



Perfection!

Lions down Elmira to go 8-0, page 1B

Cottage Grove Sentinel

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SOUTH LANE AND NORTH DOUGLAS COUNTY'S MOST AWARD-WINNING NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1889

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Engineer's report describes a foot-bridge showing 'advanced decay'

City waiting for cost estimates, exploring options

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

On Monday morning, Cottage Grove City Engineer Ron Bradsby summed up the findings of a report detailing the condition of the Currin Swinging Footbridge with just two words: Not good.

Bradsby received the report from OBEC Consulting Engineers that described the bridge's load rating, or its capacity to handle the type of traffic expected on a pedestrian bridge. On Sept. 14, the City received a letter from OBEC in response to a request for analysis of the popular bridge, which has spanned the Coast Fork of the Willamette River between River Road and Madison Avenue since 1965. The letter cited "the critical condition of this bridge and our serious concern for the safety of the public due to" its potential collapse. The City closed the bridge the next day, and it remains closed to all traffic.

The most recent analysis of the structure includes a recommendation that the bridge remain closed until "appropriate rehabilitation or replacement measures are taken."

In the letter, OBEC stated that it had examined elements including the bridge's floor beams, main suspension cables, suspender cables, tower legs and steel anchor bars. A statewide standard for swinging pedestrian bridges does not exist, according to the letter, and so OBEC used a formula that established a maximum load of 90 pounds per square foot to calculate the bridge's condition.

OBEC described the bridge's load rating using the 90 psf calculation as the ideal load rating for the bridge on a scale from 0 to one; thus, a rating of 1.0 would indicate that the bridge's element has adequate strength to handle the 90 psf load.

None of the bridge's elements, though, scored close to the ideal rating: its main suspension cables scored a .40, essentially meaning that the cables support 40 percent of the needed capacity. The suspender cables scored a .64; the tower legs scored just .36, and the steel anchor bars scored .77. In fact, OBEC stated that the bridge could only be expected to handle a load of 15 pounds per square foot, and the letter pointed out that the bridge was not designed or built to handle the 90 psf rating in the first place.

"Repairing or augmenting the existing members does not appear to be a feasible option," the letter stated.

"If we replaced the suspender cables, we'd only get to a rating of .47," Bradsby pointed out. "We would need to upsize the suspension cables."

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photo by Jon Stinnett

Brigadier General William Edwards provides keynote remarks during the first-annual Mayor's Ball Saturday.

Decked-out Armory hosts inaugural Mayor's Ball

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

It's likely that many of those present at Saturday's Mayor's Ball had not ventured inside the Cottage Grove Armory for some time, and some visitors had probably never ascended its steps and toured its halls.

Once inside, guests viewed a building draped in all its finery, with decorations swooping down from the ceiling and the big-band jazz of the Emerald City

Jazz Kings wafting in the air.

On Sunday, Christina Lund, the development director responsible for raising the \$3 million-plus that will be needed to renovate the Armory and return it to regular community use, began fielding phone calls.

"My phone was blowing up with people saying how much fun they had, that it was one of the best parties they had been to in years," Lund said. "They said that they had no idea this venue

could do this, and that of course was the whole point of the evening."

Lund, who will supervise a team of seven tasked with writing no less than 80 grants to pursue renovation funding, said that showcasing the potential that a revived Armory could hold for Cottage Grove was a big reason the Mayor's Ball was held, though the fundraising dinner raised over \$23,000 through attendance, a silent

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Landon's wish will soon come true

Make-a-Wish Foundation to send youngster to visit Harry Potter

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

By almost any measure, Cottage Grove's Landon Butts appears to be the typical, shy almost-seven-year old that he longs to be each day. This weekend, though, Butts will get to live out the dream of many a youngster.

