

# Cottage Grove Est. 1889 Sentinel

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**WEATHER**



Chance of showers with a high of 50 and a low tonight of 45.  
Full forecast on A5

**COMMUNITY**



Honoring local veterans  
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Teaming up with Bigfoot for 'Black Friday shopping'  
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## Workshop kicks off 'Local Food' discourse

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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Dozens of local stakeholders participated in a virtual Local Foods, Local Places Workshop on Nov. 5 and 6, generating action plans based around improving Cottage Grove's food system.

"I was really pleased with the turnout and the enthusiasm of the local participants," said City Planner Amanda Ferguson, who serves on the program's steering committee. "We came up with some very tangible, positive actions to implement community goals."

Participants represented a wide range of stakeholders including local farmers, food producers, growers, tourism experts, nonprofits, garden managers, county, state, and federal agencies, and others interested in helping build Cottage Grove's food-based economy.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) selected Cottage Grove to participate in the Local Foods, Local Places Program, marking the city as the first in Oregon to receive the opportunity.

Sponsored by the EPA, the program has been used in several

communities since its inception in 2015. Efforts have included protecting air and water quality, preserving open space and farmland, boosting opportunities for local farmers and businesses, improving access to healthy local food, promoting childhood wellness and engineering stronger local food economies.

Work with these communities has seen projects such as opening year-round downtown markets, helping schoolchildren grow their own food, planning cooperative

See LOCAL 6A

## SLSD updates its hybrid learning plan

*New metrics could mean quicker return to in-person learning*

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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In light of Gov. Kate Brown's announcement of changes to Oregon's school metrics on Oct. 30, South Lane School District (SLSD) has updated its hybrid learning model.

"In short, they've made it easier for us to open to in-person learning for students," said SLSD Curriculum Director Jeremy Smith during a virtual presentation to parents on Tuesday.

The new metrics highlight the importance of returning to in-person instruction. Changes included a two-week "look back" at the metrics data rather than one week at a time over a three-week period and the removal of state positivity rate in favor of county positivity rates.

While the new guidelines will allow more students to return to in-person instruction with health and safety measures in place, Lane County's COVID-19 case rate is currently too high to welcome students back into classrooms.

Even so, the relaxed requirements may allow students to return to in-school instruction under the hybrid model sooner than expected.

SLSD currently employs a Comprehensive Distance Learning method, in which most students attend virtual classes. The hybrid model would mean students split their learning time between home and the classroom.

Standards for moving to a hybrid model are based on county case rate and test positivity.

Oregon Health Authority data released on Monday listed Lane County cases at 133.6 per 100,000 with a test positivity of 7.6 percent between Oct. 25 and Nov. 7.

A case rate of less than 100 is required to move into

See HYBRID 9A



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

The entrance to Camp Alma's Veterans Legacy site, which helps prepare veterans to reintegrate.

## Camp Alma preps for a 'reboot' in providing a healing place for veterans

Following the wrap-up of a seven-month pilot program, Camp Alma is preparing to reboot and welcome a new round of veterans to benefit from its rehabilitative services.

"I hope we're not shut down for any more than a month," said Veterans Legacy Executive Director Dan Buckwald.

Veterans Legacy is a nonprofit with a mission to provide veterans with

a safe, supportive environment for healing and eventual reintegration into their communities.

The group takes aim at veteran issues such as suicide, homelessness and unemployment by

addressing afflictions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse and associated traumas.

At Camp Alma, the

See LEGACY 7A

## Governor calls for 'pause' for 10 counties due to COVID-19 spike

By NED HICKSON  
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Last Friday (Nov. 6), Gov. Kate Brown announced a two-week "pause" on social activities in five Oregon counties — Multnomah, Marion, Jackson, Malheur and Umatilla counties — as part of a renewed push to slow record-breaking coronavirus spread, warning

that more severe restrictions may be needed without progress.

The decision was then expanded on Monday (Nov. 9) to include Washington, Clackamas, Linn, Baker and Union counties based on the most recent per capita case counts.

The pause — which applies to counties with more than 200 cases per 100,000 people over two

weeks, or more than 60 cases over the same span for counties with fewer than 30,000 people — went into effect Wednesday and will continue through Nov. 25, the day before Thanksgiving.


"It would be great if the entire state ... took these directives seriously," Brown said.

Among other things, the directive prohibits indoor visits at

long-term care facilities; encourages working at home; sets new capacity limits at restaurants to 50 people, including customers and staff; limits capacity at gyms to 50 people; and recommends either not gathering with people outside your household or at least capping group sizes to six people.

See PAUSE 5A

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