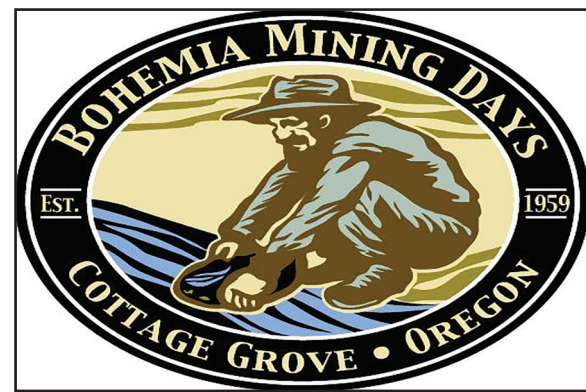


Cottage Grove Est. 1889 Sentinel



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INSIDE: Your 2020 edition of "The Nugget"

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WEATHER

Sunny skies with a high of 87 and a low tonight of 57.

Full forecast on A5

CONSTRUCTION

Update on area improvement projects — A3

COMMUNITY — C

The Gran Fondo returns July 25 B1

- **RECORDS**
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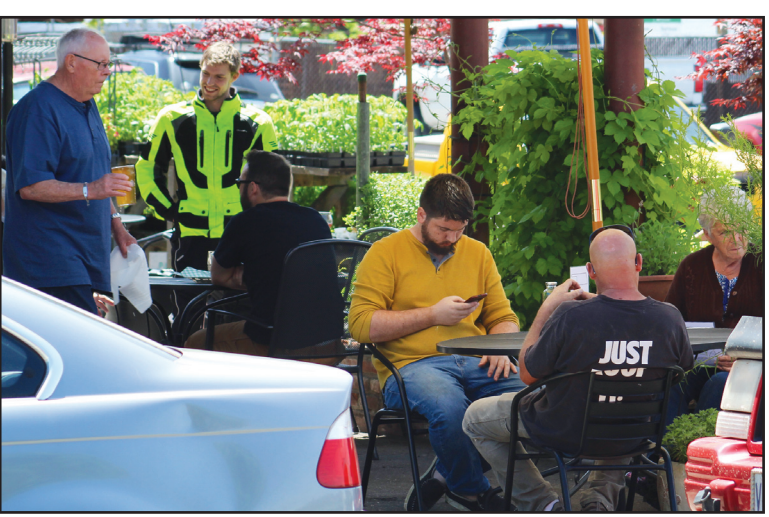
LCPH urges people to 'stay home' as COVID cases rise

A spike in the number of COVID-19 cases in rural communities raises concerns for health officials

BY JARED ANDERSON & NED HICKSON
FOR THE SENTINEL

"The best thing to do is try and stay home as much as you can," said Lane County Public Health (LCPH) Public Information Officer Jason Davis when asked what area residents should do to combat the rapidly growing spread of COVID-19 in Oregon.

"This virus, for it to succeed, has to have close contact between people," Davis continued. "We are directly contributable to its success. If we take close contact out of the equation, and essentially cut the gas lines for the disease, we make



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL
As Phase Two of the state's re-opening continues, the inevitable increase of visitors to rural areas has coincided with an increase in confirmed COVID-19 cases in those areas, including Cottage Grove.

it so it can't do its job. Stay home. Don't be the person that contracts it."

The advice comes just days after Cottage Grove recorded a spike in COVID-19 cases, which now sits at 10. While that number seems small, the issue is the virus's capacity for exponential community spread.

"COVID spreads quickly," Davis said. "It can go from no community spread to community spread in two days. These definitions aren't really super helpful, other than 'Right now, right here, I'm safe.' But in a few hours, you might have

See LCPH 6A

All charged up



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

On July 9, Cottage Grove city staff completed installing and activating two new electric vehicle (EV) stations, allowing EV owners to now charge their cars while shopping or eating downtown or using the Community Center or library. Less than two hours after activating the stations, the city had its first customer. The EV stations are located at the Community Center and in the parking lot across from City Hall on East Main Street. The stations were funded by a grant from Pacific Power.

Podcast 'Encounters' topics in The Grove

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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Binding people of diverse viewpoints poses a challenge in turbulent and polarizing climates, but podcasters Josh Fattal and Rosie Foraker are hoping a modern solution can help solve this age-old problem.

The hosts of the Encounter Cottage Grove podcast have been digging their fingers into the soil of small-town concerns for a couple months now, while attempting to place the community in a broader national and sometimes global context.

"It's the idea that each person is a mystery unto themselves and we

are encountering each other," said Fattal. "And part of the podcast is exploring each other. But it's also exploring each other and having the town encounter itself in a sense."

Foraker also sees the podcast as a timely project allowing the hosts

See PODCAST 7A

City creates loan program for small businesses

The city has set aside \$100,000 for small business assistance

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

Emergency loan and grant programs have launched in both Cottage Grove and other Lane County cities in an effort to provide relief for small business suffering from the economic slump caused by the public health crisis of COVID-19.

"We encourage everyone to share the word, spread it around and get some applications in from Cottage Grove for that funding," said City Manager Richard Meyers at a July 13 City Council meeting.

The City of Cottage Grove has set aside \$100,000 for small business assistance as part of the city's 2020-21 budget.

Part of these funds will be used as a match for \$25,414 from Business Oregon in a grant program and a remaining \$74,500 will be loaned through the city's own loan program.

The grant was established by Lane County and third-party financial institution Community Lending Works, in partnership with the cities of Coburg, Cottage Grove, Creswell, Eugene, Florence, Lowell, Springfield and

See LOAN 8A

City applies for ODOT grants to improve vehicle, pedestrian pathways

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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The Cottage Grove City Council voted Monday to authorize the city's application for two Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Transportation and Growth Management grants to improve vehicular and pedestrian

pathways in town.

The council had previously identified a high-priority need for improvement of the city's pedestrian and bicycle system, particularly those relating to the Safe Routes to School project.

A grant request of \$150,000 was approved to fund the development of a bicycle and pedestrian plan,

which will include a Safe Routes to School action plan and a comprehensive ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) transition plan for public rights-of-way and facilities.

A 12 percent local match of \$18,000 will be provided through engineering and planning staff support.

A second ODOT Transportation

and Growth Management Grant request for \$200,000 was also authorized to fund the development of a Highway 99 Corridor Plan through the city.

The plan will study ways to improve the function, access, accessibility, multi-modal use and

See CITY 8A

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