

Cottage Grove Sentinel

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



SPORTS

North Douglas and Elkton continue to find ways to win.

PERSONAL | COMMERCIAL
BENEFITS | SURETY



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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2018

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New laws go into effect Jan. 1

The Oregon Legislature ended its session earlier this year but on Jan. 1 some of its decisions went into effect.

Individuals under the age of 21 will no longer be permitted to purchase tobacco products without stiff penalties for store owners who allow the transaction.

Also off the table are firearms for individuals who are considered a threat or danger to themselves or family members. Senate Bill 719 allows a judge to decide whether or not to confiscate an individual's firearms.

Oregonians who turn in their cans will also see a change this January.

Please see **LAWS PG. A7**

CGPD gets to work on storage facility

By Caitlyn May
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Construction on a new evidence storage facility for the Cottage Grove Police Department is expected to begin this spring.

The facility, a longtime in the making according to Captain Conrad Gagner, will take the place of the two units currently being rented by the department to house evidence and paperwork.

"It's my understanding that right now we're in the permitting process," Gagner said.

Once completed, the facility will be housed between the current CGPD impound lot and public works. The area will allow a clean transition and enough space to divide the new

Please see **STORAGE PG. A7**

Year in review

As the community settles into 2018, the Sentinel staff has compiled a list of last year's biggest stories. In 2017 there were headline grabbers and stories that garnered attention from outside the community but each one was vital in shaping the year in Cottage Grove.

Top 10 stories of 2017

Armory restoration

Fundraising efforts to rehab the Cottage Grove Armory went into full swing this year. As restoration efforts began, the city combatted various media reports that it was improperly handling lead testing of the facility. City manager Richard Meyers ordered additional testing and contended that the city operated under the assumption that every surface was tainted with lead due to the age of the building. After tests revealed heightened lead levels in the front lobby of the armory, Meyers ordered the cleaning of the stairs, citing the concrete paint being dragged in on visitors' shoes as the culprit. While lead experts from Portland agreed that the stairs were the logical explanation, they noted there was no way to definitively tell until the stairs were treated and the building re-tested. The most recent tests, completed after the remediation of the stairs, showed lead levels that were either zero or well below the allowed state standard.

New Harrison

In May of 2016, voters approved a \$35 million bond to be used to construct a new school and complete security and technology updates on other schools around the district. In January of this year, South Lane School District dubbed its new school as Harrison Elementary beating out other possible monikers such as Bridges Elementary, Covered Bridges Elementary, Krista Parent Elementary and Heritage Elementary. SLSD broke ground on the school in late March and school board meetings continued to be dominated with discussions about rising costs. By November, the cost of the school had climbed to nearly \$24 million. The opening of the new elementary school—scheduled for the Fall of 2018—has had unintended consequences. During a November school board meeting, board members were asked to "address the elephant in the room" and discuss the possible closure of Latham Elementary School. The school's enrollment topped just over 90 students and several parents had opted to pull their students, citing behavioral issues at the school. Moreover, board member Jerry Settlemeyer and SLSD maintenance manager Matt Allen cited the

Please see **REVIEW PG. A8**

SPORTS

Warriors Fall

North Douglas loses to Lowell in the closing seconds of the game **PAGE B3**



COMMUNITY

Warm mission

Local teen works to keep homeless warm this winter. **PAGE A3**

INDEX

Calendar	B9
Channel Guide	B4
Classifieds	B6
Obituaries	A2
Opinion	A4
Sports	B1

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COFFEE WITH THE EDITOR

Have a news tip? Want to talk about community events? Have a question? Stop by Backstage Bakery.

The *LAST THURSDAY* of every month from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.



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