

Latham

from A6

through eighth grade school. In this role Davis helped further the traditions, ideas and ideals that has helped cement the school's identity as a small-school with a rich community.

He started Latham field days, an annual track event that brings together schools and still happens in the district. He put an emphasis on animals at school and helped with lessons that would train rats to complete mazes and shoot a ball at a hoop for a game of rat-sized basketball. He built a sound system in the gym to hold a phonograph. He set up an individualized math curriculum for each student. He designed school-themed icons – pencil, desk, etc. – and hung them up outside the school so people on I-5 would see the school. He wrote songs about the school. He set up a punching bag in the school's basement for kids to blow off steam. He had a patriotism lesson that resulted in a group of kids designing a flag made of jelly beans, sending it to the White House and getting a response from Ronald Reagan.

"He never asked other people to do what he would not be willing to do. So if he came up with these ideas, he led them and worked at them," said Trujillo. "And the teachers, they went along with it. I think sometimes it might have been overload but they went along with it."

Davis was once offered the position of principal at Bohemia but declined preferring to stay working with small schools. In addition to being principal at Latham, he also served as principal for London for 10 years. Through all the work, for Davis it always came back to the students.

"I was partial to the smaller school. I think kids have a better chance to be better known," Davis told The Register-Guard in an interview after his retirement. "It gives us an ability to develop in kids a feeling of self-worth make them feel they're kind of important people."

"I think he respected and admired children and remembered what it was like [to be a kid]," said Trujillo. "When you get older you think, 'Oh my gosh, I could be 10 again.' But when you're 10, life's a challenge."

While Davis was doing all he could at Latham,

cause of death for at least one student who drowned.

In 1872, the little big school became known as Latham after a nearby railroad stop took on the name as well. The name came from Milton S. Latham who served as California's sixth governor (he was governor for five days before resigning) and also had stints in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Changes kept coming for the school in the coming decades as the location of the school shifted a mile south in 1896 and resided on land that now houses Weyerhaeuser.

While Latham was the first school, by the late 1800s it was just one of a number of schools. In 1880 the first school was built in Cottage Grove city limits and in total, 22 different schools opened in Cottage Grove and the surrounding area before 1900. The only other school from that time that remains open is London which opened in 1872. Latham made its final location move in 1941 to the place that it sits today. Less than 10 years after the move, Cal Davis became principal and synonymous with the school.

Davis, who passed away in 2014 at the age of 88, had a similar origin story as the school he would one day work at for 33 years. While Latham was a one-room cabin during the early years, Davis was born in a cabin in Idaho. And while history books reference Latham students in the 19th century riding horses to school, Davis was riding a horse to school in Idaho in the 20th century.

"He was a country boy," said Davis' daughter Marcia Trujillo in a recent interview with The Sentinel. "[At Latham] he was around people he enjoyed. They were country people and he felt he was one of them."

With a master's degree from the University of Oregon, Davis began at Latham teaching eighth grade, driving the bus and serving as custodian for the school. In 1959, he became principal of the school that was, until 1963, still a first grade

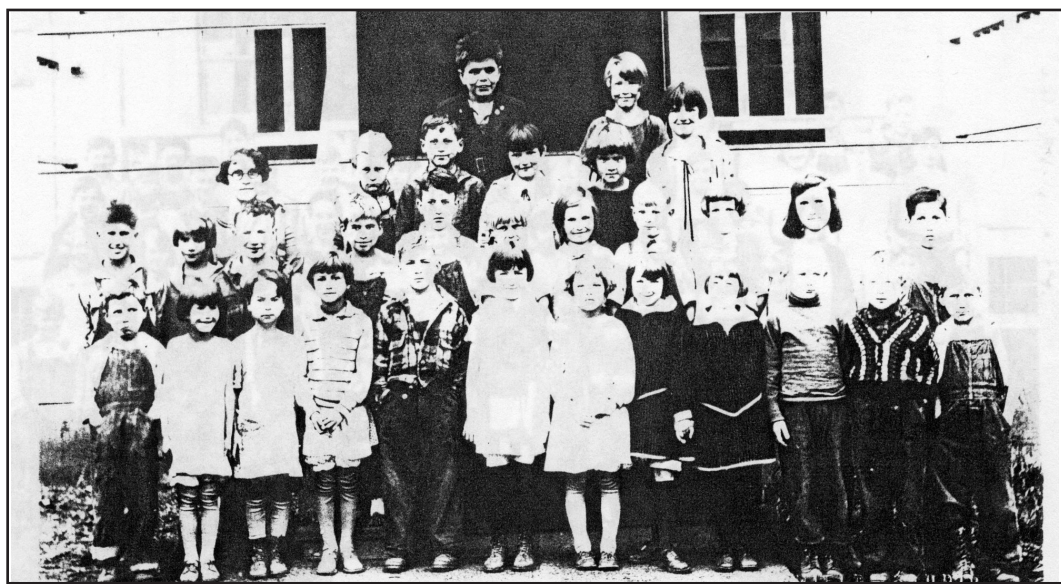


PHOTO C/O HOLLITURPIN

A Latham second-grade class from 1928.

he worried about the future of his school, other area schools and the district as a whole being able to stay open. Five area schools closed throughout the 60s and school budgets continued to be a challenge after Davis' retirement.

