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# Cottage Grove Sentinel

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**WEATHER**



Clouds and rain with a high of 47 and a low tonight of 37.  
Full forecast on A5

**COMMUNITY**



Special Winter Artwalk Friday.  
A3

**SPORTS — B**



Local girls get big opportunity.  
B1

- **RECORDS**  
Obituaries  
Official notices  
A2
- **LORANE NEWS**  
A5
- **CLASSIFIEDS**  
Listings and public notices  
B6-B7

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PHOTOS BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

The Tree of Joy program (above) distributed gifts to 240 children who asked for presents this year; volunteers (below) carry presents to awaiting recipients in front of Trinity Lutheran Church on Dec. 20.

## Local families receive holiday gift boxes

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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On Dec. 20, the Holiday Food Box and Tree of Joy programs stocked local families' houses with presents and food boxes stuffed with holiday meal ingredients.

Throughout the day, cars drove past Trinity Lutheran Church where the gifts were loaded by volunteers into eager recipients' vehicles.

The goal of the programs is to provide for low-income families during the holidays.

"Of course, the holidays are a tougher time," said Executive Director of Community Sharing Mike Fleck. "Many folks will have



family over. They'll have greater needs for food. So this is just something we love doing."

In November, families signed up and qualified for the food boxes by providing proof of income.

"We don't turn anybody down," said Fleck of qualifying families. "Everybody who applies will get a food box, period."

While most of the food was purchased from Grocery Outlet, a portion of it is also a result of the community's generosity.

"We try to save a lot of product from local donations throughout the year so that we don't have to buy quite as much," said Fleck.

See JOY 7A

## Electric vehicles, higher-mileage cars to see fee increase

BY MARK BRENNAN  
SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL

The cost to register a high mileage hybrid vehicle or an Electric Vehicle (EV) in Oregon will rise significantly on Jan. 1. The increased amount vehicle owners can expect to pay will depend on the fuel efficiency rating of the vehicle, which will now be

the primary factor in determining the cost to register it.

"Drivers of more efficient vehicles will pay more to register and renew their tags so they contribute more for use of the roads."

— Oregon Department of Transportation

The new fees are part of a series of changes to the

Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) initiation and implementation set to begin in 2020.

These increases have been approved by legislators because of the growing number of families that have chosen to purchase an EV. While sales of EVs in the U.S. numbered 361,307 in 2018 — an increase of 81 percent over

funding plan, which was passed three years ago in the form of HB 2017, with

See FEES 6A

## No plastic for shoppers beginning Jan. 1

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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Starting Jan. 1, Oregon consumers will see the Sustainable Shopping Initiative take effect at the cash registers of their local retailers and restaurants.

The initiative, House Bill 2509, passed in the 2019 Oregon legislative session and prohibits retail stores and restaurants from providing single-use checkout bags while placing restrictions

See PLASTIC 8A

## Trillium break with PeaceHealth to take effect

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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PeaceHealth's break with Centene Corporation will

go into effect Jan. 1 when Health Net and Trillium Medicare Advantage plans will no longer be accepted by the nonprofit health care system.

While the Medicare Open Enrollment period ended Dec. 7, those who qualified with Trillium or Health Net plans will still be able to switch Medicare

Advantage plans or switch from a Medicare Advantage plan to original Medicare between Jan. 1 and

See BREAK 6A

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