

Cottage Grove Est. 1889 Sentinel

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WEATHER

Clouds and rain with a high of 41 and a low tonight of 32.
Full forecast on A5

COMMUNITY

THE 11TH HOUR
MANKIND'S DARKEST HOUR INTO ITS FUTURE
Climate change film series opens Jan. 24.
A5

SPORTS — B

On to state for local athlete.
B1

RECORDS
Obituaries
Police Logs
100th Birthday
A2

LORANE NEWS
A5

CLASSIFIEDS
Listings and public notices
B8-B9

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'Extending to the women of our nation the right of suffrage'



COURTESY PHOTO

This past Tuesday, Oregon celebrated the ratification of the 19th Amendment, allowing the right of women to vote.

100th anniversary of Oregon women's right to vote

The U.S. Congress passed the 19th Amendment on June 4, 1919. Thirty-six state legislatures then had to ratify the amendment to place it in the federal constitution. Oregon became the 25th state to ratify the 19th Amendment on Jan. 14, 1920.

The text of the 19th Amendment reads:

By **MARK BRENNAN**
FOR THE SENTINEL

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Ben W. Olcott was the governor of Oregon at the time and had called a special session of the legislature to order on Jan. 12 to consider the passage of bills pertaining to workman's compensation, educational assistance for servicemembers, capital punishment and women's suffrage.

"It will be my pleasure to have forwarded to your honorable body for ratification the resolution of the Congress of the United States of America, providing for an amendment to our federal constitution which will extend to the women of our

nation the right of suffrage," Wolcott said. "This is a matter which I recommend to your early attention and I am certain you will not deem it presumptuous if I express the hope that you give your unanimous approval to the ratification of this amendment."

Women had been allowed to vote in Oregon elections beginning in 1912 but could not vote in national elections. Many of Oregon's male voters at the time continued to oppose giving women the right to vote for decades before passage.

Harvey W. Scott, the editor of *The Oregonian*, argued that women were less thoughtful than men and would vote recklessly. Scott also believed that it would be inappropriate for women to step outside of traditional roles as mothers and wives.

Scott once stated, "Woman's duties lie in the home; man's duties lie in the outer world."

Ironically, the leader of the Oregon's women's suffrage movement was Scott's older sister, Abigail Scott Duniway. Duniway worked for 40 years to amend Oregon's constitution to allow women to

See **VOTE 6A**

Mayor presents State of the City Address

By **DAMIEN SHERWOOD**
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Cottage Grove Mayor Jeff Gowing delivered a State of the City Address at Monday night's City Council meeting highlighting the previous year's challenges and triumphs while outlining the city's goals for 2020.

"2019 was a busy year," he said. "We started out with a 50-year storm that brought nearly 30 inches of snow to the area, damaged trees and power outages that are still fresh in our minds."

Gowing commended the city and its staff on an efficient response to snowstorm.

Among of litany of other notable achievements, the mayor mentioned an updated police department system which reduced its paper cost by 25 percent, the purchase of 16 acres for the city's industrial park, the return of roller skating to an improved Armory and



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Mayor Jeff Gowing (standing left) bestowed Shane May a Mayoral Certificate of Appreciation for his organizing of community events.

the replacement of Middlefield Golf Course's entire fleet of golf carts with electronic counterparts.

The city also recently purchased a 12-million-gallon effluent storage

pond, reducing the need for drinking water and the thermal load on the river.

See **MAYOR 7A**

Local speed zone change could have state-wide impact

By **DAMIEN SHERWOOD**
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A local traffic ticket case has revealed a decades-old misapplication of a Cottage Grove school zone sign and has potentially moved some in the city to amend state law.

The incident began with the issuing of a traffic citation to area resident Nicholas Lake in front of Great Days Early Education Center on River Road and ended with a small but surprising victory for Lake on his appeal.

The case called into the question the definition of Great Days as a school under Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) and thus its legitimacy in utilizing a school zone speed reduction sign on the adjacent road.

The center provides child care, early childhood education and provides services for children with special needs.

On April 11, 2019, Lake was driving his daughter to school, heading south on River Road where the posted speed limit is 35 mph. A few minutes after 7 a.m., Lake passed Great Days at 35 mph, at which point he was pulled over and issued a ticket for disobeying a school zone sign to reduce speed to 20 mph.

The citation, however, contained mistakes such as Lake's eye color, vehicle type and had misstated the location as "Delight Valley School Zone," which prompted Lake to seek out the officer.

In the days waiting to speak with the citing officer about the ticket, Lake followed a hunch and began

digging through state law as it pertained to his citation. In his research, Lake found that Great Days did not fit the description of a school under ORS.

On school zones, ORS 801.462 defines a school as "a public or private educational institution for one or more levels kindergarten through grade 12 or a publicly funded early childhood education program located in a building currently or previously owned by a school district..."

Further, Lake took issue with the school zone sign stating to drive 20 mph between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. on school days. Great Days states on its website that it is open all year round, except five major holidays.

"So now we're going to enforce a

See **SPEED 9A**

ODOT names leaders of new Office of Urban Mobility

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is developing a new focus on comprehensive solutions to congestion, access and mobility issues, which affect quality of life and economic health far beyond the Portland metro area. This new focus responds to public and stakeholder feedback and aligns with the visions of the Oregon Transportation Commission and ODOT Director Kris Strickler for the future of the transportation system.

ODOT's newly formed Office of Urban Mobility and Mega Project Delivery (OUMMPD) is a key part of that comprehensive approach. While its work will continue to evolve, the office will immediately focus on developing and delivering innovative solutions for comprehensive congestion relief as directed by the Legislature in HB 2017.

ODOT Director Kris Strickler laid out his vision for the new office, saying "The creation of this office not only signals ODOT's commitment to addressing congestion on all fronts, but signals our new way of doing business," said Strickler. "The agency will enhance its efforts to grow beyond just a highway department into an

See **ODOT 7A**

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