



Cottage Grove Sentinel

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SPORTS

Lions head to the semi-finals. B1

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WED
47°/40°

For a complete six-day forecast please see page A5.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2017

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HEALTH

South Lane Mental Health names new director



Damien Sands

South Lane Mental Health has named Damien Sands as its new executive director. Sands will replace Tom Wheeler, who announced his retirement in April of this year after 25 years with the organization. The change is effective

January 2.

"Joining South Lane Mental Health is truly a special opportunity," Sands said. "I know I have big shoes to fill. But I feel really blessed that I will be working with such an outstanding staff that is truly client centered. And I'm excited to become part of the Cottage Grove community."

Sands has extensive experience in the health and human services field, serving at local, county, and state levels. Prior to becoming a Southern Willamette Valley program officer for Oregon Community Foundation, Sands was the executive director of the Wellness & Education Board of Central Oregon, overseeing administration of the

regional strategic goals and quality improvement measures for behavioral health, public health, and Early Learning Council in the Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson tri-county area. He was a senior policy analyst for Oregon Health Authority's Addictions and Mental Health Division, a public health contract manager for Lane County Health

Please see SLMH PG. A9

COMMUNITY



GREAT DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN

Great Days Early Learning Center received an extreme makeover on Friday, November 10. The changes, unveiled the same day, included a new parking lot, a new sign, freshly painted classrooms and new floors in the building. Owner Barbara Howell, staff and students see the changes for the first time, above. See page A3 for complete story.

GOVERNMENT

Residents ask for help after city pipe burst

By Caitlyn May
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Community Development and Planning Director Faye Stewart was hunting on Oct. 22 when he got a call. A 12-inch water pipe burst, sending 1.23 million gallons of water flooding into the neighborhood of S. 14th St.

It took 115 minutes to turn off 10 valves and stop the flow of water. It took just under 12 hours to restore service. How long it will take to clean up? No one seems to know. Who will pay for the damage to houses in the area? The city isn't sure other than, it won't be local government.

Stewart reported an update to the city council on Monday night, roughly 22 days after the incident. It's the same amount of time Barbara James Hunter has gone without heat.

"My house is severely damaged," she told the council Monday night. "The water got to my duct work, it took out the lower section of my home where my mother-in-law was staying, my studio apartment in the backyard. There's six inches of soot under my house that needs to be removed and it is contaminated. So far, it's cost \$14,500," she said. But according to Hunter, she's one of the lucky ones. "I've watched my neighbors who are elderly sit in water and soot and now they're in and out of the hospital."

Please see WATER LINE PG. A7

POLITICS

Pot vote fails in Creswell

By Caitlyn May
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1,990 voters turned in a ballot for Measure 20-280 in Creswell--a question asking whether or not to allow marijuana within city limits--and 84.87 percent of them said no.

The Measure was subject of intense back-and-forth but included more than two distinct camps. The standard pro and anti-marijuana groups tossed their hats into the ring but many voters also fell into a separate category: anti- OneGro.

The company, based in Creswell, hoped to capitalize on a yes vote on Measure 20-280 and add to operations it already has in Lane County, including one a few miles outside of Cottage Grove.

However, two individuals on staff were found to have criminal histories, including felony charges for dealing marijuana. Moreover, noise and odor complaints from neighbors of existing operations fueled anti-marijuana sentiments in Creswell.

Tensions rose just days prior to the election when a voters' pamphlet made the rounds in Creswell mailboxes. It appeared to be from election officials and was made to look as though it was official information about the measure. However, residents who looked closely enough saw that it was distributed by Keep it Creswell, a group staunchly against Measure 20-278 and OneGro. The pamphlet did not include both sides of the argument--as is standard in voting pamphlets--and had some voters confused and turning to social media to sort out what information was accurate.

Social media was also the gathering place for those who celebrated the November 7 vote. A page dedicated to the Creswell community had been drowning in conversation and argument focused on the vote and while many took to the page to ask OneGro to leave the community and congratulate those who voted against the measure, administrators of the page asked that members refrain from posting about the subject. "Alright Creswell, the vote is done and the unofficial results have been posted and hashed out a few times at least. It is now time for us all to move on with important steps of healing our community," the post read in part.

Fire levy passes by wide margin

COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE LEVY RENEWAL

13 OUT OF 13 PRECINCTS REPORTED

EXPORT

78.13% 5,566

21.87% 1,558

TOTAL VOTES 7,124

PHOTO COURTESY LANE COUNTY ELECTIONS

Measure 20-278 passed on November 7, extending the South Lane County Fire and Rescue levy, allowing the district to maintain services.

By Caitlyn May
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On the morning of October 8, South Lane County Fire and Rescue (SLFR) Chief John Wooten was pretty happy. The months-long public education campaign concerning Measure 20-278 had worked and the department would keep its levy with 78 percent of the vote coming back in favor of extending the tax.

"They'll be no change to services," Wooten said of the immediate effects of the vote that extended the 47-cent per \$1,000 of assessed value tax levy.

Prior to the November 7 vote, Wooten had warned that the fire district could not

maintain current levels of service--which included faster out the door times--if the levy was not extended. Discontinuing the ambulance service and cutting positions were discussed as solutions to staying on budget if voters had said no to the levy.

The levy, which continues a current tax and does not create a new one, will help Wooten continue to chip away at a to-do list meant to make the district more efficient and expand services in the future.

"I'd like to get away from the reliance on levies and bonds," Wooten said. The long-term plan, he said is to dissolve the district and reform it under a higher tax rate. The current tax rate is \$1.03. Wooten's plan is

to combine the current rate with the 47-cent levy and the 30-cent bond.

"It's what people are paying now but we won't have to go out every five years and ask for money," Wooten said.

For now, the passage of the bond allows the district to keep two career positions in Creswell and five in Cottage Grove. The division of assets, Wooten said, allows the district to staff two ambulances.

"We're extremely grateful," Wooten said. "The more we improve, the way we operate, the more money to services and staffing. We're always re-investing and continuing to be good stewards of taxpayer money."

EDUCATION

Change your words
Lincoln Middle School takes on bullying. PAGE A5



CRIME

Triple homicide
Roseburg teen arrested for reportedly killing three. PAGE A8

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Coffee with the Editor
Last Thursday of the month
12 pm
@ Backstage Bakery
Come chat about the community!