His mother, Amanda, recalls that her son was born six weeks premature with a condition known as aortic stenosis, or the narrowing of the heart's aortic valve. At three months old, Landon's heart started to shut down, and he's had more than a few surgeries to install a new heart catheter "every once in a while," according to his mom. It's a condition that will eventually require open-heart surgery, something his family is trying to postpone until Landon is a little older and a little bit stronger.

"Some days, he's completely fine," Amanda Butts said. "But on his bad days, he's just too tired. It wears him out to eat or to run too much. He doesn't really like the kids to realize how much it effects him."

At Harrison Elementary, where Landon is a student, teachers and staff are "amazing" regarding his needs, his mom said, allowing him to use safe words to signify when he needs a break.

"He doesn't want to be different," she said. "He wants to be like everybody else."

One can bet that "everybody else" doesn't get the chance that Landon will receive this weekend thanks to the Make-a-Wish Foundation. On Monday, Oct. 31, he'll journey to Orlando, Fla., where he will spend a week, first at Universal Studios getting a behind-the-scenes look at the "Wizarding World of Harry Potter," then on to Disneyworld.

Landon's mom said that a preoccupation with magic likely aids his fascination with the Harry Potter film series, one of the few she said her family can watch together.

"When we first started watching it, I asked him what he would do if he was magic," she said. "He said he would use it to make all the kids not sick anymore."



Landon Butts dressed like his idol, Harry Potter, at a party to celebrate his upcoming trip to Universal Studios and Disneyworld.

courtesy photo

Beds for Freezing Nights prepares for cold temperatures ahead

Volunteer-run organization provides shelter when temperatures dip below 29 degrees

BY CINDY WEELDREYER
For the Sentinel

For unhoused individuals, a freezing night is a long night — and potentially a deadly one. Beds for Freezing Nights (BFN), an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization organized in 2009, works to ensure that there is a warm, safe place

for those who want to come inside when the temperature dips to 29 degrees or colder between Nov. 15 and March 31.

The group worked with the City of Cottage Grove to certify two churches, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church and First Presbyterian Church, as official emergency warming centers. Operational procedures and protocols are in place that aim to assure the health and safety of the volunteers and their guests.

Volunteer Coordinator Christine Moats, assisted by BFN President Ruth Linoz, Logistics Coordinator Steve Thoreson and Board Member Tom Gutmann,

along with several experienced volunteers, led two training sessions last week at OLPH Catholic Church providing an overview of duties and responsibilities and some hands-on experience setting up and closing up the shelter.

In 2010, Moats joined the BFN organization as a shelter volunteer and last year succeeded Janice Gutmann as the volunteer coordinator. She said she is impressed with the compassion and dedication of the volunteers.

"The quality of BFN volunteers is amazing," Moats said. "It's hard on a freezing cold night to leave your warm

home, get in your car and drive to the shelter, carefully navigating winter road conditions. Yet, once you get there and begin interacting with the guests, you see how grateful they are for your efforts. It's personally rewarding and you meet some interesting people."

Scheduling volunteers for a minimum two-night activation can be challenging for extended activations or during the holidays. There are three shifts between 6 p.m and 8 a.m. that require both a man and a woman per shift. Moats said a larger pool of people who don't go out of town during the holidays would make scheduling an easier task.

More male volunteers are needed for all shifts and someone to do weather-watching to predict when to open the shelter.

Ruth Linoz said there are several ways to be involved with BFN besides staffing the overnight shelter. Tax-deductible contributions are needed to pay for liability insurance and shelter supplies. New board members are needed to provide administrative support and leadership.

"This is a great organization I'm proud to be a part of," Linoz said. "The success of BFN is due to the dedication of a core group of individuals who have provided excellent leadership

for the past six years and given us a solid organizational structure. We'd like to recruit some new board members to serve in key leadership positions so volunteers who have helped out for years can get a much deserved break."

Mary and Steve Nisewander have volunteer experience with other organizations and were looking for a new opportunity they could do together. They decided to become BFN volunteers for the first time after getting information from their church pastor a few weeks ago.

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WEATHER



Poss. showers

HIGH

68

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