## A look at the 'Latham School Report'

**By Zach Silva**
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At the Dec. 3 school board meeting, the South Lane School District (SLSD) explained the "Latham School Report." The 40-page report was compiled by district officials to help the school board make an informed decision on whether to close Latham or keep the 165-year-old school open for at least another five years.

In the Dec. 5 edition, *The Sentinel* reported on the Dec. 3 meeting ("SLSD Talks Latham Future.")

In this edition, *The Sentinel* takes a closer look at the document itself. To read commentary alongside the actual report, visit cgsentinel.com.

What follows is a breakdown of each section in the report.

The school board is scheduled to meet again Monday, Dec. 17, in a special session beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the school district office to again discuss the contents of the report.

**Introduction:**

Throughout the process of creating the report, the district has been clear its intentions with the report are not to make a decision but rather provide the necessary information to the board.

"It did not give recommendations or conclusions," said interim superintendent Dr. Larry Sullivan. "The goal was to give the most objective data that we could provide so that the board could make an informed decision. That was the framework for the report."

**Enrollment:**

According to SLSD, Latham's enrollment has been on the decline since 2014. At the beginning of the 2014-15 school year, the school had 133 students whereas now

See **LATHAM 10A**

# Local woman celebrates 104th birthday

**By Caitlyn May**
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When Vickie Whetham was born, the world was a different place. The eight-hour work day had just been announced by the Ford Motor Company (with a $5 daily wage).

Bread was 3 cents a loaf.

Ella Fitzgerald wouldn't grace the stage for at least 20 years.

And prohibition had yet to come and go.

When Whetham was born 104 years ago on Dec. 6, 1914, none of the people in the room with her at Magnolia Gardens to celebrate, had been born yet.

"Everybody is her friend," said Anna Epperson, who has known Whetham since she, herself, was a child.

Epperson joined a group of two dozen people who gathered in a


COURTESY PHOTO
**104-year-old Vicki Whetham surrounded by her favorite color of pink.**

room at Magnolia Gardens to celebrate Whetham last Thursday. The room glowed pink with pink tablecloths, pink cupcakes and carnations tinged pink as well — Whetham's favorite color.

The crowd followed the birthday girl's wishes and donned pink, matching her own pink sweater and pearls.

Whetham's table filled quickly as Magnolia staff led the room in a chorus of "Happy Birthday" and as the melody to "You are my Sunshine" floated around the room as well, Whetham held back tears.

Until just recently, Whetham has made her way around Magnolia Gardens — where her stay has pre-dated all of her nurses and

See **BIRTHDAY 11A**

## Helping keep pool afloat


PHOTO C/O GARRETT BRIDGENS

**Weyerhaeuser Cottage Grove Sawmill Manager Brent Czaban presented a $20,000 Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund Grant to South Lane School District on Thursday. The $20,000 donation grant is for the construction of the warm water recreational and therapy pool that is being built as part of the modernization of the Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center. Weyerhaeuser has about 110 employees who live in the Cottage Grove area with many of them having families with children who attend South Lane School District schools and access the community swimming pool. Construction on the pool began in October of this year and is expected to be ready for the 2019 water polo season in the fall.**

## City Council approves garbage hike, new CGPD guns

**By Caitlyn May**
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The Cottage Grove City Council met for the final time in 2018 on Monday night discussing and deciding on an agenda that ranged from ordinance amendments to budgetary changes.

**Garbage service:**

During the last council meeting, the board instructed staff to prepare a resolution that would approve a 2.4 percent increase for the Cottage Grove Garbage Service. Monday's meeting saw that resolution passed with councilor Mike Fleck absent and councilor Garland Burback recusing himself from the vote. The new rates, which go into effect on Jan. 1 would see the monthly rate for a 35-gallon garbage can increase to $20.60. A 65-gallon pail would cost $29.50 per month and a 95-gallon pail would go to $41.20. Weekly containers ranging from one yard to six yards would jump to $116 to $527 per month.

"I did the math, as someone who doesn't use the service," said councilor Greg Ervin. "And the cost to maintain a vehicle to take to the dump, it's more expensive than using the service."

Per dump services would range between $95 and $133 for a four or six-yard container.

**New guns:**

Cottage Grove Police Chief Scott Shepherd came before the board to request the transfer of appropriations within the

See **COUNCIL 11A**

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