

Cottage Grove Est. 1889 Sentinel



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WEATHER

Showers with a high of 43 and a low tonight of 37.
Full forecast on A5

COLUMNIST



Betty Kaiser's Cook's Corner
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COMMUNITY



Oh, Christmas Tree!
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OSAA announces latest high school sports season calendar for 2020-21

The Oregon School Activities Association's plan pushes start date to late February, beginning with fall sports

By NED HICKSON
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On Monday (Dec. 7), the Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) Executive Board offered its revised calendar, which moves the start of activities to late February.

In explaining its latest decision, the board said it had been hopeful that the state's landscape was going to improve when it adopted the previous calendar back in August, which had a start date in December.

But as COVID-19 cases continue to rise along with changing county risk level metrics and restrictions, activities have not

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— Peter Weber, OSAA Executive Director

been approved by the Governor's Office and Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

"Today's decision by the executive board is another reminder of the impact the pandemic has had on Oregon students and schools," said Peter Weber, OSAA executive director. "While disappointed that we need to adjust our original

schedule, we believe that keeping three distinct seasons — albeit in shortened seasons — maintains potential opportunities for all students moving forward."

The new plan encompasses three seasons, each of which will last six weeks and include a culminating week.

Board members made it clear in

comments made during the meeting that the OSAA and its member schools are bound by the rules, regulations and guidance set forth by the Governor's Office and the OHA.

While the OSAA can't waive state mandates or provide exceptions for certain activities or counties in the state, OSAA staff remain in contact with the Governor's Office, OHA and the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to work toward a safe return to in-person learning and high school activities.

In Monday's revised calendar, fall sports has been moved to

See **SPORTS 5A**

City Council to vote on used merchandise business licenses

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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Following a Nov. 9 discussion regarding used merchandise business licenses, the Cottage Grove City Council is set to vote on the corresponding municipal code next week.

During the Dec. 14 session, the council will consider an alternative to its current licensing code, which came under council scrutiny last month for its lack of efficacy.

Chapter 5.28 of the Cottage Grove Municipal Code establishes licensing, operating and recordkeeping requirements for used merchandise businesses within the city limits. License renewals are required on a yearly basis.

During last year's renewals, city staff received comments questioning the necessity of the licenses.

Before sending out notices to the businesses this year for renewals, the issue was brought before the city council for discussion in its Nov. 9 meeting.

See **COUNCIL 7A**

All aglow in The Grove



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

All-America City Square (aka Opal Whiteley Park) lit up on Saturday, announcing the Christmas season with the vibrant glow of colored lights decked throughout bushes and the park's prominent Christmas tree. The lighting ceremony was held virtually this year to comply with COVID-19 restrictions.

Lane County offering small business grants

Last week, Lane County opened the portal for applications from small businesses for Emergency Grants and will be open through Sunday, Dec. 13.

An aid amount of \$3.6 million has been set aside for grants and businesses are encouraged to get their application submitted as soon as possible at www.communitylendingworks.org.

After the application period closes, there will be a two-phase lottery system to ensure an equitable and fair distribution.

Grants will be distributed in the following amounts in Lane County, based on number of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) employees:

Grant Amounts	
Sole proprietor	\$7,500
1-5 FTE	\$15,000
6-15 FTE	\$20,000
16-25 FTE	\$25,000

General Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible, a business must have been adversely affected in either one of the following two ways:

- The business was

See **GRANT 6A**

Deadline for Drain business licenses passes with few applicants

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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A recent change to Drain city code requiring business licenses passed its deadline for applications Dec. 1, though most businesses have failed to file.

Drain Mayor Justin Cobb said the city would be sending out reminder letters rather than issue fines for the time being.

"It's not uncommon for people not to pay bills on time," he said. "My position at this point is it's still a learning experience for both the businesses ... and the city and right now we're both trying to learn how to deal with this new system in place."

Creation of the ordinance was prompted by the opening of Drain business Top of the Bowl this June, which controversially includes

adult entertainment in the form of nude dancing.

The business has billed itself as a bar and restaurant with "special events," which include sports viewing parties, poker tournaments, live music, burlesque shows and both male and female topless dancing.

However, some in the community called foul, protesting that the establishment's owner was not

forthcoming about the intent to include nude dancing.

The subsequent ordinance added new definitions of prohibited conduct within city limits in regards to adult entertainment as well as introduced business licenses to the city's code.

The ordinance also requires that owners and employees of adult

See **DRAIN 6A**



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