

Cottage Grove Sentinel

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WEATHER



Sunny with a high of
80 and a low tonight
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Full forecast on A5

ARTS & CULTURE



'Urban Honey'
A6

SPORTS & REC



Pre Classic draws
world caliber field
B1

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Unique cars and trucks rumbled through downtown for the annual Rock Roll N Rumble (above left) as families also participated in the three-day WOE Fair this weekend (above right).



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

A weekend of wheels and W.O.E.

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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Cottage Grove double-booked itself for a weekend of cars, music and heritage last week as both the Rock Roll N Rumble and Western Oregon Exposition (WOE) Fair pulled off successful events amid concerns that area rises in COVID-19 cases could restrict activities.

"We certainly were cognizant of the pandemic," said KNND owner Cameron Reiten. "And while we certainly don't want to put anybody in danger, we think that the morale of the community is raised when you do these events and is something that definitely deserves consideration."

The 10th annual Rock Roll n Rumble event this year drew a

moderate crowd.

The all-day event, hosted by KNND and the Coast Fork Kiwanis Club, began at 8 a.m., bringing back the "Show and Shine" display as downtown Main Street lined up with all variety of classic automobiles.

As the sun began its westward descent, unique vehicles participating in the car cruise puttered and

roared through the Historic Downtown District.

Onlookers kicked back along the route to admire the show. Though a smaller turnout than last year, the crowd was no less enthused as drivers flaunted their rides or squealed their tires, prompting cheers from the audience.

see **E VENTS** on A10

Lane County issues new COVID-19 guidance

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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Lane County released updated guidance on Saturday, Aug. 21, in an effort to fight the recent rise in COVID-19 cases.

As well as the usual recommendations to wear masks indoors or when six-foot distances cannot be maintained outdoors, emergency recommendations call on businesses, organizations, and employers to take immediate action to limit ongoing community spread and defend the county's dwindling hospital capacity.

The Lane County Board of County Commissioners

discussed the health advisory on Tuesday, Aug. 24, and voted unanimously to officially take up the weekend's recommendations. However, commissioners did not go as far as to call for a mandate.

Public health officials described the health landscape to commissioners, reporting that 65 percent of all ICU beds are occupied by COVID patients and that daily case rates were in the triple digits.

Lane County's guidance came just a day after Gov. Kate Brown took steps to curb the statewide rise of COVID cases by requiring Oregon health care workers and K-12 teachers and

educators to be fully vaccinated by Oct. 18.

Only medical or religious exemptions apply.

Meanwhile, hundreds of national guardsmen have been deployed to help fill roles as frontline health-care workers struggle to meet demand.

Oregon is now averaging more than 2,000 new confirmed and presumptive cases of COVID-19 each day.

As of Aug. 20, more than a quarter-million Oregonians have contracted COVID-19.

In a press conference on Aug. 19, Gov. Brown, State Epidemiologist Dr. Dean Sidelinger, OHA Director

Patrick Allen and other state officials talked about the state of COVID-19 in Oregon.

"The grip of the Delta variant is tightening, and without a concerted effort by all Oregonians over the next several weeks to wear masks and get vaccinated, we risk being swamped by the rapidly rising tide of infections in our communities," Sidelinger said. "Over the past week, daily cases and COVID-19-related hospitalizations have continued an alarming ascent — regularly setting new pandemic highs — far beyond what we experienced in previous surges."

Lane County reported 1,524 cases and two deaths in its latest week, the case rate up from 1,459 the previous week.

The public is asked to follow the emergency recommendations regardless of vaccination status.

The county's full list of recommendations are as follows:

- Wear masks in indoor spaces with other individuals outside of your immediate household.
- Wear masks in outdoor spaces when maintaining six feet of distance is not possible from other individuals outside of

see **COVID-19** on A9

Officials offer peek into future community health center

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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Local leaders and stakeholders gathered at the Cottage Grove Lane Community College (LCC) campus last week to tour the site of what will become the area's first rural community health center.

"When this clinic opens, it will be the seventh site for the Lane County community health centers," said Karen Gaffney, director for Lane County Health and Human Services. "The exciting piece for us is that we are able to build on a successful model for community health centers in Lane County."

Community health centers mainly serve those

who have limited access to healthcare, though all are welcome to use them. As federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), they can qualify for public health funding and often offer a sliding fee scale for patients. Lane County opened its first community health center in 2004 in Springfield at the Riverstone Clinic and has added several other sites to that list since, though they are all in the Eugene-Springfield metro area.

Cottage Grove is to be home to the first rural community health center in the county.

The concept for Cottage Grove's own health center has been tossed around for about a decade. The project

aims to bring a single-site integrated health center offering primary, behavioral and oral health care to residents of both South Lane and North Douglas counties.

Making the health center a reality has been a broad collaboration between LCC, Lane County, South Lane School District, Be Your Best, PeaceHealth and South Lane Mental Health. The Oregon Community Foundation and the YARG Foundation have also been heavily involved in funding.

Besides targeting the rural population, the Cottage Grove project is also unique in that it is offering real-

see **HEALTH** on A9



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Congressman Peter DeFazio spoke to stakeholders on Aug. 19 prior to a tour of the planned community health center on the Lane Community College campus.

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