



Cottage Grove Sentinel

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LATHAM ELEMENTARY HANGS ON Board to decide school's fate at February meeting

By Caitlyn May
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The little school that opened in 1853 as a log cabin has been given a reprieve. The South Lane School Board agreed not to make a decision on the fate of Latham Elementary School until its February meeting after more than a dozen parents crammed into the district office to plead with the board not to close the doors on Latham.

Conversations surrounding the possible closure of Latham began last month after board member Jerry Settelmeyer suggested the school's failing infrastructure and low enrollment would eventually

lead to its closure and urged the board to make the decision sooner rather than later.

"A piece of paper we saw a month ago showed \$180,000 difference next year," he said Monday night. "That's two of our cut days. How does that effect our other kids?"

During the last school board meeting of 2017, Superintendent Krista Parent presented the possible financial savings of closing Latham at the board's request. A run-down of basic costs currently being accrued by the school showed a possible savings of \$187,397 in staffing costs as well as \$46,429 in electricity and utilities. An

estimated \$200,000 yearly savings for the school district that faced at least four cut days from the school calendar when the 2017 state legislative session began.

Both parents and teachers and combinations of both spoke before the board on the assets Latham affords its students. Ashley Rigel apologized in advance for leaving immediately following her comments to the board—it was her son's 8th birthday.

"He told me to go save his school," she said, noting that Latham was her family's best, last option. "We didn't want our child in South Lane School District but we love Cottage Grove. We looked

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Champs but no cheer

Lack of parade for football team explained

By Caitlyn May
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When the Cottage Grove High School football team beat Marshfield 48-14 in late November to win the first state championship in school history, the players got a lot of things: a trophy, a plaque from the Cottage Grove City Council and recognition from the South Lane School Board. What they didn't get is a parade.

The lack of a public celebration irked several members of the community but according to athletic director and head football coach Gary Roberts, the decision not to have a parade was made in the spirit of equity.

"The biggest thing is that we hadn't done one in the past for the basketball team when we won in 1991," he said. "Or the soccer team when we won around '01. I didn't want it to look like we were doing something specifically for the football team that we wouldn't, or didn't, do for other teams."

The Lions win during the 4A state championship came after the team had made the play-offs three times in the last three years without ever taking the trophy home. It's a feat that garnered attention and questions from several members of the community when the team didn't march down Main St.

"I have gotten some calls," Roberts said. "Believe me, I would love to have one but I didn't want to do something we didn't do for others."

City Manager Richard Meyers also said he would have been happy to see a parade but the decision was not one for the city to make.

"I think it was a holiday weekend if I remember and then after they came home, if someone had asked us, we would have been happy to have a parade," he said.

Roberts said a public event may be held when the team receives its championship rings and he will consider holding a parade for winning teams in the future.

Local 'Rosie the Riveter' rings in 100



PHOTO COURTESY CARROLL NOEL

Cottage Grove resident and former Rosie the Riveter Alice Heiney rings in her birthday during a party at the Elks' Lodge in Cottage Grove on Saturday, Jan. 6. Heiney, whose actual birthday is Jan. 2, worked as an ammunition inspector in Denver during World War II and is active in the local Rosie the Riveter Association. Approximately 85 people came to celebrate the milestone, and according to Heiney's son Carroll, the party went off without a hitch. "It was very nice," he said. "There was a bit of a reunion around her birthday and when she left I said, 'I'm going to go take a nap, what about you?' And she said, 'No, I'm too excited.'"

MAYOR ISSUES STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

The full transcript of the state of the city address given by Mayor Jeff Gowing during the Monday, Jan. 8 city council meeting:

This past year was a very busy year, it seemed like there was something going on every week. The parks stayed busy through the summer months with the concerts in the park, BMD, Home Free concert, and of course the return of the Eugene Symphony. The Mayors bike ride on Row River Trail, and yes I rode the whole trail. We also had events such as Kickin' with the Cops at city hall and Party in the Park with the public works equipment and employees. The South Valley Farmers Market set up on Thursday's downtown and moved inside to the Armory for the winter months.

Celebrating is something we like to do in Cottage Grove, so remember to mark your calendar for 8/18/18 when the community gets back the World Record for the largest Toga Party in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the filming of the movie Animal House.

We started the year with the retiring of two department heads, Jen Wellman, Public Works and Howard Schesser, Community Development. This resulted in the combination of both departments and the hiring of Faye Stewart to oversee those departments and reducing administrative cost in excess of \$125,000.

Police Department upgraded the analog radios to new digital radios. This will allow the police to communicate with other agencies throughout the county and help them be more efficient and safer. They have also filled their final open position which will help since the case numbers have increased by over 800 from 2016. The Community Service Officers along with patrolling illegally parked vehicles cover jail duties in place of police officers. The CSO's cover over 1000 hours a year in the jail that would otherwise be done by patrol officers.

The Engineering Division hired Ryan Sisson, a civil engineer, to assist City Engineer Ron Bradsby, for project development and management. Completed construction of the Taylor Pump station

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LEGISLATURE

Panic at the pump

A new law governing gas stations has residents confused. PAGE A7



GOVERNMENT

Carted away

The city tackles the shopping cart crisis--again. PAGE A3

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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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