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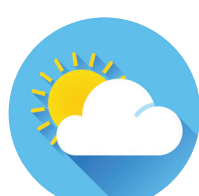
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WEATHER



Partly cloudy with a
high of 72 and a low
tonight of 49.

Full forecast on A5

COMMUNITY



Free Baroque
concert for Grovers
A3

SPORTS — B



Warriors take
softball state title
B1

Community bids farewell to Latham



PHOTOS BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Cottage Grove area residents, past Latham graduates and families of current students gathered in the school gymnasium last Friday to recognize Latham's history and share memories in the school's final days before its official closure at the end of the school year. The evening ended with Tom Davis ringing the school's iconic bell (below).

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD

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Community members gathered Friday to bid a final farewell to Latham Elementary School, a staple institution of Cottage Grove's history and point of reference for many of the community's memories.

Following a South Lane School



District board decision earlier this year to close the school, Latham will be finishing out its last year of operation this month, ending 166 years of presence in the community.

Friday's event was attended by current and former students, staff and residents who wandered the school in an open house before packing the school gymnasium

for a series of presentations and speeches to commemorate the closing.

The sheer age of the school has ensured an enduring imprint on a community in which one's great-grandparents may well have been students at Latham. The school even predates the founding

See LATHAM 7A

History on display along local storefront windows

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD

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A customer appreciation BBQ was held at Cascade Home Center on Saturday with live musical accompaniment as the business paid tribute to not just customers, but also a recent collaboration

to put history on display. Since March, about 45 photos have gradually been installed on the store's windows and inside the building in a move initiated by store manager Stan Simonsen to express the store's sense of community identity. The project was aided by the Cottage Grove Museum

and the Historical Society. "I want people to see the history of our community and those two organizations are the two best in our community to show that," said Simonsen. "So this is also a celebration to kind of thank them for contributing and letting us do this for our store."

The photos are on display

on the building's street-facing sides on Fifth and Sixth streets as well as the front entrance.

Simonsen had sensed that the business needed a project to reinvigorate its roots.

"Next week, for 24 years I've worked here," said

See DISPLAY 9A

Gran Fondo cyclists roll through Cottage Grove

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD

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About 250 cyclists peddled out of Main Street on Saturday morning on a series of routes which took participants on a westward loop through Lane County forests and pastoral countryside.

The event, Oregon Gran Fondo, is the last in the Oregon Triple Crown Series, a set of three cycling



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Riders take off Saturday morning down Main Street in a mass start for the Oregon Gran Fondo.

events put on around the state, which this year included the Oregon Coast Gravel Epic in Waldport and the Sasquatch Duro in Oakridge.

Cyclers started from Seventh and Main streets in two waves. A small group of dedicated riders took off at 6:30 a.m. on the lengthy 134-mile Sherman Route and a mass start followed at 8:30 a.m. for all remaining routes, which included the 41-mile Piccolo, 71-mile Medio and 117-mile Gran.

Gran Fondo translates roughly

See FONDO 11A

Regional HazMat team displays readiness

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD

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The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal and Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team (RHMERT) hosted a media field day May 28 to present an overview of the Oregon statewide RHMERT program, information about regional HazMat team response services and a display of the response vehicle and equipment.

Thirteen teams are spread across Oregon and are deployed when hazardous materials emergency incidents exceed the resources of local jurisdictions. The Eugene-based, 22-member team serves most of Lane County, from the coast to

See HAZMAT 6A

• RECORDS

Obituaries
Police Logs
Arrests
A2

• LORANE NEWS

A5

• CLASSIFIEDS

Listings and public
notices
B7-B9

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