

Cottage Grove Est. 1889 Sentinel

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WEATHER

Chance of showers with a high of 63 and a low tonight of 45.
Full forecast on A5

COLUMNIST

Betty Kaiser
A5

SPORTS

Settelmeyer hangs up coach's whistle
B1

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Obituaries
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Listings and public notices
B5-B10

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541-942-3325 ph • 541-942-3328 fax
P.O. Box 35, Cottage Grove, OR 97424



PHOTO BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

The Cottage Grove Garden Club hosted a clean-up and plant care work event downtown at All-America Square on Saturday, May 1. City Councilor Kenneth Michael Roberts helped organize the session as volunteers representing Cub Scout Pack 140 and the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce joined to weed beds, scrape between cracks and plant new flowers during the three-hour event.

Restaurant Revitalization Fund opens to public

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

On Monday, May 3, the Small Business Administration (SBA) began accepting grant applications from restaurants suffering revenue loss due to COVID-19 through the newly established Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF).

The funding has been made available to restaurants and other eligible businesses to help keep their doors open.

The Sentinel caught up with Community System Navigator Misty Burris last Saturday as she hit the pavement on Main Street, stopping by each restaurant to see if they had registered for the program.

"I really gained a deeper insight to the current state of our restaurant owners' stresses about labor and unpredictable reopening, among other major concerns," she said.

Burris also visited Creswell, Springfield and South Eugene restaurants in an effort to get businesses connected to the program.

"Entering Eugene to motivate restaurant owners was a true reality check," she said. "I needed a team to even scratch the surface of everyone most impacted."

Burris reported that only four restaurants had registered as most owners assumed the RRF was a program they did not qualify for. Nearly every business, too, was seeking labor as only two restaurants said they did not need it, she said.

The SBA currently has \$28.6 billion in grant funds to boost the restaurant industry. The funds were allocated from the \$1.9 trillion pandemic aid package, the American Rescue Plan, Congress recently passed in March.

According to the National Restaurant Association, there are more than 110,000 bars and restaurants closed — at least temporarily — during the pandemic that could potentially qualify for this funding.

The RRF was established to provide restaurants with funding equal to their pandemic-related revenue loss up to \$10 million per business and no more than \$5 million per physical location.

Minimum funding is set

See **FUND** on A8

Farmers Market makes Saturday switch

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

It's that time of year again as the South Valley Farmers Market 2021 season kicked off on Saturday, May 1 at its usual Seventh Street location between Main and Washington streets.

The market has made the move to Saturdays this season, operating between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Market Manager Abbi Aldrich said the switch to the weekend will open up more opportunities.

"[We're] hoping that we're able to be more accessible to more of the Cottage Grove commu-

See **FARMERS** on A10



PHOTO BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

The South Valley Farmers Market opened May 1, with a move to Saturdays this season at its location on Seventh Street.

City chooses 'If I Were Mayor' winners

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

Four Cottage Grove students are moving on to compete in the statewide "If I Were Mayor" contest, a youth-oriented competition sponsored by the Oregon Mayors Association (OMA).

The competition encourages youths to share their creative ideas about what they would do as mayor in the form of posters (elementary school), essays (middle school) or

See **MAYOR** on A11



COURTESY PHOTO

Cottage Grove High School students MJ Raade (left) and Kourtney Owens shared first place for their video submissions to the city.

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