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SERVING SPRINGFIELD, CRESWELL & COTTAGE GROVE

Creswell Council to vote on sleep site, or buck law

BY ERIN TIERNEY-HEGGENSTALLER
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CRESWELL – It all boils down to time, place, and manner.

Creswell City Council this week spent four hours working toward coming into compliance with a federal court ruling that states that cities cannot enforce anti-camping ordinances if they do not have enough homeless shelter beds for their homeless population.

In a city with an average unhoused population between six and 10 and no support services available, the City must come into compliance with federal and state law by July or risk being sued.

Under the Eighth Amendment, the courts have ruled that criminalizing homelessness is unconstitutional if there is no available alternative for people to sleep.

For Creswell, and for all cities in Oregon, that means designating a time, place, and manner for the unhoused.

During a council meeting earlier this month, council discussed the option of designating Garden Lake Park as a safe site for the unhoused to sleep, but after hefty public comment and push back, the option to designate Garden Lake Park was briskly taken off the table and will not be considered further.

Instead, Mayor Dave Stram organized the meeting to allow each councilor to list potential locations for consideration, followed by public input. The robust, hours-long discussion ultimately boiled down to two options for consideration: The City will either vote to designate the South First Street Pocket Park as a safe site for the unhoused to sleep, or it will vote

See UNHOUSED — 4



A fab, fit run

SPRINGFIELD — Nothing casual about this particular run, Jess Coonfare crosses the finish line at Island Park in a prom dress and running shoes as part of the Springfield Twin Rivers Rotary Prom 5K. Participants were asked to dress glamorous and race through the park as part of a benefit for the Springfield Young Readers Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program. Her literacy project provides a free book every month for all Springfield children from birth to age 5.

More photos: Page 16 and online at Chronicle1909.com

BOB WILLIAMS / THE CHRONICLE



Opening weekend

June 2-4

The Springfield Drifters play host to the Port Angeles Lefties next weekend to open their second season in the collegiate wood-bat West Coast League. All games at Hamlin Field. Ticket prices vary.



Manager Tommy Richards

Friday, 6:35 p.m.
Saturday, 6:35 p.m.
Sunday, 1:05 p.m.

Schedule, roster:
driftersbaseball.com

MAILING LABEL BELOW

Thurston baseball perfect in league

BY PIERRE WEIL
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SPRINGFIELD – The Thurston Colts baseball team finished a sweep of rival Springfield last week, securing an 18-0 record in the Midwestern League in the process. Thurston already secured its fifth straight league title in its series two weeks ago against Crater, but this year's team becomes the first to go undefeated in league play.

“League titles are nice because it's hard to win one and it's hard to win two, let alone five. We've been fortunate enough to have good players, and we play good baseball,” Thurston coach Dennis Minium

said. “We're trending in the right direction, and I think we're in a good spot going into the playoffs.”

Despite the league success, the state championship has eluded the Colts baseball program up to this point. Even in discussing what it means to win five straight league titles, Minium said the lack of a blue trophy, given to the state champions, is the one thing still missing.

“Ultimately, I'd give up every single one of those (league titles) for a blue trophy. I think it's within our grasp right now,” he said. “League titles are nice, but at the end of the day, there's one

See THURSTON — 9

Voters supporting jail levy, Creswell schools bond

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Ballots in Lane County are still being counted and results so far indicate several clear winners in races for the Springfield, South Lane, Creswell, and Lane Community College school boards. On May 16, voters were also asked to select candidates for area library, fire, water, and recreation boards – as well as ballot measures. Official election results will not be released until June 1.

SCHOOL BOARDS

South Lane School District: In position two, Duane Taddei is bringing in 53.85% of the vote while his two opponents, Martha Allen (15.93%) and incumbent Dustin Bengtson (29.69%) split the remainder of them. Position 7 is still contested, with incumbent Gary Mort bringing in 46.88% of the vote, and his opponent, Tina Murphy with 52.63%. In position one, incumbent Tammy Hodgkinson ran unopposed and is bringing in 80.32% of the vote. In position 6, Joe Tucker ran unopposed and is bringing in 93.58% of the vote.

Creswell School District: In position 1, incumbent Kandice Worsham ran unopposed and is bringing in 97.90% of the vote. In position two, Sarah Cox is bringing in 82.65% of the vote, while her opponent, Ronald Colletti, is bringing in 16.84%. In position three, incumbent Debi Wilkerson has an

See VOTERS — 4

