



Cottage Grove Sentinel

Est. 1889

Serving the communities of Cottage Grove, Dorena, Drain, Elkton, Lorane and Yoncalla.



SPORTS

A wrap-up of the McKenzie 1A Hoops Classic B1

PERSONAL | COMMERCIAL
BENEFITS | SURETY

PayneWest
INSURANCE

(541) 942-0555

PayneWest.com/Cottage-Grove



WED
52°/37°

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2019

FACEBOOK.COM/CGSENTINEL • TWITTER.COM/CGSENTINEL

CGSENTINEL.COM

The Year in Review 2018

A recap of the Top 10 stories from the past year



COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL FILE PHOTOS

From left: New interim superintendent Dr. Larry Sullivan shakes hands with school board chair Alan Baas after being appointed to the position; After a February fire at an abandoned house, the city began exploring options for dealing with zombie houses; Greg Howe emerges from a sea of blackberry bushes with Anna the dog who had gone missing for 18 days.

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cgsentinel.com

As the community settles into 2019, *The Sentinel* staff has looked back at the past year and compiled the biggest stories of 2018. Here are the top 10 stories (and honorable mentions) in no particular order.

Latham Elementary

The decision to close Latham Elementary or allow it to remain operational for another five years is set for the January meeting of the South Lane School Board but the process started back in January of 2018.

Conversations began revolving around how much the district could save if it closed the 165-year-old school but quickly centered around how passionate the Latham community was about retaining one of the few small schools in the community.

In January of last year, a report to the school board noted that Latham had 94 students enrolled (down from 111 students the year before) and that number has since dropped to around 80 but parents turned out in force to information sessions and school board meetings to advocate for their small school.

At the time, the district reported it could save \$187,397 in staffing costs and approxi-

mately \$50,000 in electricity and other utilities if it closed the school. Moreover, it warned that Latham would need substantial repairs in the coming years, including a new boiler that came with a large price tag.

In total, repairs and upgrades to the school are expected to run approximately \$775,000.

On Dec. 18 of this year, the school board reviewed the "Latham School Report" compiled by district staff that outlined student enrollment, transportation options, budget and other factors in keeping Latham School open.

"I guess, there's nothing good to say about facilities and maintenance. And the commitment this district would have to make for the students and staff and the school to continue, it just does not — I don't know of any person who would say that would be a good investment," said board member Jerry Settlemeyer during the meeting.

Latham parent Andrea Griffith who has a third grader at the school also attended the Dec. 18 meeting. Griffith chose Latham for the size of the school in addition to the community it provides and noted that if the district closes the school, she plans to take her child out of the district.

"It sounds to me, as a parent, that they've already made their decision. And my kid is going to lose out because they didn't do their jobs and put the money where it should have been and it makes me mad," said Griffith.

"And very sad because there are a lot of kids who are going to miss out on a lot of stuff at Latham."

The school board was expected to make a decision about Latham's future at its January 2019 meeting.

Wolfclan Armory

In March, a sign appeared on Main Street announcing the coming of a new business: Wolfclan Armory. The store — which sells



Protestors gather outside the Wolfclan Armory after reports of the owners' ties to white supremacy emerged.

survival gear, swords, knives and apparel — drew protests shortly after the sign appeared.

Protestors cited the owners' son Jacob Laskey who served 11 years in federal prison for a hate crime after throwing rocks with swasti-

kas drawn on them through the windows of a synagogue in Eugene.

The Laskeys denied claims of racism and appeared at a March city council meeting informing the board that their son had made mistakes in his life and had served his sentence. They also informed the board that they were Christians.

Laskey was arrested again in January of 2018 for a stabbing incident. Racist posts remained on the Wolfclan Armory Facebook page with Laskey's family telling local media they did not know how to access the page. A post inviting residents to the store's Cottage Grove opening was posted after Laskey was arrested.