"There were budget problems from the time I started," said Kathy Sabin who served as Latham's office manager for 30 years after Davis, and office manager of 25 years Joyce Owens, retired. "It seemed that if it wasn't every year it was every few years there were budget issues... As far as closing Latham...probably the last 10 years they've been talking about it."

Sabin, who sent three daughters through Latham took over for Owens and got a first-hand look at the school. In her three decades at Latham, she worked with 10 different principals and saw budget cuts play out in real time. Sabin saw drastic cuts in the hours for the librarian, nurse, counselor and custodian. The only person in the office, she picked up slack as best she could but felt the stress permeate throughout the building.

"I love that feeling of a small school but as resources keep getting cut further and further, you could almost feel a little bit of a difference just because of the stress level on everybody," she said.

Facing the realities of limited resources, the school has been trying to preserve not only the crumbling school building that sees the kitchen flood each year but also the ideal of the Latham community. This community has been formed over generations as students and parents alike have come to the school that is now an alterna-

tive to the larger area schools while still being close to town.

That is how it was for Sabin who saw one of her daughters flourish in this smaller setting and that's how it is for current parent Danielle Napier. Napier has two students currently enrolled at Latham and after moving to the district from Springfield, she has seen her kids flourish at this school. The class sizes at Latham are about the same as other schools around the district but it is the small school size that is valued.

"I've seen such a dramatic difference between the two different school settings," said Napier. "Just the bigger school requires way too much for something that big to function. You lose that personal, individualized attention."

When Sabin worked at Latham, the school enrolled as many as 151 students in a single year and was regularly above 120. With the combination of a recent string of behavior problems – not unlike those at the district, state and even national level but have a heightened effect in a small setting – and the constant threat of being shut down for the last decade, Latham's enrollment numbers have dropped and are currently at 86 students.

Which leads back to the hard reality of the board's decision.

No decision has officially been made but the numbers tell a bleak story for the future of the school. To keep the school going an estimated \$775,000 would have to come out of the deferred maintenance budget for this school to cover everything from windows to a new boiler to electrical upgrades.

"I'm really sorry for what Latham has gone through. The people there are going through or may still be going through," said Gary Mort at a Dec. 12 board meeting about the fate of the school. Adding, "I'm actually just sorry. Even if we come in in January and miraculously some angel donated \$2 million to us and said, 'Only for Latham,' that would be amazing, but you still would have gone through all of this and suffering and horribleness which is just not okay."

Soon a decision will be made. The school from 1853 will either remain open for at least five more years or the district will have to make a new decision on what to do with the land the school currently occupies. The school that has survived the longest looks to be the latest addition to the list of schools that have come and gone. The little big school, the oldest of them all.

# Worship Directory

**DRAIN:**  
**HOPE U.M.C.**  
131 W "A" St. Drain, OR  
541-315-1617  
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen  
Fellowship & Song: 11:30am  
Potluck Lunch: 12:00pm  
Worship: 12:30pm

**COTTAGE GROVE:**  
**6th & Gibbs Church of Christ**  
195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822  
10:00am  
Christian Education:  
Pre-K through 5th  
www.6thandgibbs.com

**Calvary Baptist Church**  
77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290  
Pastor: Riley Hendricks  
Sunday School: 9:45am  
Worship: 11:00am  
The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm  
Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm

**Calvary Chapel Cottage Grove**  
1447 Hwy 99 (Village Plaza)  
541-942-6842  
Pastor: Jeff Smith  
Two Services on Sun:  
9am & 10:45am  
Youth Group Bible Study  
Child Care 10:45am Service Only  
www.cgcalvary.org

**Church of Christ**  
420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565  
Sunday Service: 10:30am

**Cottage Grove Bible Church**  
1200 East Quincy Avenue  
541-942-4771  
Pastor: Bob Singer  
Worship 11am  
Sunday School: 9:45am  
AWANA age 3-8th Grade,  
Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm  
www.cgbible.org

