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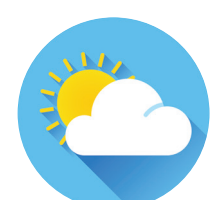


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WEATHER



Partly cloudy with a high of 52 and a low tonight of 31.

Full forecast on A5

COMMUNITY



Local "Rosie" featured in calendar.
A3

SPORTS — B



Fall sports come to a close.
B1

• RECORDS
Obituaries
Police Logs
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A2

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Listings and public notices
B8-B9

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Park clean-up prepares for holiday festivities

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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Community members came out on Nov. 16 to clean up the All-America Park in anticipation of the city's Christmas celebration on Dec. 7, which will include a Christmas tree lighting.

"Today was another step forward in making our community better by getting community to work to-

gether," said City Councilor Kenneth Roberts, who organized the clean-up. "I just saw a need to get the park cleaned up and to make it the best it could be for the city Christmas tree."

Members of the Cottage Grove Garden Club and others cleared the park of debris, weeded gardens, planted flowers and removed a tree to improve visibility from the street.

The Dec. 7 celebration and holiday festivities will include light displays, scavenger hunts, refreshments and shopping specials from businesses downtown as well as other attractions throughout the city.

A list of businesses that will be open, discounts offered and planned activities will be published in the Cookies & Carols section of *The Sentinel*.

Beautifully the downtown area is part and parcel of Roberts' goal to energize the historic district and bring in more visitors.

"We have a very unique, beautiful downtown," he said. "As someone who has traveled a lot ... I've seen a lot of towns and this town is very special. And I'm just trying to show people how special it is —

See PARK 11A



Creative Chaos founder Carmen Dowell (left) rehearses a scene with actor Ian Miller.

PHOTOS BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Creative Chaos expands its reach

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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Acting troupe Creative Chaos is ready to expand beyond the stage.

Beginning February next year, monthly social events will become a regular fixture for the group, which has provided a theatrical outlet for people with disabilities for the past three years.

After experiencing the draw of social programs for people with disabilities in Eugene, Creative Chaos founder Carmen Dowell saw the potential for the troupe to extend its reach into the social lives of its members and others in the Cottage



Creative Chaos actor Monica Venice (left) hams it up during rehearsal.

Grove community.

"The sad thing is, we don't have anything like that down here," said Dowell. "I just thought about my mission of Creative Chaos and said, 'There's no reason why we can't do it.'"

The events aren't limited to Creative Chaos members, however.

"It's open to the whole community and surrounding areas," said Dowell. "I just want a social event once a month for them."

The new monthly events will kick off on Feb. 7 with a "Sweetheart Dance," opening up the Opal Theater with music and refreshments.

See REACH 9A

CGHS drama department offering range of theater experience

By NICK SNYDER
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The Cottage Grove High School (CGHS) drama department kicked off its 2019-20 season last weekend with two showings of "The Addams Family" musical, one each on Friday and Saturday evenings. Based on audience numbers, it was a successful opening run for director Janet Rust and her talented cast of actors and actresses.

"We had to put up three extra rows of chairs last night," Rust said when asked about Friday's premiere.

The comedy production — which will have two more shows at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 22 and Saturday, Nov. 23 — centers around Wednesday Addams, daughter of Gomez and Morticia, who falls in love with a "normal" boy, Lucas Beineke. The two star-crossed lovers must find a way to obtain both parents' approval with help — and occasional roadblocks — from the other zany members of the titular family.

"I really loved the Addams Family when I was a kid," Rust said. "I also listened to the music and I re-

ally liked it and thought it would be appropriate for high school. It's fun, the kids get into the campiness of it and I have the right kids for it too."

Juniors Enzo Valdez (Gomez), Alex Keedy (Morticia), Darcy Rust (Wednesday) and sophomore Maia Wilhour (Lucas) take on the leading roles, while fellow sophomore John Swanson gives a particularly memorable performance as Uncle Fester.

"Our Fester, John, it took us a month to be able to do those scenes with him while keeping a straight

See CGHS 7A

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