

SLSD *from A1*

amount of hires ... and there's been a year here and there where we had a lot less hires. Last year, we hired 14 teachers and I think that was the lowest over the last five years. So, it just fluctuates. Right now, it's a county-wide issue where a lot of folks moved around — and we experienced that as well.”

While staff changes are, overall, in line with changes at other area districts, it's nonetheless a situation that will and has provided some level of challenge for the district.

“With leadership changes, the challenge that we meet head on is to continue the trajectory, continue the vision, continue the things that we're doing to keep going in the same direction we were going before,” said McCasline, emphasizing the need for consistency and commu-

nication. “We have facilitated conversations between the new principal, the new athletic director and current staff over the summer to make sure that the new administration knew the direction of where the high school was headed ... That's the challenge, but it's something that, if you do it right, it can go really well.

“And I think it's going well.”

Administration and athletics aren't the only departments where residents can expect to see new faces as there are around 15 new teachers in the district as well. However, McCasline is confident that steps taken over the summer will help the newer teachers integrate into their respective schools, in a way not too dissimilar from how the upperclassmen Link Crew members help incoming freshmen get comfortable in a new environment.

“With teachers, any teacher that was new to

the profession who hasn't been a full-time teacher before, they have a mentor ... that's a fellow teacher in our district that is dedicated to helping them as a peer, not as an evaluator — not as anything more than someone who has more experience and has some of the skills that they're seeking.”

In regard to areas of focus and approaches to the school year, the district office has highlighted multiple items that will receive particular attention through the spring and beyond.

Perhaps chief among them will be a district-wide push to implement and standardize the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system.

PBIS is a system that emphasizes teaching behavior in a similar way to how a school teaches math or science, the idea being that a child cannot be reasonably expected to exhibit proper

behavior without knowing what that looks like. In short, when it comes to behavior management, the general goal of PBIS is the prevention of disruptive behaviors rather than punishment — and it's a system that works best when all parties buy in equally.

“This year it's district-supported,” said McCasline. “Before, schools were at different levels of implementation and we've pushed to be implemented in all schools and we're going to fund that. So, it's not left up to a principal to figure out how to bring in a specialist to come in and talk to the staff or how to get the team trained. It's the district's responsibility and we're really taking that on as a district.”

In addition to PBIS, South Lane will also put special attention on prioritizing and expanding the Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs that already exist in the district. The focus will be

further and more pointed integration of CTE into the local job market, evaluating what programs and classes would best suit local students — and, conversely, local employers — in their future professional endeavors.

“CTE is almost its own animal only because it's not so much a matter of equity as it is a matter of meeting the need, of making sure we're offering the right programs and the right classes in those programs,” said McCasline, alluding to one other primary area of importance: the promotion of equity and equitable practices to increase student achievement across all demographics.

Where the practice of equality in education would aim to treat every student the same, regardless of background and ability, equity goes one step further. Equitable practices in a school district operate under the concept that each student — with

myriad backgrounds and varied abilities — will need different levels of support based on their own individual situation. As an example, equality is giving each and every student five minutes of one-on-one math instruction. Equity is discerning which students already have a working understanding of a subject or activity and meting out assistance based on individual need.

The district aims to tackle equity both in the classroom and on a larger scale, increasing supports for migrant and non-English speaking families and students, as well as planning professional development training on equity and equitable practices for staff members.

All in all, each area of focus carries with it the larger goal of improving student achievement and academic success for all students, regardless of any extenuating circumstances.

Fire *from A1*

family outside the home, who were alerted to the fire by their smoke detectors.

“Smoke detectors saved this family's lives,” said Division Chief Joe Raade in a statement.

One hospitalization resulted from the fire and two cats died from the event.

SLCFR Fire Marshal Dan Solesbee determined the fire was the result of the use of an extension cord in

the kitchen of the home. The house fire is the sixth in Cottage Grove since the beginning of August.

Community relief efforts for the family were organized on social media Sunday, spearheaded by family friend Trisha West.

“I have people as far down south as Rice Hill asking me to come down and pick things up,” said West.