**Cottage Grove Faith Center**  
33761 Row River Rd.  
541-942-4851  
Lead Pastor: Kevin Prueett  
www.cg4.tv  
Full Children's Ministry available  
Services: 9:00am & 10:45am

**Delight Valley**  
Church of Christ  
33087 Saginaw Rd. East  
541-942-7711 • Pastor: Bob Friend  
Two Services:  
9am - Classic in the Chapel  
10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium

**First Baptist Church**  
301 S. 6th St • 541-942-8242  
Interim Pastor: Reed Webster  
Sunday School 9:30am  
Worship Service 11:00am  
Youth Wednesday 6:30pm  
cgfirstbaptist.com

**First Presbyterian Church**  
3rd and Adams St  
541-942-4479  
Rev.: Karen Hill  
Worship: 10:00am  
Sunday School: 10:00am  
fpcgrove.com

**Hope Fellowship**  
United Pentecostal Church  
100 S. Gateway Blvd.  
541-942-2061  
Pastor: Dave Bragg  
Worship: 11:00am Sunday  
Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday  
www.hopefellowshippucp.com  
"FINDING HOPE IN YOUR LIFE"

**Living Faith Assembly**  
467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612  
Worship Services Sundays: 9a & 11a  
Youth Worship Sundays: 11a (all ages welcome)  
Mondays: 5:30p (6th-12th grades)

**Non-Denominational Church of Christ**  
1041 Penroyer Ave  
541-942-8928  
Preacher: Tony Martin  
Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am  
Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm  
www.pennyeravecoc.com

**Old Time Gospel Fellowship**  
103 S. 5th St. • 541-942-4999  
Pastor: Jim Edwards  
Sunday Service: 10:00am  
Join in Traditional Christian Worship

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi**  
Catholic Churches  
1025 N. 19th St.  
541-942-3420  
Father: Joseph Hung Nguyen  
Holy Mass:  
Tue-Thu: 8:30am; Sat: 5:30pm  
Sun: 10:30am  
Confession: After daily mass,  
Sat. 4-5pm or by appointment  
St. Philip Benizi, Creswell  
552 Holbrook Lane  
541-895-8686, Sunday: 8:30am

**St. Andrews Episcopal Church**  
1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050  
Rev. Lawrence Crumb  
"Church with the flags."  
Worship: Sunday 10:30am  
All Welcome

**Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
820 South 10th Street  
541-942-5213  
Pastor: Kevin Miller  
Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am  
Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40  
Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373  
Pastor: James L. Markus  
Sunday School & Adult Education  
9:15am  
Sunday Worship 10:30 am  
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur  
5:00pm TLC Groups  
tlccg.com

**United Methodist Church**  
6th & Quincy • 541-942-3033  
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen  
Worship: 10:30am  
umcgrove.org

**"VICTORY" Country Church**  
913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913  
Pastor: Barbara Dockery  
Worship Service: 10:00am  
Message: "WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES"

**CRESWELL:**  
Creswell Presbyterian Church  
75 S 4th S • 541-895-3419  
Rev. Seth Wheeler  
Adult Sunday School 9:15am  
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am  
website www.creswellpres.org

## Worship With Us!

**Our Worship Directory is a weekly feature in the newspaper. If your congregation would like to be a part of this directory, please contact the Cottage Grove Sentinel @ 541-942-3325**

**Jazz Jam**  
AT THE COTTAGE  
**2ND & 4TH TUESDAYS**  
**6:30-8:30 PM**  
ALL ARE WELCOME  
Next jams: Jan. 8, Jan. 22  
Free Admission. Refreshments Available. 2915 Row River Rd. cottageevents.com

**Congratulations! to our**

**Employee of the Month**  
Ronda Gundersen

**Resident of the Month**  
Lora Lee Jensen

For the month of January, 2019

**Magnolia Gardens**  
Senior Living & Memory Care  
1425 Daugherty Ave. • Cottage Grove • 541-942-0054

**Cottage Grove GROCERY OUTLET**  
bargain market

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Independent Owner-Operators

Grocery Outlet is a local, family-operated store where you can **SAVE 40-70%** on your favorite **BRAND NAME** products.  
\*Compared to traditional grocery stores.

*Live in Affordable Luxury!*

Our beautiful community is designed for those who need assistance or have memory impairments. You can be assured that you or your loved one will receive the best in care along with compassionate personal attention from our well trained staff.

Assisted Living and Memory Care Apartments

**Middlefield Oaks**  
Senior Living Community

We are available 7 days a week!

1500 Village Dr., Cottage Grove, OR 97424  
541-767-0080 • www.MiddlefieldOaks.com