

Cottage Grove Est. 1889 Sentinel

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Art Walk showcases creative variety (A6)

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WEATHER

Morning showers with a high of 79 and a low tonight of 60. Full forecast on A5

COLUMNIST

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

18134142405

Downtown Cottage Grove builds momentum

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

Nearly a year since merging the Main Street Cottage Grove program and the Economic and Business Improvement District (EBID) under the same roof of "Downtown Cottage Grove," the organization is ramping up a

campaign to increase its footprint in the community. As part of that campaign, the nonprofit is seeking to reauthorize EBID's five-year status as a fee district with the Cottage Grove City Council this fall. "I'm really excited that Downtown Cottage Grove

has the potential for the right mix of history and vision and a structure that can get things done," said Ruth Linoz, Downtown Cottage Grove's treasurer. "It just has to have stable funding and it can have that for five years if people will commit to it again." The merging of the groups under one umbrel-

la was largely inspired by overlaps in goals and project work. Main Street Cottage Grove, a program which receives support from the city, has been doing work in line with the goals Main Street America, a national program which aims to revitalize downtowns and commercial districts

through economic development. Though Cottage Grove's program has been in operation for several years, it only recently received nonprofit status in 2018. The program gives primary focus to Cottage Grove's Historical District and has been behind project **DOWNTOWN** on A10

CG Community Center and Library reopen

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

The Cottage Grove Community Center and Public Library reopened this Monday, Aug. 2.

Due in part to COVID-19 restrictions, the building has also been closed for remodeling and repairs, which are still not complete, but will continue in a manner to accommodate the reopening.

The library has opened with the temporary hours of 1 to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Expanded hours are expected to begin in September.

Head Librarian Natasha Chitow is excited to see people coming through the doors again.

"I mean, honestly, I really missed my patrons," she said.

Though making some changes to seating and activity arrangements in the library, other services such as curbside pickup will continue.

"Curbside pickup is a really great opportunity," said Chitow. "We're continuing

see **LIBRARY** on A8

PUTTING PACKS ON BACKS



An excited recipient of the backpack giveaway makes his choice at the local Verizon store on Aug. 1. Nearly 750 TCC and Wireless Zone stores nationwide teamed up to donate more than 140,000 backpacks full of school supplies to children through TCC's ninth annual School Rocks Backpack Giveaway.

Sun sets on Sunshine General

STAFF REPORT

It began as a simple dream for four young entrepreneurs, but the Sunshine General Store established itself a Cottage Grove fixture spanning 45 years.

In May, it quietly closed its doors for the last time and this past weekend community members paid their respects to its recently deceased owner Gordon Beaman.

In the beginning, Robin Bachtler and Tom Cushman, both photographers as well as off-grid and alternative power enthusiasts, had lived in Cottage Grove for about year since 1975.

Sharing a common vision, Cushman provided the seed money and Bachtler found the location for the new business when the "Dandy Lion," a store and restaurant near River Road, closed its doors at 824 W. Main St. and became available for sale. That's when Bachtler, then 23 years old, thought

see **GENERAL** on A9

PeaceHealth CG hospital lab shows creative side

The lab at Cottage Grove Community Medical Center recently won top honors in PeaceHealth's Caregiver Appreciation Day decorating contest, beating out other PeaceHealth teams throughout Oregon with an out-of-this-world idea.

Using balloons, cut-out stars, and a pop-up space capsule, the team ingeniously transformed the lab's outpatient draw area into a scene from deep space.

This year's theme for the decorating contest was "Dream Vacation."

"We figured that a lot of people would pick a tropical theme or another popular destination," says lab supervisor Shelly Heintz. "One of our caregivers, Barrett Hanvey, suggested outer space. We all liked the idea, plus it offered a big bonus: There is no COVID in space."

Lab manager Angie Hildebrand brought in a child's play spaceship. Caregiver Dani Freeman found a balloon decorating idea online. Heintz made constellations using glow-in-the-dark stars on a disposable ta-

blecloth and it just took off from there. For the all-important photo shoot, the lab crew wore white bunny suits with NASA stickers and shiny duct tape and fashioned helmets out of respirators and vacuum parts.

This isn't the first time the lab has put its creative talents on display. The group recently won "Spirit Week" at the medical center and they're already working on pirate costumes for Halloween.

"We have a fun team in the lab," Heintz says. "We are a small group, working in close quarters, and the lab is a very technical and highly regulated place to work. It is nice to take a little break from it and show our creative sides."

COURTESY OF CAROLYN MODRELL

Dani Freeman from the Cottage Grove hospital team shows off her hospitable outfit and deep space theme for the contest.



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