As of Monday, donations of clothing, toys, games, shoes and backpacks had been collected for the three

children of the household, whose belongings were damaged or ruined in the fire.

Resident of the burned home Cyndi Moore was solaced by the outpouring of support from the community.

“I'm overwhelmed by all of the support and love from people that literally don't even know my name, but they're willing to give whatever they can to make sure my children have shoes on their feet,” she said. “I'm still process-

ing it.” Moore and her family moved to Cottage Grove this February, but already feel accepted into the fold of the small town.

“I am a living testimony of the love of people here,” she said. “I just want to thank everybody who has bent over backwards to be with us and protect us and stand up for us.”

The move to Cottage Grove also marked the first time the family had their own house, a milestone the Moores had promised would earn their two older daughters pet cats.

“When we moved in and got settled, for their birthday we got them each a

cat,” Moore said. “But the cats didn't make it.”

Moore recalled the night of the fire and scrambling to get her children out to the front lawn.

“My kids were screaming for the cats,” she said.

Moore's husband ran to the side of the house to the glass doors

“And he kicked down the glass doors to try to save the cats and in doing so nearly killed himself,” said Moore. “It did some pretty good internal damage to his leg. ... He was holding his leg together.”

Paramedics were credited with saving the man's life.

A Gofundme account has

been set up by Texas-based family member Megan Brown under the title “Devastating House Fire” and is currently accepting monetary donations. The account has been verified by local family members and is intended to pay for the residual costs of the family's breadwinner losing the ability to stand for an extended period of time.

Meanwhile, the drive to collect donations continues locally and West encourages those looking to lend aid to contact her directly.

“If they want to help out, they can contact me on Facebook or call me at 541-870-3910,” she said.



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| <p>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</p> | <p>First Presbyterian Church
3rd and Adams St
541-942-4479
Rev.: Karen Hill
Worship: 10:00am
Sunday School: 10:00am
fpcgrove.com</p> | <p>St. Philip Benizi, Creswell
552 Holbrook Lane
Sunday 8:30 AM</p> |
| <p>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</p> | <p>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.hopefellowshipupc.com
“FINDING HOPE IN YOUR LIFE”</p> | <p>St. Andrews Episcopal Church
1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050
Rev. Lawrence Crumb
“Church with the flags.”
Worship: Sunday 10:30am
All Welcome</p> |
| <p>Church of Christ
420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565
Sunday Service: 10:30am</p> | <p>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)</p> | <p>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</p> |
| <p>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</p> | <p>Non-Denominational Church of Christ
1041 Pennoyer Ave
541-942-8928
Preacher: Tony Martin
Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am
Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm
www.pennoyeravcoc.com</p> | <p>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</p> |
| <p>Cottage Grove Faith Center
33761 Row River Rd.
541-942-4851
Lead Pastor: Kevin Prueff
www.cg4.tv
Full Children's Ministry available
Services: 9:00am & 10:45am</p> | <p>Old Time Gospel Fellowship
103 S. 5th St. • 541-942-4999
Pastor: Jim Edwards
Sunday Service: 10:00am
Join in Traditional Christian Worship</p> | <p>United Methodist Church
334 Washington 541-942-3033
New Pastor Craig Pesti- Strobel
Worship 10:30am
umcgrove.org</p> |
| <p>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</p> | <p>Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi Catholic Churches
1025. N. 19th St.
541-942-3420
Father John J. Boyle
Holy Mass:
Saturday Vigil - 5:30 PM
Sunday - 10:30 PM
For weekday and Holy Day of Obligation schedule see website OLPHCG.net
Confession: 4 PM to 5 PM
Saturdays or by appointment</p> | <p>“VICTORY” Country Church
913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913
Pastor: Barbara Dockery
Worship Service: 10:00am
Message: “WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES”</p> |
| <p>First Baptist Church
301 S. 6th st • 541-942-8242
Pastor: David Chhangle
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship Service 10:30am
Youth Wednesday 6:30pm
cgfirstbaptist.com</p> | | |

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