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# Cottage Grove Sentinel

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The circus comes to town Thursday. A3

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Lions sending four to state meet. B1

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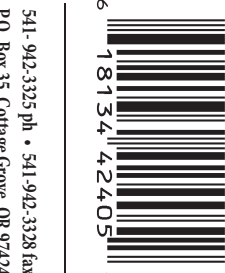
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## Citizens weigh pros, cons of new courthouse

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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The Lane County electorate will have a chance to vote this month on whether or not to authorize \$154 million in bonds for a new county courthouse with ballot measure 20-299.

If successful, \$94 million is expected to be contributed by the State

of Oregon and another \$4 million from federal funding. Without the state contribution, the measure stipulates that no bond money can be collected. It is estimated the approval of the 20-year bond will cost a landowner with a median assessed property value of \$187,000 approximately \$50 annually.

At a total of \$252

See **COURT 9A**



A look at two county ballot measures Cottage Grove area residents will decide on May 21

## Levy vote will decide future of CAL schools

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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Measure 20-300 poses the question to voters in the Crow-Applegate-Lorane School District of whether or not the district should continue to levy \$1.50 per \$1,000 assessed property value for general operations of schools for the next five years, beginning in 2020.

The measure is a renewal of a November 2014 local option levy to provide funding for school instructional programming and retaining teachers and staff. At the proposed rate, the levy is estimated to raise \$1,062,000 of revenue over five years.

“Actually, this has been in place since 2003-2004,” said district

See **LEVY 7A**



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Emergency responders shut down Row River Road as fire crews attempted to contain an 87-acre wildfire that began Friday, prompting Lane County Emergency Management to issue a Level 1 Evacuation.

## Mop-up continues in Row River Road wildfire

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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Crews from multiple emergency and wildland agencies responded Friday to a fire on a hillside off Row River Road.

The 87-acre fire was reported around 4 p.m. and threatened several residences, destroying one, and prompted a Level 1 Evacuation to be

issued between Downens Road and Shoreview Drive by Lane County Emergency Management.

No deaths or injuries were reported.

Within two hours of being reported, a full complement of agencies including South Lane Fire and Rescue, Eugene-Springfield Fire, Coburg Fire, Lowell Fire, Lane Fire Authority, Harrisburg Fire, Lane

County Sheriff’s Office, Lane County Search and Rescue, Lane County Emergency Management, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Cottage Grove Police and Oregon State Police were on the scene to battle the blaze and direct residents to safety. At least 86 emergency response personnel were involved in

See **FIRE 6A**

## City approves new budget for 2019-20

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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Cottage Grove’s budget for the 2019-20 fiscal year was approved May 7 during a public meeting of the Budget Committee. The adopted budget totaled \$41,963,970, an increase of about \$3.6 million from the previous year.

The total included about \$11.5 million in grants and loans for water and wastewater projects and the Safe Routes to School program.

The adoption of the budget also authorized the continuation of the city’s full permanent tax rate at \$7.2087 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, which is expected to generate about \$4.7 million of collectable tax revenue.

See **BUDGET 9A**

## School board election offers new, familiar faces

BY ZACH SILVA  
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As the May 21 election quickly approaches, there will be at least one new face on the South Lane School District school board.

In this election, there are four spots that will be voted on with three candidates running unopposed. In two of those races, incumbents Tammy Hodgkinson and Jerry Settlemeyer are running to secure their positions on the board; in position three, Dustin Bengston is running unopposed.

According to his candidate filing, Bengston is currently a federal employee with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and

has experience in budget development.

The one contested seat is position 7, which sees Demian Schwartz and Gary Mort running for the spot. Mort, the incumbent, was voted to this seat in 2015 and sees this as a positive as the board looks to sort through a number of issues.

“I’d like to see it through. Particularly right now, and this is always the argument the incumbent makes, ‘Oh, we can’t change horses midstream.’ We have a lot of stuff in the stream right now,” said Mort, an instructor at Lane Community College.

Over the span of the next

See **BOARD 7A**

## CGHS begins search for new principal

BY ZACH SILVA  
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More changes are coming to the Cottage Grove High School administration.

A month after assistant principal/athletic director Gary Roberts announced that he will be going to Marshfield High School next year, principal Mike Ingman announced that he is taking his talents to Eugene. After seven years as a principal in the South Lane School District, Ingman will begin at Sheldon High School starting on July 1.

“I have enjoyed the professional and personal relationships that I have cultivated over the 20 years that I have been

See **CGHS 7A**

## SLSD reaches decision on sale of Harrison

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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Members of the South Lane School District Board of Directors voted unanimously May 6 to sell the old Harrison School property at 1000 S 10th St.

The board stipulated that the property would be sold only under the condition that the buyer completes demolition and abatement of the asbestos in the building.

“That was one of the things that was important for the district in order for the sale ... to have that abated and demolished,” said superintendent Larry Sullivan. “It’s a fairly unhealthy building with all the asbestos

See **DECISION 9A**

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