

Gridiron *from A1*

In such counties, sports programs must offer on-site responsive testing for symptomatic individuals and close contacts, contact information for contact tracing, a waiver identifying health and safety risks, and a commitment to isolation and quarantine if exposed to COVID-19. In addition, schools in high- and extreme-risk counties must be in compliance with state guidance for COVID-19 testing, and they are also required to have at least limited in-person instruction occurring, “with the goal of achieving hybrid or full in-person instruction for students this school year.”

“It is not lost on me that this decision will allow high school football to resume, when too many high school classrooms across Oregon remain empty,” said Brown. “To all the parents of student athletes and coaches who have called and emailed me in the last year asking for school sports to resume, I am challenging you now to devote your energy to making sure in-person academics can resume for your kids, too. If our school gyms, fields and weight rooms are to reopen, we owe it to Oregon’s children to make sure our classrooms, libraries and science labs fully reopen as well.”

Following the change in guidance, Cottage Grove area schools have been working to adjust and move forward with plans for football this season. Yoncalla High School Athletic Director Peter James spoke about the importance of sports to many students.

“Recently, we allowed students back in the school, which has made a tremendous difference in the kids’ attendance, and [their] attitude [toward] academics all around,” said James. “But we still haven’t had sports since March of last year, so there’s a real itch to get back on the field of competition. With that said, we’re still in the pandemic, and there are still those requirements we have to follow — social



FILE PHOTO/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Cottage Grove High School will not field a varsity team this season but will have an 11-man JV team. Meanwhile, Yoncalla and North Douglas will co-op a team, with Elkton playing a 6-man football schedule this season.

distancing, wearing masks which, as you can imagine, is pretty tough for sports.

“The kids were so, so excited to hear the news. These kids have been without sports for nearly a year. To get them out on the field or in the gym helps their development and helps against the mental detrimental effects COVID has had on them.”

In adjusting to the changes in athletic regulations, as well as the overall effects of the pandemic, all schools have had to make some changes to their normal football program. Yoncalla has chosen to form an eight-man co-op team with neighboring North Doug-

las High School team.

“The co-op is great as our two schools have a history of competitive rivalry; to share the field with them is truly a blessing,” James said of the decision to combine athletes.

North Douglas High School Athletic Director JJ Mast explained the reasoning behind choosing to form a co-op team. “Our numbers were really low. We haven’t been in school. It’s been hard to try and recruit more kids out here. So, for this year only, we’re playing with Yoncalla, [and] it’ll be a Yoncalla-North Douglas football co-op.”

Mast spoke about the

plan of attack for collaborating with Yoncalla, explaining that Matt Bragg, Yoncalla’s coach, is going to run the offense using Yoncalla’s offensive formations, and North Douglas will run the North Douglas’s defense, along with special teams.

“We’re just kind of splitting it up, which is good. [Matt and I] went to high school together, so I’ve known Matt a long time, and it will be fun to work with him for the year,” said Mast.

Traditionally, the two schools are rivals, but in the spirit of getting as many student athletes on the field as possible, they made the

decision this school year to be allies. As Mast explained, “[Our schools are] bitter rivals, but so far [Yoncalla has] been very welcoming of our kids coming over. It’s a real good group of kids that are out there.

“I think at this point, people are just happy to get out and get a chance to go compete at something,” said Mast. “We’re very thankful that they were willing to take us on, as our numbers were so short. It’s working out very well so far; I think it’ll be a really positive experience for everybody. And now we know we get to play so it’s even better.”

Elkton High School decided to run a six-man league this year provided health and safety directives allowed for it. Prior to the change in guidance, Athletic Director Andy Boe discussed Elkton’s options. “We’re planning on

still running football as is, so that’s a change for us. It seems positive from the news that I’ve heard that there will at least be a path to having contact football.

“Whatever they say we can do, we’re going to try to pull off, and I just hope they don’t put too many contingencies on it, because it’s a small district, so it’s tough to do some of the things that other places can do.”

Elkton happens to be one of the schools that has kindergarten through 12th grade back in school full time. Boe noted, “We’ve been very, very fortunate. We feel like we have good protocols in place and a good plan, and it’s worked. So, we’ll continue to do those things until either we’re out of the woods or something happens.

“I think everybody’s

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10:00am
Christian Education: Pre-K through 5th
Tim Baker, Senior Minister
www.6thandgibbs.com

Calvary Baptist Church
77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290
Pastor: Riley Hendricks
Sunday School: 9:45am
Worship: 11:00am
The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm
Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm

Church of Christ
420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565
Sunday Service: 10:30am

Cottage Grove Bible Church
1200 East Quincy Avenue
541-942-4771
Pastor: Bob Singer
Worship 11am
Sunday School: 9:45am
AWANA age 3-8th Grade,
Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm
www.cgbible.org

Cottage Grove Faith Center
33761 Row River Rd.
541-942-4851
Lead Pastor: Kevin Pruett
www.cg4.tv
Full Children’s Ministry available
Services: 9:00am & 10:45am

Delight Valley
Church of Christ
33087 Saginaw Rd. East
541-942-7711 • Pastor: Bob Friend
Two Services:
9am - Classic in the Chapel
10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium

First Baptist Church
301 S. 6th st • 541-942-8242
Pastor: David Chhangle
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship Service 10:30am
Youth Wednesday 6:30pm
cgfirstbaptist.com

First Presbyterian Church
3rd and Adams St
541-942-4479
Rev.: Karen Hill
Worship: 10:00am
Sunday School: 10:00am
fpcgrove.com

Hope Fellowship
United Pentecostal Church
100 S. Gateway Blvd.
541-942-2061
Pastor: Dave Bragg
Worship: 11:00am Sunday
Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday
www.hopefellowshipupc.com
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Hope In The Grove Baptist Church
77820 Mosby Creek Rd
Pastor: Wayne Husk
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Evening Bible Study: Wednesday 6:30pm
541.649.1043

Living Faith Assembly
467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612
Worship Services Sundays: 9a & 11a
Youth Worship Sundays: 11a (all ages welcome)
Mondays: 5:30p (6th-12th grades)

Non-Denominational Church of Christ
1041 Penoyer Ave
541-942-8928
Preacher: Tony Martin
Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am
Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm
www.penoyeravecoc.com

Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi Catholic Churches
1025. N. 19th St.
541-942-3420
Father John J. Boyle
Holy Mass:
Saturday Vigil – 5:30 pm
Sunday – 10:30 am
For weekday and Holy Day of Obligation schedule see website
OLPHCG.net
Confession: 4 PM to 5 PM
Saturdays or by appointment
St. Philip Benizi, Creswell

552 Holbrook Lane
Sunday 8 am

St. Andrews Episcopal Church
1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050
Rev. Lawrence Crumb
“Scripture, Tradition, Reason”
Worship: Sunday 10:30am
All Welcome

Seventh-day Adventist Church
820 South 10th Street
541-942-5213
Pastor: James D. Boram
Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am
Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40
Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00

Trinity Lutheran Church
6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373
Pastor: James L. Markus
Sunday School & Adult Education 9:15am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur 5:00pm TLC Groups
tlccg.com

United Methodist Church
334 Washington 541-942-3033
Worship 10am
umcgrove.org

“VICTORY” Country Church
913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913
Pastor: Barbara Dockery
Worship Service: 10:00am
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CRESWELL:
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