

# Cottage Grove Est. 1889 Sentinel

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**WEATHER**

Cloudy skies with a high of 77 and a low tonight of 45.  
Full forecast on A5

**COLUMNIST**

Mary Ellen's Pet Tips 'N' Tales  
A5

**SPORTS**

Track & field, baseball, softball and more!  
B1

- **RECORDS**  
Obituaries  
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## Lane among counties moving back to 'Extreme Risk' Friday

Douglas County will be moved to 'moderate risk' beginning Friday

SALEM — Due to the rapid spread of COVID-19 in Oregon, Gov. Kate Brown today announced updates to county risk levels under the state's public health framework. With hospitalizations rising above 300 people statewide, threatening to overwhelm doctors and nurses, 15 counties will move to the extreme risk level effective Friday, April 30, through Thursday, May 6. This includes Lane County.

In addition, nine counties will be in the high risk level, four at moderate risk, and eight at lower risk. Douglas County will be at moderate risk.

"If we don't act now, doctors, nurses, hospitals, and other health care providers in Oregon will be stretched to their limits treating severe cases of COVID-19," said Brown. "Today's announcement will save lives and help stop

COVID-19 hospitalizations from spiking even higher. With new COVID-19 variants widespread in so many of our communities, it will take all of us working together to bring this back under control."

The governor is partnering with lawmakers to approve a \$20 million small business emergency relief package to immediately support impacted businesses in Extreme Risk counties through the

commercial rent relief program.

In an effort to speed up the return to normal business operations, county COVID-19 data will be evaluated weekly for at least the next three weeks.

Any updates to county risk levels next week will be announced on Tuesday, May 4, and take effect on Friday, May 7. Counties that

See RISK 5A



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Members of the Buster Keaton Mural Restoration Committee (from left) Gerald Santana, Lloyd Williams, Kenneth Michael Roberts, Dana Merryday and Suzanne Hueber-Sannes celebrated a night of music and suds as Coast Fork Brewing released its first Imperial IPA, "The General," on April 23 in honor of Keaton's locally produced 1926 movie by the same name. A portion of the sales is being donated to the Buster Keaton mural restoration project, which was just \$1,100 shy of reaching its fundraising goal before the event. More than \$200 were collected in donations alone Friday night. "I thought the party was wonderful and \$200 exceeded my expectations," said Williams. Coast Fork's Master Brewer Stephen Mathys created the new IPA while local musician Tobi D'Amore provided the musical backdrop for last week's fundraiser.

## Q&A with SLSD Board candidates

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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Oregon is experiencing a high turnout in school board candidates this election season and South Lane School District (SLSD) is no different — three seats are up for grabs and all are being contested.

When polls close May 18, this special election will determine a special election make-up of the seven-person body which helps shape the direction of local education.

Among its responsibilities, the school board sets policy, influences a \$56 million budget and selects the district's superintendent. Elected members serve a four-year term.

The Sentinel reached out to the SLSD Board candidates in the May 18 Special Election and asked them four questions about their potential roles in this system...

### Candidates for Board Position 2

Taylor Wilhour (incumbent)

We moved here in 2006 with our first child and I'm proud to call Cottage Grove home and strive to make it better. We have kids in elementary, middle school and high school, so I am involved at every level.

Since 2013, we've built a beautiful new school, upgraded the swimming pool, had the best high school graduation rate in Oregon, and much more. Through sound fiscal management, we got extra money from the 2016 bond measure. We used it district-wide on technology, security and critical maintenance that had been delayed by years of budget cuts.

I am a thoughtful, dedicated board member who comes prepared, offers suggestions, asks tough questions and uses the best available information in decision-making. I have been involved since 2007 as a coach, parent and

now board member. I am excited that we are leading once again in expansion of pre-K, vocational education (CTE), equity and professional development. Please send me back to the boardroom to continue this important work.

Pam Duffy

I am a federal retiree having worked for U.S. Secret Service and the Federal Office of Workers' Compensation. I moved to Cottage Grove in 2003. I was involved in a grade school/middle school mentoring program in Seattle for seven years. Upon moving here, I mentored at London Elementary for two years but stopped to care for my mother who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

### Candidates for Board Position 4

Melanie Stuhlmiller

I am a mother to three SLSD

See BOARD 6A

## Voters to consider local options

A guide to what voters will see on the May 18 ballot

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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With ballots being mailed and official drop sites opening today, voters will have until May 18 to submit their ballots for this spring's Special Election.

While many board positions such as those at Lane Community College (LCC) and South Lane School District (SLSD) are being contested (see story same page), several others remain uncontested.

Creswell School District and South Lane County Fire and Rescue (SLCFR) races, for example, may be foregone conclusions as none of the candidates are running with opposition.

In the Creswell board, both incumbents Mike Anderson and Lacey Risdal have refiled for their positions while Tim Rogers, who previously served on the board in Position 3 from 2013-19, is running for a seat being made vacant by David Eusted.

SLCFR seats seem to also be set as Debby Stumph, who was an applicant for the vacant Position 4 position in January, is now running for a seat left open by Joel Higdon, who did not refile. Incumbents Dan Duffy, Thomas Munroe and newly-appointed Chris Holloman are also running unopposed for their respective seats.

### Creswell School District Board

Position 4:

Mike Anderson (incumbent)

Position 5

Tim Rogers

See BALLOT 9A

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