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WEATHER



Cloudy skies with a high of 51 and a low tonight of 46.
Full forecast on A5

COMMUNITY



New 'sign of the times' at the Opal
A3

SPORTS — B



The 'Team' mentality for CGHS wrestling
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Increased demand puts strain on Creswell pantry

By JOSHUA LEACH
INTERN FOR THE SENTINEL

Susan Blacknik strolled through rows of shelves at the Creswell Food Pantry. She passed empty spaces and cases upon cases of canned beans and pureed pumpkin.

"I don't like to see bare shelves over there, and there's more bare shelves than I've seen since I started six years ago," she said.

With the winter months approaching, Blachnik, the pantry manager, said food stocks always get a little lower, but a drive held by Creslane Elementary and South Lane County Fire & Rescue brought in 3,844 pounds of food on Nov. 21. However, by Nov. 22, that much and then some was gone.

"We were giving everyone 5 pounds [of food] per person. Now we're down to 2 pounds."

— Susan Blacknik, Creswell Food Pantry

Those supplies help maintain a shopping-style experience for pantry patrons. That shopping style

lets clients get products they actually like and will eat, something that's hard to do without a lot of stock.

"If you don't like lentils, you don't have to take lentils," said FOOD for Lane County spokesperson Dawn Marie Woodward.

See PANTRY 7A



CINDY WHEELDRYER/FOR THE COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

A special holiday event will be held at the historic Dr. Snapp House beginning Friday.

Snapp House preserves early CG medical history

By CINDY WHEELDRYER
SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL

The familiar Queen Anne-style house on South River Road, at the confluence of Silk Creek and the Coast Fork of the Willamette River, is a museum maintained by the Prospectors and Gold Diggers Club showcasing early medical practices. It is Cottage Grove's only Victorian-era house open to the public and this weekend it is decorated in its holiday finery for the annual Dr. Snapp's Holiday Bazaar and Open House, Dec. 6-8.

Built in 1886 by one of the town's early doctors for his wife, it was originally located near the corner of South River Road and Main Street. In 1966, the Lane County

See SNAPP 10A

Council reviews city justice system, housing

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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A municipal court report to City Council on Nov. 25 by Municipal Court Judge Martin Fisher highlighted concerns and hopes in Cottage Grove's justice system during the City Council meeting.

The Cottage Grove Municipal Court, which handles traffic violations and misdemeanor crimes, saw its upward trend of criminal citations and non-criminal violations continue in 2019.

During the year, the court took on a criminal caseload 116 percent that of its previous five-year average with non-criminal violations 121 percent of average. Meanwhile, assessed fines were 114 percent of average and fines collected increased to 143 percent.

"The number of fines assessed and collected had increased over the last year, which frankly I found astonishing," said Fisher to the council, "because on the criminal side of our docket, fundamentally we no longer impose fines except for very, very limited circumstances."

The report states that the court has "more often than not declined to impose fines as a condition of criminal judgement."

Fisher speculated that increased traffic enforcement has brought in more fine revenue, though he noted in the report that there is no way to distinguish between criminal

See COUNCIL 6A

Swinging back into action



GREG LEE/FOR THE COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

The City of Cottage Grove held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly constructed J. Polk Currin Swinging Bridge on Saturday, Nov. 30. Speeches were given by Mayor Jeff Gowing, former Mayor Hall McCall, Susan Christian (daughter of the previous bridge's designer Roger Sinclair) and Friends of the Swinging Bridge member Dana Merryday, who received a ceremonial screw nut for spearheading the project. "It's really a part of the fabric of our community," said Merryday as he gave thanks to the community. Local fundraising contributed \$18,055 to the \$803,354 project.

South Lane School District names interim superintendent

By NICK SNYDER
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South Lane School District (SLSD) board members entered the 2019 school year knowing that finding a permanent superintendent was a top priority.

Then, in October, acting interim superintendent Larry Sullivan announced his resignation due to sudden health concerns.

The members of the school board were then tasked with finding an interim for the interim.

On Monday, Dec. 2 at

SLSD's monthly board meeting, the hectic, emergency search came to a smooth end as Yvonne Curtis was named as Sullivan's replacement.

The board will continue their search for a permanent district head throughout the school year with

Curtis at the helm through June.

It was over a month and half ago that board members Sherry Duerst-Higgins and Alan Baas learned of Sullivan's ailment, weeks before his resignation was publically announced.

Finding a replacement on

such short notice seemed a daunting task for the board, but the strengths of the district office shone through in the process.

"I think we have a very confident staff," Duerst-Higgins said,

See SLSD 10A

What is Rotary?

Join us at one of our weekly meetings to learn more.

Thursdays at 12pm

El Tapatio Mexican Restaurant
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