

Est. 1889

# Cottage Grove Sentinel

Your Local News Delivered Your Way: In Print. Online. On the Go!

VOL. 132, NO. 1

SERVING  
THE COMMUNITIES OF  
COTTAGE GROVE,  
CRESWELL,  
DORENA, DRAIN,  
ELKTON, LORANE AND  
YONCALLA

PERSONAL | BUSINESS  
BENEFIT PLANNING | SURETY

**PayneWest**  
INSURANCE

(541) 942-0555

PayneWest.com/Cottage-Grove

**WEATHER**



Clouds and rain with a high of 50 and a low tonight of 42.  
**Full forecast on A5**

**FEATURE**



**Pet Tps 'n' Tales.**  
**A5**

**SPORTS — B**



**An eventful 2019 for area sports.**  
**B1**

**RECORDS**

Obituaries  
Police Logs  
Births  
**A2**

**LORANE NEWS**

**A5**

**CLASSIFIEDS**

Listings and public notices  
**B6-B7**

**FOLLOW US FOR THE LATEST NEWS:**

/CGSENTINEL

@CGSENTINEL

CGSENTINEL.COM



P.O. Box 35, Cottage Grove, OR 97424

## A look back at the Top Stories of 2019

**A**s Cottage Grove rings in a new year, *The Sentinel* takes a look back at some of the top stories of 2019. Last year saw the community navigate growth, celebrate its roots and weather storms both literal and figurative. Through each trial and success, community members aligned to explore solutions, preserve a reflective hometown appreciation and underscore the cooperative ethos that makes Cottage Grove unique. *The Sentinel* is proud to be a part of chronicling that process and looks forward to bringing you another year of news, insight and communal discovery. In the meantime, let's look back at some of the stories that defined our community in 2019...



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

**Clockwise from top: Nika, a Husky belonging to Facebook user TeayRex Irving of Cottage Grove, looks at the sky over Cottage Grove Lake after the first snowfall (photo submitted by TeayRex Irving); The Safe Haven house serves as a sober living environment for women recovering from addiction to transition back into a healthy lifestyle; The J. Polk Currin Swinging Bridge was closed in September 2016 due to structural concerns. Following its final repairs, it was officially re-opened and dedicated Nov. 30.**

**What Now?**

*Cottage Grove area emerges from once-in-a-century snowstorm*  
(Originally printed March 6, 2019)

Snowfall in the Willamette Valley is often greeted with a certain affection. Children may get to skip some school days, families bond while creating snowmen and winter sports enthusiasts rub their hands together at a chance to make

their mark on fresh slopes.

The evening of Feb. 24 likely sparked such sentiments as weather forecasts made good on their promise and the first snowflakes lazily floated to the valley's floor. To the surprise of many, however, the snowflakes didn't stop. And soon they weren't falling so lazily.

By 8 p.m. that night, the first reports of power outages had begun to surface in Cottage Grove and the snow had risen to eight

inches in some areas. Through the night, the storm battered the valley and, by Monday morning, the National Weather Service reported 14 inches had fallen in Cottage Grove while residents in outlying areas posted through social media snowfall closer to two feet or more.

The situation was nothing short of a crisis and states of emergency were declared for both Cottage Grove and Lane County Tuesday, Feb. 26. Before long, Gov. Kate

Brown issued an emergency declaration for 10 Oregon counties, including Lane, last Thursday.

"It frees up resources that wouldn't otherwise be available to us," said Lane County Commissioner Heather Buch. "Getting those additional resources is critical because people are not as available to help when they're stuck in their own locations. We have several other folks from different

See **YIR 6A**

## City to expand recycled water storage capacity

**BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD**  
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

Following a \$1.3 million bid award to R & G Excavating in a Dec. 9 City Council meeting, Cottage Grove is moving forward with projects to add a recycled water

storage pond and a pump station to the city's wastewater treatment system.

In the same action, ahead of an expected January 2020 price increase, the city authorized the expenditure of an additional \$259,031 for the purchase of in-

tegration materials for the project such as control panels and instruments that can "talk" to the existing components in the treatment plant.

The move brings the city closer to implementing a long-term solution to handling its daily flow of

effluent.

"Essentially [the pond] will be a storage facility for treated effluent," said Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart. "And it'll help us meet our DEQ

See **WATER 5A**

**Quality Cleaning**  
Certified Green  
Carpet Cleaning Specialist  
541-942-0420

**CASCADE GARDEN EQUIPMENT, LLC** **HONDA**  
Sales & Service

—Since 1959—  
Open Mon – Fri 8 – 5  
Pickup & Delivery Available

1035 Conger St. #3  
Eugene, OR 97402

541.344.6992  
cascadegardenequip.com

Read the owner's manual before operating Honda Power Equipment.

Call Us About Your Riding Mower