



# Cottage Grove Sentinel

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2017

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## Pooling our money

### Effort emerges to raise funds for pool construction

By Caitlyn May  
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\$5.1 million.

That was the number the South Lane School District arrived at for the repair and reconstruction of the Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center when divvying up the \$35 million bond passed by voters last year. It was going to address deteriorating locker rooms, light-

ing and the pool itself. However, ever-increasing construction costs have pushed the estimate for the bare minimum to at least \$5.7 million. Enter Kris Woodard.

South Lane Superintendent Krista Parent told the school board Monday night that Woodard had approached her about a fundraising effort to pad the pool's budget.

"I grew up swimming in the pool and my history goes back with the pool a long way," Woodard told The Sentinel. He first joined the

pool committee in 2006 and says he has "a passion" for the facility.

In a letter addressed to the community, the pool task force notes the \$600,000 gap between the money earmarked by the school district for the pool and what construction estimates say it will cost.

"The task force is happy to report that positive headway has been made in closing the gap with \$150,000 pledged to date with a good possibility of raising an additional \$150,000," the letter reads.

But \$150,000 and \$150,000 only brings an additional \$300,000

Please see **POOL FUNDING PG. A10**



PHOTO BY GREG LEE

The holiday season arrived in Cottage Grove on Saturday, Dec. 2 with hayrides, a tree lighting and pictures with Santa at city hall. Approximately 150 residents came out to see Santa and Mayor Jeff Gowing light the tree in All-America Square while others, as seen above, indulged in free hayrides through downtown.

## Christmas in Cottage Grove

By Caitlyn May  
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They braved the rain. They braved the cold. They braved the singing.

Dozens of Cottage Grove residents ventured into the weather on Saturday to ring in the start of the holiday season at the city's tree lighting event.

Cottage Grove Area Chamber Director Travis Palmer served as MC, playing Christmas songs over speakers in All-America Park at the corner of 7th and Main beginning at 4:30. By 5 p.m., a crowd of approximately 150 people had gathered, flooding the closed street and being coaxed into Christmas carols by two brave volunteers who took centered stage and lead the crowd in "Here Comes Santa Claus." Seconds later, here came Santa.

Riding in, not on a sleigh but one of South Lane County Fire and Rescue's new fire trucks, councilman Jake Boone made his appearance as the ever jolly Santa, joining Cottage Grove Mayor Jeff Gowing for the traditional countdown.

The tree, donated by the Woolley family from Drain, was erected earlier in the week and decorated by city crew members. New Main St. Coordinator Carlene Giroud said she hoped to expand the city's collection of decorations for next year. "I've ordered reindeer with a sleigh," she said. "I want to invest in more permanent things that we can use year after year."

Boone reappeared as Santa at city hall where the line for photos extended out into the lobby and through the front doors. Each child received a free photo with Santa, a candy cane and a ticket to retrieve the photo online. According to the city manager's office, approximately 500 photos were taken with Santa in front of a tree donated by Hendrick's Tree Farm.

The tree lighting capped off a day of Christmas activities in Cottage Grove that included a holiday breakfast at the South Lane County fire house, free rides on the fire truck, the annual stained glass feature at the museum and a block party at Shampoo Dolls featuring hayrides, hot chocolate and music.



Residents crowd around the city's Christmas tree prior to the lighting. Below, Santa hears what children want for Christmas. Photos by Greg Lee.



**ENTERTAINMENT**

**Cat's in town**

Seussical opens at Cottage Theatre.. **PAGE A3**



**EDUCATION**

**Girls keep winning**

School board discusses the fate of Latham Elementary School. **PAGE A11**

**INDEX**

Calendar .....	B11
Channel Guide .....	B5
Classifieds .....	B7
Obituaries .....	A2
Opinion .....	A4
Sports .....	B1

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**Coffee with the Editor**  
**Last Thursday of the month**  
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