
354,10
BERNIE SANDERS

See VOTE 9A

EPA chooses CG for 'Local Foods' program

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has selected Cottage Grove to participate in the "Local Foods, Local Places" program, marking the city as the first community in Oregon to receive the opportunity.

"I am excited today to announce that Cottage Grove and 15 other communities across the country are receiving expert assistance to revitalize the local economy and improve the quality of community life," said Tim Hamlin, director of the EPA's Land, Chemical & Redevelopment Division in Seattle.

Cottage Grove was selected from

an application pool of about 150 communities nationwide.

"It was really competitive," said Senior Sustainability Policy Advisor Vicky Salazar, who will be supporting the city through the process. "The proposal that was put forward by Cottage Grove really showed the commitment of the city to follow

See LOCAL 7A

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