



Cottage Grove Sentinel

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



SPORTS

Height: you either have it or you don't. Cottage Grove girls have it. **B1**

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WED
60%/42%

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2018

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City Councilor Amy Slay resigns



City Councilor Amy Slay

By Caitlyn May
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When Amy Slay bought her house in Cottage Grove she promised herself that it would be where her two sons lived when they started kindergarten and on their last day of high school.

She missed it by two months. "It's nothing exciting, I just bought land outside of city limits," Slay said in response to a social media post that announced

her resignation from Cottage Grove City Council. To sit on the board, members are required to be city residents and beginning in March, Slay no longer will be living within city limits.

Instead, she'll be settled on her five-acre property located approximately 17 miles outside of town where she'll raise chickens and take a little time to herself after getting her youngest son off to the U.S. Air Force.

Slay, who has championed the local police force, said she will continue to do so and remain the driving force behind Kickin' it with the Cops, a get-to-know-you event that started last summer as a way for the community to engage with local law enforcement.

That's where her official involvement will end, though she said she will have a continued interest in community events and projects.

"I was grateful for the opportunity to serve," the Cottage Grove native said. "I was an at-risk kid, never expected to do anything but I got my GED and it's a reminder that you can do anything."

Slay's resignation is effective Feb. 28.

The city council will discuss how to proceed in filling Slay's seat during the Feb. 12 meeting at 7 p.m. in city hall.

Latham lives

School will stay open through 2018

By Caitlyn May
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"That number doesn't seem insurmountable."

"It's \$1 million."

"Well, \$800,000."

The exchange between South Lane School Board members Taylor Wilhour and Sherry Duerst-Higgins during Monday's school board meeting summed up the district's position on Latham Elementary School. There's not enough money to fix it and too few resources to close it for the 2018-2019 school year leaving parents, teachers and students in limbo for another year.

Latham's attendance has dropped to approximately 94 students and the building itself, more than 100-years-old, is in need of serious repair.

South Lane Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor Matt Allen ran numbers for the board on Monday, giving

Please see LATHAM PG. A9

EPUD apologizes for high bills

By Caitlyn May
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In April of 2017, the Emerald People's Utility District (EPUD) created a new tiered rate system. In December, customers saw power bills increase, in some cases, by hundreds of dollars.

EPUD apologized. "Over the past month, many of you have voiced concerns about high electric bills and the tiered rate structure that was implemented in April 2017," General Manager Scott Coe wrote. "Your phone calls, emails and public statements helped us realize we did not adequately prepare you for the impact this structure could have on bills during winter months. We also did not clearly communicate why we felt this was the right thing to do."

Please see EPUD PG. A7



RELAY FOR LIFE KICKS OFF



READY, SET, RELAY-Relay for Life kicked off the 2018 season at the Cottage Grove Armory on Saturday, Feb. 3. The event, dubbed a pep rally, ran for two hours with family-fun events scheduled including door prizes. South Lane County Relay for Life will hold its annual event, aimed at raising funds to fight cancer, on June 23. Photos by Greg Lee.

COMMUNITY

Dam project

Army Corps works on Cottage Grove dam. **PAGE A8**



ENTERTAINMENT

Noises off

A review of Cottage Theatre's latest play. **PAGE A10**

INDEX

- Calendar B11
- Channel Guide B5
- Classifieds B7
- 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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