



Cottage Grove Sentinel

Your Local News Delivered Your Way: In Print. Online. On the Go!

VOL. 131, NO. 24

**SERVING
THE COMMUNITIES OF
COTTAGE GROVE,
DORENA, DRAIN,
ELKTON, LORANE AND
YONCALLA**

Grove celebrates its grads



PHOTOS BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Cottage Grove High School 2019 graduates receive congratulations during the opening of Saturday's ceremony.

CGHS seniors say 'goodbye'

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

Seating at the Cottage Grove High School (CGHS) athletic field filled with friends and families Saturday afternoon to celebrate the graduation of the CGHS Class of 2019.

The ceremony commenced with graduates proceeding through a congratulatory gauntlet of embraces and handshakes from teachers before taking their seats at the center of the field.

Following a performance of the national anthem by graduating senior Meridith Gullickson, CGHS principal Mike Ingman welcomed the crowd to the ceremony by extending an appreciation to families, students and school staff. "This staff is kind and caring and pushes our students to be their very, very best. I couldn't imagine a better staff to work with," Ingman said. "While teachers have taught them how to read, write and do math, they have also taught them things that meant so much more than just learning state standards. They have both taught and modeled how to be adults — and I firmly believe we have some of the best teachers in the state here in Cottage Grove."

Ingman gave a special thanks to retiring teacher Lori Hanson. "She's always willing to do whatever is needed to make every single student in this building successful," he said.

To the school office manager Lisa Thoms, who is

See **CGHS 7A**



PHOTOS BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

An Al Kennedy student waves to family after receiving her diploma during the school's 2019 graduation ceremony on Saturday.

Al Kennedy grads give thanks

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

Al Kennedy High School began its graduation ceremony Saturday morning to a rendition of "Pomp and Circumstance" performed by some of the school's own educators.

Principals Halie Ketcher and Kim Scrima started speeches by directing appreciation toward the school staff.

"The staff is kind and caring, but also pushes students to do their best," said Ketcher. "Thank you for all your efforts and for making a difference in the lives of the youths here in Cottage Grove."

Graduating student Sydney Pate then spoke to the audience in a speech acknowledging her own development through the Kennedy school system. "I've grown a lot in the time I've gone to school at Kennedy," she said. "When I began here, I had the mindset that it was my way or no way. Over time, I've realized that need to cooperate and I have learned to work with people instead of against them."

Pate thanked the entire staff of the school for bringing her to the point of graduation.

"Kennedy is a special school to me because, if you want help and are willing to ask for it, every person on this staff will give you all the help and support that you need," she said. "I've always been told that teachers want to see you succeed, and here they don't just say it — they show it by going the extra mile."

See **KENNEDY 6A**

SLSD finalizes 'shoestring' budget

Though state and local school budget dollars increased, so have operating costs

By ZACH SILVA
ZSILVA@CGSENTINEL.COM

Another school year has come and gone, and with it the South Lane School District school board has passed its latest budget. While the state school budget that came in at \$9 billion was a higher number than educators had previously feared, it means that in SLSD things will continue to stand pat.

"Is the budget sufficient? To some degree. We just can't plan for the future with it," said SLSD superintendent Larry Sullivan. "This \$9 billion budget keeps us even but it doesn't allow us to do things that I think we need to do, more professional development — all those type of things that would build that foundation for the future."

The SLSD budget came in at \$32.7 million, a \$2 million increase from last year's budget, which Sullivan attributed to costs — especially the cost of living — continuing to go up. At the early stages of the budget process, the state budget looked like it might come in at around \$8.8 billion, an alarming number for educators. For SLSD, this \$200 million fluctuation would mean a \$400,000 swing one way or the other in the budget. The quick math the district uses: for every \$100 million in the budget, approximately \$200,000 makes its way to SLSD.

"Even though the budget numbers sound really big at \$9 billion, that's across 197 districts. We are a very, very small part of the pie," said Sullivan,

See **BUDGET 10A**

School district in process of hiring multiple positions for new year

By ZACH SILVA
ZSILVA@CGSENTINEL.COM

The end of the school year is in sight, but the South Lane School District is working on new hires for next school year.

The administrative hiring process is in full-swing in an effort to fill the positions of principal and assistant principal/athletic direc-

tor at Cottage Grove High School and principal at Lincoln Middle School.

"As far as comparing this year to other years, it might seem — since we have three pretty major leadership positions open right now — like it's a big year. But so far, from where we sit right now, it's probably the smallest in six years," said Human Resources director Brian

McCasline at last week's school board meeting. "But that's comparing spring to August, so it may still grow to a middling year, what have you. But it's not any higher than we would expect at this time of year."

Final interviews for the position of assistant principal and athletic director were being conducted last Wednesday. As of *The Sen-*

tinel's print deadline, the person filling that position has not been announced. The interviews for the principal position at the high school are just beginning. McCasline noted that both positions will be ready for the school board to approve at the June 17 meeting. In May, CGHS principal Mike

See **HIRING 8A**

PERSONAL | COMMERCIAL
BENEFITS | SURETY

PayneWest
INSURANCE

(541) 942-0555

PayneWest.com/Cottage-Grove

WEATHER



Sunny skies with a high of 97 and a low tonight of 58.

Full forecast on A5

COMMUNITY



Bernie Sanders supporters host BBQ
A3

SPORTS — B



CGHS seniors prepare for college athletics
B1

• RECORDS
Obituaries
Arrests
A2

• LORANE NEWS
A5

• CLASSIFIEDS
Listings and public notices
B7-B9

FOLLOW US FOR THE LATEST NEWS:

f /CGSENTINEL

🐦 @CGSENTINEL

CGSENTINEL.COM



541-942-3325 ph • 541-942-3328 fax
P.O. Box 35, Cottage Grove, OR 97424

EVERYONE DESERVES A GREAT SMILE!

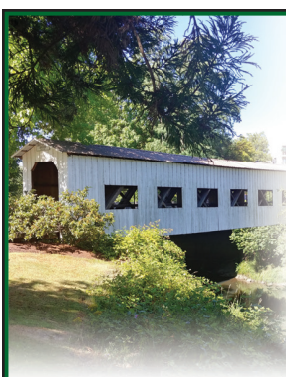
THORNTON
Orthodontics

EUGENE
622 E. 22nd Ave Suite C
541.686.1732

CRESWELL
195 Melton Rd.
541.686.1732

or visit us at www.thornton-ortho.com

GIVE US A CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR COMPLIMENTARY CONSULTATION TODAY!



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