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# Cottage Grove Sentinel

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**WEATHER**



Clouds and rain with a high of 52 and a low tonight of 44.  
**Full forecast on A5**

**COMMUNITY**



Art in the Grove to debut Saturday.  
**A5**

**SPORTS — B**



Skyline basketball tips off in Elkton.  
**B1**

**RECORDS**

Obituaries  
Official releases  
**A2**

**LORANE NEWS**

**A5**

**CLASSIFIEDS**

Listings and public notices  
**B8-B9**

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## Season's greetings in The Grove



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL



GREG LEE/FOR THE SENTINEL

Mr. and Mrs. Claus posed with children (top) during this year's Christmas in Cottage Grove event on Dec. 7. A day of activities culminated in the lighting of a 25-foot-tall Christmas Tree (right) in All-America Square, donated by Stuart Stevenson. A block party provided food, hayrides and caroling (left) through the evening while Village Green and the Cottage Grove Museum displayed holiday decorations.



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

## Climate, housing addressed by City Council

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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Advocates for climate change awareness again appealed to the City of Cottage Grove to take action during a City Council meeting on Dec. 9.

Speakers took turns discussing the topic from different perspectives. Area resident Rosemary Foraker expressed her displeasure with what she felt was the city's lack of commitment to addressing the issue.

"It's become clear that the City of Cottage Grove will not take meaningful action on the climate crisis," she said.

Foraker used her time to expound upon the scientific evidence of climate change. She also encouraged the city to join other efforts across the globe and invited those present to a showing of "Ice on Fire" at the Rural Organizing Project building on Dec. 13 at 7 p.m.

Resident Beverley Jones stressed the pressing nature of climate change and the breadth of its impact.

"It's not that we're freaking out about one single degree of climate change," she said. "It's that we care about water. We care about food and food supplies. We care about commerce. We care about the economy. And we care about our children and our grandchildren."

Local Tim Wilson discussed ways in which Cottage Grove could be part of a response to climate change.

"There are numerous things we could do within our community that are relatively inexpensive," he said. "We can partner with our local established businesses here ... and promote better business sustainability within our community and give our children a better place."

Resident Katie Owens pointed to a need to address climate change for humanity's preservation.

"Whether there's a future that's including the human race is what's at stake here," she said.

In previous appeals to the council, climate change awareness advocates had also requested the city to declare a

See **COUNCIL A9**

## Grief support group comes to Cottage Grove

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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A grief support group is offering an opportunity for those who have lost loved ones to connect and receive coping advice on Dec. 17 at the Cottage Grove Community Center from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

The drop-in session is free, anonymous and provided by Signature Hospice.

"It's our goal as an organization to support people as much as we can," said Joshua Bedford, a bereavement coordinator with Signature Hospice. "We don't force people to talk.

We don't want people to have people go places they don't want to go. So, if they just want to sit back and listen to the group, they're welcome to do that."

Bedford facilitates drop-in groups and a six-week grief support group series in Eugene.

"The drop-ins are cre-

ated for people who can't commit to a series," he said. "I want to be accommodating to people's schedules."

The upcoming drop-in support group will focus on how to cope with the loss of a loved one around

See **SUPPORT A8**

## McKinney-Vento program stabilizes unhoused youth

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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While Cottage Grove struggles to find solutions for its homeless and those dealing with housing insecurity, youth represent an often overlooked subset of that population.

The McKinney-Vento

program is working to address this oversight in the South Lane School District (SLSLSD).

"It's a great program," said Chad Hamilton, director of special services with the district. Hamilton oversees and advises on programs to make sure policies are implemented.

"It's a person-driven program ... and the majority is based on relationships."

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 is a federal law which aims to improve the lives and safety of the nation's homeless. Among its services, the act protects the educa-

tional rights of students in transition, ensuring that homeless children and children of homeless individuals have equal access to public education.

The South Lane School District complies with the act using Title I dollars

See **YOUTH A10**

## Event shares 'Gratitude' with local community

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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Live music, poetry and spoken word performances filled the Opal Center for Arts and Education on Dec. 6 for the fifth community gathering of The Nature of Gratitude, an annual exploration of

the concept of gratitude through the arts.

"Our mission is to increase the awareness and practice of gratitude in our lives," said Tom Titus, co-creator of the event.

"Our core belief is that gratitude is a foundational practice for living, not just an emotional response

when things go well in our lives."

The all-volunteer event explored the concept of "returning" through various artistic media.

Titus and co-creator Eric Alan conceived of the project more than five years ago when a discussion about nature litera-

ture and gratitude revealed a strong relationship with the sentiment and the arts.

"Just as we were ready to roll out the first program at Tsunami Books in 2015, I had a fortuitous encounter with an essay by writer David Whyte in which he

See **SHARE A7**

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