

Cottage Grove Est. 1889 Sentinel



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WEATHER



Partly sunny skies with a high of 57 and a low tonight of 30.
Full forecast on A5

BETTY KAISER



Cook's Corner
A5

SPORTS



Lady Lions sweep Falcons
B1

- **RECORDS**
Obituaries
Official releases
A2
- **LORANE NEWS**
A5
- **CLASSIFIEDS**
Listings and public notices
B5-B6

Lane County progresses to 'Moderate Risk' status, Douglas still 'Extreme'

By CHANTELE MEYER
FOR THE SENTINEL

This past Tuesday (March 9), Oregon Gov. Kate Brown announced updates to county risk levels under the state's public health framework to reduce transmission and protect Oregonians from COVID-19.

The framework uses four different risk levels for counties based on COVID-19 spread — extreme risk, high risk, moderate risk and lower risk — and assigns health and safe-

ty measures for each level.

Effective tomorrow (March 12) through March 25, there will only be two counties — Douglas and Coos — remaining in the "extreme risk" level, nine at "high risk," 12 at "moderate risk" and 13 at "lower risk."

Lane County shifts down to moderate risk after just two weeks at high risk, along with four other counties.

"We are largely seeing case rates decline across the state, with the

most counties in the lower risk level since the framework was introduced in November," said Brown. "This should serve as a reminder that when we follow the health and safety measures we know work against this virus, we can truly make a difference in infection spread."

Additional restrictions are lifted as counties reach fewer cases of community spread of COVID-19.

On Friday, this will mean:

• Eating and drinking establishments: indoor dining is allowed with 50 percent capacity; indoor tables can have a maximum of six people; outdoor dining can have a maximum of eight people

• Entertainment establishments: indoor capacity can have 50 percent capacity up to 100 people

• Indoor recreation and fitness: indoor capacity can have 50 percent or up to 100 people; indoor full-contact sports still prohibited.

See **MODERATE 8A**

Standout student art



PHOTOS BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Artistic submissions from local youths are on display this month at the Opal Center downtown in the first annual Crafty Mercantile/Opal Center Student Art Contest. Local student artists ages 5 to 18 participated by creating and submitting original artwork. Local artists Paula Goodbar, Thi Nguyen and Alex Ihnat judged a total of 58 entries. Prizes included art supplies, gift certificates and art classes. (See "Art" on page A8 for a list of winners)

Savage appointed to Ward 1 seat by city council

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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In a 5-1 vote on Monday night, the Cottage Grove City Council appointed Chalice Savage to the council's Ward 1 seat.

The position has been vacant for more than a month due to the resignation on Feb. 5 of former Councilor Jake Boone, who stepped down to pursue the newly-created position of Assistant to the City Manager.

"That was a tough panel to decide from because we had six really good candidates," said Mayor Jeff Gowing.

Councilors interviewed the six applicants for the Ward 1 position before the council's regular session on Monday night. Other applicants included Ward 1 residents Scott Borgioli, Duane Taddei, Jennifer Crosby, Donn Rust and Billy Reed.

The six-member council asked applicants questions on an array of topics including familiarity with city code, communication with other Ward 1 residents, ideas for civic engagement and what applicants believed were the city's main challenges.

As a guard against unfair advantage, candidates were asked not to listen in on others' interviews.

During her interview, Savage said she hoped to bring her communication

See **SAVAGE 9A**

City mulls over street construction issue

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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The Cottage Grove City Council groped for answers during its regular session Monday night regarding a construction

mistake within the Safe Routes to School project that may cost the city as much as \$58,365.

The issue was brought to the attention of city staff two weeks ago by Wildish Construction when it became apparent that the

gutters and entrances to three corners of the intersection at South Eighth Street and Taylor Avenue handicap ramps were lower than the adjacent street elevation.

At certain points, the road was measured to be

more than eight inches off.

Mayor Jeff Gowing expressed his astonishment at the magnitude of the mistake during the meeting.

"I can't believe the guys

See **STREET 6A**

Cleanup event to target Umpqua Forest destinations

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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Lovers of the outdoors will get a chance this weekend participate in an effort to clean up and maintain the natural beauty of their local countryside.

On March 13 and 14, from 9

a.m. to 4 p.m. on both days, volunteers are heading into the wilderness under the banner of the "TAZ Cleanup" to pick up and haul out garbage from beloved natural destinations.

The project has been organized by Phillip Miller, who hosts an outdoor travel Youtube channel called

"The Adventure Zombie," or TAZ for short.

Miller aims to raise awareness and clean up the outdoors with the event.

"I'm not in it for the publicity," he said. "It's not about my Youtube channel. It's about going out there and picking up trash and doing the

right thing."

The cleanup will focus on spots in the Umpqua National Forest including Brice Creek, Bohemia Mountain, Spirit/Moon/Pinard Falls areas and other trails.

The idea for the event formed

See **TAZ 11A**

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