

Cottage Grove Est. 1889 Sentinel

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WEATHER



Rain with a high of 48 and a low tonight of 41.

Full forecast on A5

COLUMNIST



Mary Ellen's Pet Tips 'n' Tales — B1

HUMOR



James Kazad: Being manly while crawling under the house — B1

- **RECORDS**
Obituaries
Official releases
A2
- **LORANE NEWS**
B1
- **CLASSIFIEDS**
Listings and public notices
B5-B6

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Father dead, son injured in Valentine's Day shooting

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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The Cottage Grove Police Department (CGPD) is conducting a death investigation following a shooting incident on Sunday morning which left a father dead and his son seriously injured.

On Feb. 14, at approximately 9:25 a.m., police responded to an agency assist for South Lane County Fire and Rescue at 1063 Tyler Ave.

Upon arrival, CGPD officers

“Based on what we know right now, we don’t believe that there’s any threat to the community.”

— CGPD Chief Scott Shepherd

found Conrad Schubkegel, 48, deceased inside the residence with a gunshot wound. CGPD could not comment on the location of the wound.

Paramedics transported 24-year-old Kyle Schubkegel to PeaceHealth

Sacred Heart Medical Center at Riverbend in Springfield for treatment, also of a gunshot wound, where he is expected to survive. He is in serious but stable condition.

A member of the Lane County Medical Examiner and Coroner

performed a short examination and collected Conrad from the scene.

CGPD Chief Scott Shepherd emphasized that police are not currently searching for any suspects and residents in the area have no reason for concern.

“Based on what we know right now, we don’t believe that there’s any threat to the community,” he said.

The incident began when a

See **SHOOTING 5A**



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Warming shelter program fully ‘activated’

The Community Sharing Warming Shelter site provides a total of 35 beds on freezing nights.

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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Though off to a late start this season, Cottage Grove’s new warming shelter program has hit its stride as users have found a place to thaw on freezing nights.

Since beginning operations last month, the Community Sharing Warming Shelter has activated four times and served in total 28 people seeking respite from the cold.

“It took us quite a while to get up and running,” said Community Sharing Executive Director Mike Fleck. “There’s actually a lot more to this than what it seems.”

Recruiting, creating manuals, setting COVID-19 protocols and budget planning have taken up much of the preparation energies,

he said.

Community Sharing assumed responsibility for the project last fall when local shelter provider Beds for Freezing Nights stated it would be unable to provide its services this season. It does, however, remain a supporting entity for the current program.

The fenced Community Sharing Warming Shelter site at 224 N 12th St. hosts 18 Pallet Shelters and maintains a total of 35 beds.

Coming in two sizes, 64 and 100 square feet, the shelters are owned by Lane County and have amenities including beds, electrical outlets, a heater, an air conditioner, a smoke detector, shelf space and lockable doors.

As with its preceding program, the Community Sharing Warming

Shelter’s season runs from Nov. 1 to March 31. At the end of the season, the Pallet Shelters will be housed with the city and the site will be opened up to other possible uses during the off-season.

Keeping with the Bed’s for Freezing Nights activation threshold, the Community Sharing Warming Shelter only activates when nights dip to 29 degrees Fahrenheit or below. It stays open from 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. the following day.

It has been reasoned by those working in the local warming shelter community that the criterion for activation at 29 degrees or below encourages priority use of Eugene’s Egan Warming Center (which activates at 30 degrees) and thus

See **SHELTER 5A**

Businesses, leaders continue search for COVID solutions

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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Nearly a year after Oregon Governor Kate Brown issued an executive order to shut down all non-essential services and restrict the operations of food and beverage sellers due to the COVID-19 outbreak, many Cottage Grove busi-

nesses continue to struggle to keep up financially amid the restrictions.

The frustrations reached a boiling point in December when leaders representing many of Lane County’s small- and medium-sized businesses across the region sent a co-signed plea for support to Brown and elected

representatives on behalf of their constituent businesses.

Co-signers included Cottage Grove Chamber President and CEO Shauna Neigh, along with chamber presidents from Springfield (Vonnike Mikelsen), Eugene (Brittany Quick-Warner), Florence (Bettina Hannigan),

Oakridge-Westfir (Lynda Kamerrer), as well as CEO of Travel Lane County Kari Westlund — all of whom asked for financial and regulatory relief.

“You can hear the despair in their voices,” said Neigh in the letter. “They’ve done the best

See **SOLUTIONS 6A**

New state guidance gives green light to HS gridiron

By ZEAHNA YOUNG
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On Feb. 10, Governor Kate Brown announced that the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) would be amending its guidance for outdoor contact sports.

The revision allows schools to resume outdoor contact sports, including high school football, provided the school follows certain health and safety protocols dependent on county risk level. In addition, the participating school must have returned to at least limited in-person instruction on campus.

In a statement, Governor Brown acknowledged, “This has been a difficult year for Oregon’s youth athletes and, as our COVID-19 numbers have dropped, I have been committed to working with our health experts to reevaluate our protocols for sports.”

Brown added that school sports play an important role in fostering students’ mental, emotional and physical health. “We will proceed with caution, to ensure that teams are following health and safety precautions to protect our athletes, their families and their communities,” Brown said.

Schools in low- and moderate-risk counties were permitted to begin full-contact this past Monday (Feb. 15), with competitions beginning the week of March 1.

With respect to high- and extreme-risk counties such as Lane County, schools may opt in to outdoor contact sports provided additional protocols are in place.

See **GRIDIRON 8A**

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