By April, signs began appearing around Main Street on business windows that read "Cottage Grove United Against Hate" with business owners citing the uproar over Wolfclan Armory.

In June, Laura Rose broke the windows at Wolfclan Armory with the pole of an American flag, walked across the street, sat on a bench and waited for police. The 31-year-old was arrested and charged. She was given a plea deal in November of 2018.

Superintendents

The allegations against Dr. Krista Parent

See **REVIEW 3A**

North Douglas raises \$10,000 for kindergartener with rare cancer

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cgsentinel.com

Syra Barklow loves the cartoon "PJ Masks." She spent Halloween as one of the main characters, Owlette, running around her neighborhood just like every other six-year-old.

The next day, the headaches started.

"I thought she had some kind of virus going around," said her mother, Danielle Barklow. But by Nov. 19, the headaches hadn't gone away and Syra became lethargic; she was losing weight and refused to eat or drink.

"They drew her blood and nothing was wrong," Barklow said. Syra underwent her first CAT scan.

"The doctor came into the room and said there's nothing wrong with her body, there's something wrong with her head," Barklow said. "I thought he was going to say she was depressed or something but he said they found a large tumor and she had to be rushed to Portland. I thought he was going to say he was kidding."

The November night's weather didn't allow for Life Flight so Syra was loaded into an ambulance with her mother and bussed to Portland

where she underwent her first MRI.

"They said she needed emergency surgery at 7 a.m. They cut a huge horseshoe shape in her head and they said they got it all," Barlow said.

An analysis of the tumor revealed a devastating diagnosis: ependymoma. The cancer is rare and affects the brain and spinal cord. It's aggressive and is often found in young children.

Syra started radiation four days before Christmas.

"With the radiation, they say it's

See **BARKLOW 6A**

Looking back at Latham

Before a decision on the future of the school is made, a look at the history of the 165-year-old school

By Zach Silva
zsilva@cgsentinel.com

Before Cottage Grove became a city (1887), before Abraham Lincoln was sworn in as president (1861) and before Oregon became a state (1859) there was a small school that opened in the Territory of Oregon.

The first school in the area established by settlers, and what would soon

become known as Latham School, opened its doors in 1853. With the exception of when a Missouri family moved into the schoolhouse and refused to leave thus cancelling the school year, the school has been a constant presence for the past 165 years. More than 40 schools have come and gone in that time but Latham has always found a way to survive.

But the ultimate fate of the school — whether it will stay open for at least another five years or close at the end of the school year — looks bleak. A de-

See **LATHAM 6A**

<p>EDUCATION</p> <p>School grants</p> <p>Four local schools receive grants from Northwest Credit Union program</p> <p>PAGE A5</p>		<p>FEATURE</p> <p>Offbeat Oregon</p> <p>The tale of how a 1930 summer shipwreck could never happen today</p> <p>PAGE A9</p>	<p>INDEX</p> <p>Calendar B11</p> <p>Channel Guide B5</p> <p>Classifieds B7</p> <p>Obituaries A2</p> <p>Opinion A4</p> <p>Sports B1</p>	<p>cgnews@cgsentinel.com</p> <p>(541) 942-3325 ph • (541) 942-3328 fax</p> <p>P.O. Box 35, Cottage Grove, OR 97424</p> <p>Corner of Sixth and Whiteaker, Cottage Grove</p> <p>VOLUME 131 • NUMBER 1</p>	<p>6 18134 42405 2</p>
--	--	--	---	---	------------------------

MICHELE MONROE, LCSW

Counseling Services

541-255-8822 • 1450 Birch Ave • Cottage Grove, OR 97424

- Individual and Family Counseling
- Insurance and Sliding Scale
- Accepting New Clients
- Weekend and Weekday Appointments Available

The Flower Basket and Gift Boutique

"A Flower Shop and so much more"

Creative Floral Arrangements • Jewelry • Balloons
Home Décor • Fine Gifts • Boutique Clothing & Accessories

119 South 6th Street • 541-942-0505