

## WHERE WILL YOU BE RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR?

In case you haven't heard, we're the place to be on New Year's Eve. Join us for a festive celebration of food, drinks and fun.



### New Year's Eve Party in the Lounge!

- Dinner Specials
- Drink Specials
- DJ & Dancing
- Party Favors

Champagne for all at midnight!



725 Gibbs, Cottage Grove, (541) 767-0457

## 2015

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### What's next

In October, the OLCC approved 77 pages of administrative rules for the recreational marijuana market, rules that take effect in January of 2016, when the state will begin accepting applications for licenses to sell, grow and process recreational pot. A temporary 25 percent tax on recreational sales will begin on Jan. 4, 2016, though a 17 percent tax will later be levied on those licensed to sell recreational marijuana when the OLCC finalizes its licensing program. Local and county governments will be allowed to levy a tax between zero and three percent on top of the state tax, and retailers will be allowed to retain two percent of the tax to cover their expenses. Recreational stores with OLCC licenses are expected to open sometime in the second half of 2016.



Sentinel file photo

Sharon Cohen, manager of the Medication Station, views marijuana clones for sale at the dispensary — Cottage Grove's fourth — which opened this summer.

## Bonds sought by SLFR, SLSD

Supporters of a local bond that will be pursued by South Lane School District to replace the aging Harrison Elementary School building hope the bond will fare as well at the polls as one pursued by South Lane County Fire and Rescue in the fall of 2015.

The Fire District's Measure 20-237, approved by 63 percent of voters in November, will allow for the issuance of \$2.6 million in bonds for the purchase of one new ladder truck, two firefighter engines and two water tenders. Fire Chief John Wooten

said that the District had not purchased new equipment since the District was founded with the merger of the Cottage Grove and Creswell departments in 2003, adding that much of its equipment is at least 25 years old.

An advisory committee formed to examine the feasibility of a bond to replace Harrison Elementary began meeting in January of 2015. District officials felt that a drop in the tax rate for the current Cottage Grove High School could allow the bond to pass without raising local property tax rates. The committee chose to pursue a 25-year, \$29.8 million bond to rebuild Harrison, prioritizing technology and safety and security upgrades throughout the District among a list of possible projects to utilize any remaining bond dollars.

### What's next

Committees dedicated to planning the bond process and campaigning in its favor have been formed and are following a demanding schedule of meetings in the coming months. Bend-based BLRB Architects has been enlisted to help shepherd the bond process, and the bond will appear before local voters in the May 17, 2016 primary election. Should the bond pass, the District hopes to open the new Harrison at the Taylor Ave. location of the former Cottage Grove High School in 2018. A "community conversation" to engage the public on the bond process will be held on Jan. 13 at the current Harrison building.

## Where there's smoke...

A dry winter and spring of 2014 led to one of Oregon's most severe fire seasons in recent memory, and through much of July and August, fires raged on all sides of the south Willamette Valley. The early fire season officially began in mid-June, and by early August, smoke and haze in Cottage Grove bore witness to the Cable Crossing Fire east of Glide in Douglas County. By then, the Stouts Fire was continuing to burn 15,000 acres east of Canyonville. On Aug. 23, local firefighters joined the Oregon Department of Forestry to battle the Taylor Butte Fire in the Quaglia/Pitcher Lane area near Mosby Creek, and crews responded quickly on Sept. 29 to a fire caused by an illegal burn in the Veatch Road area just west of Cottage Grove, a fire that first responders said could have engulfed the surrounding hillsides and even threatened the City of Cottage Grove itself.

## BEAUTIFUL MUSIC



Sentinel file photo

Danail Rachev conducts the Eugene Symphony in its first Cottage Grove performance at Bohemia Park in July. The Faye and Lucille Stewart Foundation and the City of Cottage Grove financed the concert. The Symphony is scheduled to return in July of 2016.

### We Want Your News!

The Cottage Grove Sentinel wants to be your source for all things Cottage Grove. But we need your help! If you've got a news tip, we'd be glad to hear about it:

### Cottage Grove Sentinel

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## A Last-Minute Warning: Don't Drink And Drive!

As the clock winds down toward the final hours of 2015, we want to remind you once again about the dangers of drinking and driving, and urge you to celebrate wisely this year.

### WISHING YOU A HAPPY & SAFE NEW YEAR!

These Important Safety Tips Are Brought To You Courtesy Of These Community-Minded Sponsors:

- A-OK Building Maintenance
- Scarpelli's Short Stop
- Cottage Grove Police Department
- Backstage Bakery
- Terry Automotive
- Bob & Adam (B&A) Automotive
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- Brad's Cottage Grove Chevrolet
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