



# Cottage Grove Sentinel

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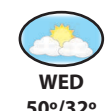
Basketball coach, principal and athletic director, James Ellis, finds success at Elkton and Days Creek B1

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2019

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## New rental law signed by Governor focuses on renter protection

*But property owners, landlords express concern that restrictions are example of government overreach.*

By Mark Brennan  
for The Sentinel

Gov. Kate Brown recently pushed Oregon to the heart of the national housing debate by signing the nation's first state-wide rent control measure late last month. Brown signed Senate Bill 608, which caps the amount a landlord can raise the rent on a particular rental location to 7 percent per year, plus the amount of any increase in the cost of living.

The law also limits rent in-

creases for residential tenancies to one per year and bars no-cause evictions for tenants with one year of occupancy. The bill was passed as an emergency measure, allowing for its immediate implementation.

"This is a groundbreaking piece of legislation as we are the first state in the nation to enact this level of protection for our renters," Brown said Thursday. "The bill is a critical tool for stabilizing the rental market throughout the state of Oregon. It will provide immediate

relief to Oregonians struggling to keep up with rising rents in a tight rental market. But it doesn't work on its own. It's going to take much more work to ensure every Oregonian has access to housing choices that will ensure that they and their families can thrive."

Consumer advocates and housing alliances across the state supported the bill, which was motivated by the dramatically increasing rental costs in Oregon, coupled with the slow pace in constructing affordable

housing units.

Patty Wentz is with Stable Homes for Oregon Families and she believes the law will make a major difference in the lives of those at the edges of society.

"Passage of SB 608 shows that lawmakers recognize that renters across Oregon have literally been left out in the cold during the housing crisis, especially in the rural parts of our state," Wentz said. "Now fewer children will be showing up at

See RENT A3



COURTESY IMAGE

## Community rallying to help house fire victim

By Ned Hickson  
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Just days before the March 3 snowstorm that temporarily changed the daily lives of those in Cottage Grove and the surrounding area, the Wilson family was dealing with the aftermath of a tragedy that has meant changes in their lives that are anything but temporary.

The early evening of March 1, neighbors of Jared Wilson and his family were awakened by a loud explosion that prompted frantic calls to emergency responders.

According to South Lane County Fire & Rescue Division Chief Joe Raade, family members had been evacuated by the time SLCFR crews arrived, with Wilson, who suffered severe burns, being tended to by neighbors. Though the home's smoke detectors had awakened the two children at home during the incident, Wilson presumably didn't exit the home until after the explosions.

Though the explosion and fire, believed to have been the result of an accident involving a turkey fryer, was quickly contained, Wilson was transported to the hospital before eventually being moved to a burn center in Eugene.

Two days later, the tragedy was compounded by the worst snowstorm in nearly a century as the family of four was already trying to recover from the devastating house fire.

Shortly after power and Internet service were restored to the area, community members began rallying for the Wilsons, collecting donations of food and clothing, setting up a GoFundMe page and organizing a benefit set for this Saturday at Cottage Bowl, where Jared Wilson's wife, Andrea, works.

"We're like family here, so it was devastating when we got the news about her husband and home," said Cottage Bowl owner Natalie Cardoza. "They can use any help that they can get. The family is looking at a rough recovery."

This Saturday's fundraiser for the Wilsons includes three games of bowling for \$20, including shoes as well as a 9-pin no-tap, 8-pin no-tap and 3,6,9 strike.

In addition to bowling, there will be a

See WILSON A3

## Rolling with the snow

Dorena students find temporary home at Harrison



ZACH SILVA/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Students from Dorena Elementary enjoy recess while temporarily relocated to Harrison Elementary following the recent snowstorm.

## Schools across area still recovering from 'Snowmageddon'

By Zach Silva  
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A week of snow was promptly followed by a week of recovery for local schools. After the snow storm blitzed the area starting on Feb. 24, schools across the area — for the most part — were able to open their doors once again on March 4. While some schools it was business as usual, the snow that continues to stick around presented a unique set of problems for schools all the way from Yoncalla to Cottage Grove.

But no area was more impacted

by the storm than Elkton where the city is still without power.

"The freaky part about that is once things started to go down and the power went out, we lost all communication with everybody up here," said Elkton superintendent Andy Boe. "Every redundant system (was down): cell towers, internet, pigeons, whatever. I didn't talk to anybody up here until basically Thursday morning."

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## Students, faculty in Dorena take detour to Harrison

By Zach Silva  
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It was a homecoming of sorts for Dorena School on Monday morning. After weather kept the school closed for the past two weeks, the doors were back open and school was in session once more.


"It's felt just like back to normal," said Dorena principal Linda Folkman on Monday morning as she went from classroom to classroom welcoming students back to their building. "I think we're totally back to normal, back to what

we do."

The historic snowfall that began on Sunday Feb. 24 closed school throughout the South Lane School District from Feb. 25 through March 1. On Monday March 4 schools across the district were hit with a two-hour delay before starting school once again while power outages at Dorena kept the school without power until Thursday. Folkman

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Old-time country doctors led colorful lives.  
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