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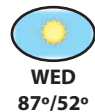
Elkton rallies for win over North Douglas. B1

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

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Unknowns remain for Measure 105, SL School District

By Caitlyn May
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In April of last year, South Lane School District joined dozens of districts across the state of Oregon in passing resolutions aimed at solidifying the school's position that Oregon Revised Statute 181A.820 prohibited the use of local resources to detect or apprehend undocumented individuals and barred Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from entering district facilities.

In November, voters will decide whether or not to repeal ORS 181A.820 under Measure 105, potentially leaving thousands of residents vulnerable to questions concerning their immigration status and creating a gray area around resolutions like the one passed by South Lane and other districts.

Resolution 17-15, passed in 2017 by South Lane cites ORS 181A.820 and lists seven policies and procedures that include no longer asking for or recording a student's immigration status; prohibiting ICE on school property without parental permission, court order or other legal authority and requests adequate notice from agencies prior to their arrival so the superintendent can assess the legal validity of the request, obtain legal advice and contact parents.

But what happens when parents who may be facing immigration issues arrive at the school?

"We haven't got to that yet, it's something I'm looking at since you've now brought it to my attention," said interim superintendent Larry Sullivan.

Resolution 17-15 was passed under former superintendent Krista Parent who left the district in June of this year. Sullivan, who has been on the job since July, was not part of the discussion. He cited his previous work in Forest Grove and noted he would be looking to that district for guidance as well as a question and answer component on the Eugene School District's website concerning immigration.

He stated the information would be available in Spanish as well as English.

See UNKNOWN 6A

Local filmmaker takes home top prize



COURTESY PHOTO

Marc Waszkiewicz and Lee Jones took home the award for best documentary at the Oregon Independent Film Festival on Sept. 20. Their film, "Vietnam: An Inner View" took decades to create with footage from Waszkiewicz's tour in Vietnam and interviews with his fellow soldiers. Waszkiewicz and his service dog, Ben, have been steadily working to increase awareness of veteran suicide and encouraging veterans to speak about their service and subsequent effects.

Swinging Bridge project awarded \$200,000

By Caitlyn May
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It's been two years since the Swinging Bridge was deemed unsafe for residents to use and its closure has led to subsequent discussions by city council on how best to address its repairs as well as fundraisers headed by community organizers. And while no solid plan has emerged from the city on a timetable for when the bridge may begin swinging again, the project got a boost last week when it received \$200,000 in grant funds.

City Manager Richard Meyers announced that the Swinging Bridge was one of 18 projects to be selected by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department from 39 applicants.

The bridge has been out of service since 2016 when the city's engineer deemed it unsafe. The city has since consulted with engineers and architects to determine how to repair the bridge with several options from a pre-fabricated replacement to a fully swinging bridge being considered.

Last year, the city council was presented with three options that ranged between \$150,000 and \$370,000. However, the latest estimate made public reached \$1 million which included engineering costs of approximately \$500,000 that could potentially be completed by the city, reducing the cost of the repair by nearly half.

Residents have had their fair shot at raising money for the bridge as well with several fundraisers having been held by the Friends of the Swinging Bridge—a community led, grassroots group that formed shortly after the bridge's repair costs were first addressed. The city has also offered residents the chance to "round up" their water bills to the next closest dollar amount with the excess funds going toward the bridge's repair.

Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers traveled with several city employees and Friends of the Swinging Bridge member Dana Merryday to present the Swinging Bridge as a potential

See BRIDGE 6A

Money to be returned to Cottage Grove Special Olympics

By Caitlyn May
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The Cottage Grove Special Olympics team is getting its money back.

The announcement came early last week via local coordinator and volunteer Carmen Dowell who posted the news to a local social media page. The news was confirmed by Oregon Special Olympics, directing questions to a statement posted on the organization's website that read, in part, "... We are excited to have resolved the issues surrounding the gift from Michelle Portmann's Living Trust and return the focus to our athletes."

Dowell stated that the organization had "acknowledged the



CAITLYN MAY/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Community members show support for Special Olympics during a demonstration last month in Cottage Grove.

funds should have stayed local and we will be getting them back." She also pointed to the

organization's current financial state and noted the two parties had "negotiated a fair payment

plan." Special Olympics Oregon would not confirm specifics concerning the agreement.

Portmann, who passed away suddenly in 2012, left \$50,000 to the organization specifically earmarked for the Cottage Grove program. Dowell began asking where the money was.

"I noticed in June," she said. "Something wasn't right. They told us that they were going to do quotas so we kept waiting. They said they would tell us about the plans for the games on Friday and then they would tell us on Monday and then they said Summer Games are cancelled. Then, the CFO was fired."

Special Olympics announced in June that it was suspending the summer games — expected

to draw approximately 1,500 athletes — citing financial problems. In 2016, the organization took a \$325,000 loss on \$4.5 million in revenue.

When questions surrounding Cottage Grove's program funds were raised, Special Olympics Oregon CEO Britt Oase released a statement noting that local program coordinators were simply misunderstanding how the organization's money was handled.

"In our recent conversations with local program coordinators, in both group webinars and individual calls and meetings, we have found there to be an inconsistent understanding of the Special Olympics Oregon

See MONEY 7A

HOUSING

Tiny House project

A donation of \$50,000 brings project a step closer.

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COMMUNITY

Peggy's Connection

Local resource program finds a permanent home

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VOLUME 130 • NUMBER 49



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