

City Beat — 5A

Oregon legislature gets to work — 3A

Theatre costumes wow — 6A

# Cottage Grove Sentinel



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2017

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

VOLUME 129 • NUMBER 29

## SLSD answers lock room accusations



BY CAITLYN MAY  
cmay@cgsentinel.com

Social media erupted after accusations of opposite gender faculty entering Cottage Grove High School locker rooms came to light.

Both South Lane School District and Cottage Grove High School released statements noting student safety as the administration's top priority and during the Feb. 7 school board meeting, chairwoman Sherry Duerst-Higgins assured parents that the board had toured the facilities and discovered concerns to be unfounded.

Social media posts stated that students had been made uncomfortable by being subject to "unannounced" visits from opposite sex faculty while in the locker room. However, board member Taylor Willhour stated, "That is not the case and it has never been the case. If an opposite sex member has to enter the locker room they are preceded by a same sex faculty member to give the all clear."

Moreover, the board explained that during its tour, the layout of the locker rooms differed from what some in the community might imagine. At Cottage Grove High School, lockers and showers are in a different area than the coaches office and team rooms used to speak to players in a group setting. The board went on to explain that coaches offices also utilize blinds and blackout material for doors.

"There is a great deal of protection against children being seen by adults, particularly by opposite sex adults," Willhour said.

The statement released by the school district noted protocols in place to avoid any possible issues concerning student safety including the all clear mandate before entering locker rooms and a new procedure by a female coach who now utilizes a store room to enter the team room and forgo the locker and shower area all together. Concerned parents can tour the facility by contacting CGHS.

## Power bills soar

BY CAITLYN MAY  
cmay@cgsentinel.com

While temperatures have been dropping, residents in Cottage Grove noticed their power bills skyrocketing and according to EPUD, in some cases it's to the tune of 64 percent or more.

"We understand it's a high bill," said Patti Jo Angelini, a spokesperson for EPUD. "We know this can be quite a shock to a budget for a family."

In response, EPUD has set aside \$50,000 to reduce bills for qualifying customers up to \$300 for one bill. The company is also offering incentives to those customers who implement cost-saving measures such as heat pumps and insulation.

The cause of the spike, according to EPUD is a likely culprit: the weather.

"As of mid-January we've had nine days where the temperature reached 32 degrees, 16 days where it was a high of 29 degrees and four days of 19 degrees," Angelini said. "It's cold and when it's cold outside, the heater is going to work longer."

Back-to-back winter storms added to the average customer's power bill with freezing temperatures and many residents at home rather than at work.

Cottage Grove residents were not the only customers to notice a sizeable jump in their power bills. Customers as far

away as Portland complained of bills doubling and tripling compared to normal monthly payments. PGE cited the cold weather as well, adding that when schools are closed due to accumulating snow, children are home all day and using more electricity.

The higher bills got local attention as well with several social media posts dedicated to questions about the sudden increase. The most popular thread garnered over 300 comments with some local folks claiming an increase of up to \$200 dollars from previous months.

Pacific Power also pointed to the unusually frigid weather and noted that due to snow that caused traffic delays and road closures, meter readers were not always able to reach homes. As a result, when those readers were delayed, it shifts the unread days to a different billing cycle. Moreover, Pacific Power contends that if meter readers were unable to reach homes it was more than likely due to severe weather which would also have children home from school and their parents unable to get to work essentially creating power usage in homes that would not normally occur during the week.

If residents have questions concerning their bills they are encouraged to call their specific power company.

## Shooting at local restaurant a result of Super Bowl tensions

### Shot missed patron

BY CAITLYN MAY  
cmay@cgsentinel.com

A Florence man is facing charges of second-degree disorderly conduct, reckless endangerment and unlawful use of a weapon after firing a semi-automatic weapon inside BJ's Restaurant and Brew house during the course of an argument with another patron.

Donald, Princeton Bolden, 63, was inside the restaurant, located at Valley River Center, during the Super Bowl when he reportedly became agitated at another patron. It is unknown if the argument stemmed from the football game or the unidentified patron's behavior while watching the game.

Bolden fired one round, missing the patron.

According to authorities, the intended target of the gunfire was unharmed while a server inside the restaurant suffered hearing loss.



There were no other reported injuries. Reports from witnesses inside the restaurant note that the bullet missed the patron and hit the bar instead.

More than 200 people were inside the restaurant when the incident occurred at approximately 6:30

p.m. when an off-duty police officer subdued Bolden until officers could arrive on scene.

Bolden was taken in custody and booked in the Lane County Jail. He is expected to be arraigned Monday afternoon.

## Theatre opens season with 'Starcatcher'



BY SAM WRIGHT  
swright@cgsentinel.com

Putnam Spelling Bee). The play is built around complimentary characters, and the cast strongly displays the fun, wild and magical dynamic between all of the characters.

To start with, Joel Ibanez's portrayal of Captain Slank's surly attitude toward his subordinates sets the scene of nautical life of 19th century Great Britain. The audience is immediately set for an adventure.

But other relationships, though not crucial to the plot, helped create a hilarious wonder to the story. A highlight of the play was the relationship between Alf (a Neverland crewman played by Dale Flynn) and Mrs. Betty Bumbrake (Molly's nanny played by Keith Kessler). The two play a game of romantic cat and mouse until Alf goes too far and Kessler's feminine voice is discarded (intentionally) and the manly interior of Kessler comes out to stop Alf's relentless pursuit. The sudden switch had the audience aching with laughter.

Then enter the dimwitted Black Stache, whose intelligence is barely held up by his first mate, Smee. The endless puns and

The Cottage Theatre kicked off its 2017 season with a bang. *Peter and the Star Catcher* is the perfect play to kick off the 35th anniversary of the local theatre. The play is based on a novel of the same name by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson.

The story follows the origin of Peter Pan and the land of Neverland. Lord Leonard Aster and his daughter, Molly, are tasked with bringing a trunk of precious cargo to the Kingdom of Rundoon aboard the Wasp. An identical trunk is served as a decoy and is scheduled to board the Neverland and

take a safer route to Rundoon. The Neverland is captained by the sinister Bill Slank, who bought three orphans to help aboard the ship and are to work as helpers to the king of Rundoon. The trunks are switched and the mysterious Queen's cargo turns out to be more than just shiny treasure. The play takes you right to the beginning of Peter Pan, and all the dots are pleasantly connected.

The play was overall the funniest the theatre has produced since my time in Cottage Grove (perhaps to be rivaled with the

See Play pg.10

### CONTACT US

On the Internet www.cgsentinel.com  
By telephone (541) 942-3325  
By fax (541) 942-3328  
By e-mail cgnnews@cgsentinel.com  
By mail P.O. Box 35, Cottage Grove, OR 97424  
In person Corner of Sixth and Whiteaker, Cottage Grove

### WEATHER



Some showers

HIGH

53

LOW

50

### CONTENTS

Calendar.....3B Obituaries.....2A  
Channel Guide.....3B Opinion.....4A  
Classified ads.....5B Public Safety.....5A  
Sports.....1B



6 18134 42405 2  
1 Dollar

Coffee with the Editor  
Every Tuesday 10 am

@ Backstage Bakery

Come chat about the community!

