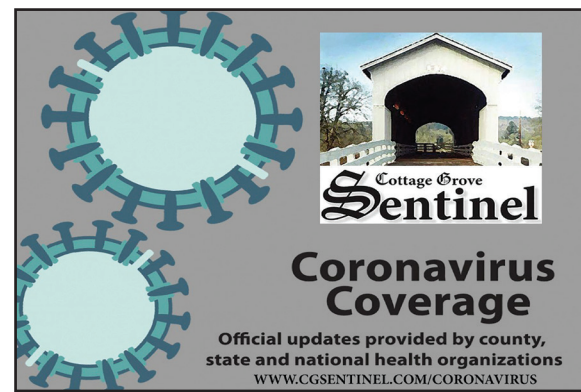


Cottage Grove Est. 1889 Sentinel



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



Sunny skies with a high of 87 and a low tonight of 55.
Full forecast on A5

COMMUNITY PRAYER



Grovers gather for National Day of Prayer — B1

PARADE



Dorena to celebrate new fire truck with parade — A3

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‘COVID-19 is very much still with us’

Lane County’s confirmed cases of novel coronavirus see resurgence

By MARK BRENNAN
FOR THE SENTINEL

The COVID-19 curve has started to shift upward in the state as the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) reports 2,540 individuals have tested positive for the virus in the past week, resulting in five deaths.

While the rate of confirmed infections had been trending downward, the recent wildfires and numerous evacuations

around the state put in place by civic authorities are believed to be main contributors to the previous weeks’ lower rate of reporting on confirmed cases of the virus, which included 457 new cases between noon last Thursday and noon last Friday — 50 in Lane County, with 1,164 cases currently reported by Lane County Public Health, including 18 deaths.

As of Sept. 30, the 97424 ZIP code totaled of 45 reported cas-

es, with 18 reported cases in the 97426 ZIP code.

At this point in the pandemic, there have been 32,315 confirmed cases of COVID-19 (as of Sept. 25) in the state and 542 individuals have perished due to the virus.

The steadily rising number of cases since Labor Day Weekend prompted a strong warning Thursday from Dr. Jim McGovern, Vice President of Medical Affairs for PeaceHealth Oregon

network, on behalf of the Lane County Public Health Medical Advisory Group.

“More than six months have passed since the pandemic began and COVID-19 is very much still with us. In fact, it appears as though the preparations made by hospitals and other care providers at the beginning of the outbreak will now need to be utilized,” he said in a statement

See COVID 6A



PHOTO COURTESY OF KENNETH MICHAEL ROBERTS

Candidate Jon Stinnett (left) is sworn in as councilor of the Ward 2 seat, which was left vacant by the passing of Councilor Bob Ehler.

Stinnett appointed to Ward 2 council seat

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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The Cottage Grove City Council convened as a full seven-person body Monday night for the first time since the passing of Councilor Bob Ehler in May this year.

In a unanimous vote, the council decided to appoint candidate Jon Stinnett as councilor of the Ward 2 seat, a position Stinnett is currently vying for in the General Election on Nov. 3, 2020.

In the council’s memorandum, it was reasoned that appointing Stinnett before the election would

not only fill the seat with a voting body, but provide an opportunity for Stinnett to get accustomed to the role of councilor.

At the council’s June 8 meeting, councilors discussed the possibility of filing the Ward 2 seat. Several

See SEAT 8A

Schools back in session with CDL model

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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Students of the South Lane School District (SLSD) returned to school on Monday, Sept. 28, putting into motion months of preparation for a Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) model, a public health-con-

scious approach to education.

Though grades K-3 had been planned to be phased into a hybrid model of in-person and CDL schooling, COVID-19 metrics for Lane County have increased in recent weeks, forcing school districts throughout the county to put in-person education for lower grades on hold.

Oregon Department of Education (ODE) allows an exemption for K-3 students to attend in-person classes providing certain metrics are met. Lane County surpassed those metrics during the week of Sept. 13.

With the increased coronavirus rates, the district’s goal to transition

See SCHOOLS 9A

EBID merges with Main Street Program

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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The Cottage Grove Main Street Program and Economic and Business Improvement District (EBID) formally merged last week, bringing the full scope Main Street and downtown projects under one roof.

Following the decision to merge the programs, Danny Solesbee was appointed chair of the nonprofit, which is to be named “Downtown Cottage Grove.”

“Main Street, now, is bigger,” said Solesbee. “It allows the people east of [Highway] 99 and Ninth Street to be part of programs nationwide — education and grants and so forth — so we increased that footprint.”

Merging the two entities was largely motivated by the overlapping goals and personnel associated with each body.

“They were doing a lot of the same things downtown,” said Solesbee. “A lot of the people on those two boards were the same faces. So instead of having two meetings, we’re a little bit more efficient this way.”

Still, the “footprints” of the two entities had their differences.

The Main Street Program, which receives office support from the city, has been doing work in line with the goals of national Main Street America program, which aims to revitalize downtowns and commercial districts

See EBID 7A

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