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FEATURES

Pet Tips 'n Tales
A5

SPORTS — B

Lady Lions claim Sky-Em League title.
B1

- **RECORDS**
Obituaries
Police Logs
Official releases
A2
- **LORANE NEWS**
A5
- **CLASSIFIEDS**
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C7-C8

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DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Volunteer Robert Wright works to restore the “Wimpy” Low-Wing Longster for its display during next year’s centennial event.

Restored planes to highlight ODA’s centennial

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

The Oregon Aviation Historical Society & Museum in Cottage Grove marked the Oregon Department of Aviation’s (ODA) 99th anniversary on Feb. 11 and announced local preparations for the department’s

centennial celebration in 2021. In gearing up for the centennial event, Cottage Grove’s Aviation Historical Society is currently restoring three vintage aircraft. In all, six antique aircraft with roots in Oregon aviation history will embark on a traveling exhibit around the state, culminating in a demonstration in

Oshkosh, Wisc. in July 2021. Vice president of the museum Tim Talen has been in the restoration business for more than 40 years and has spearheaded efforts to find and restore the aircraft for the centennial. “Tim has a knack for finding things and knowing what he’s look-

ing for,” said Annette Buswell-Whittington, director for the aviation historical society. One notable project among the restoration efforts is John Gilbert “Tex” Rankin’s Great Lakes Bi-plane. “Tex was probably our most

See PLANES 3A



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Children help dig a hole for the Hiroshima Peace Tree sapling planted in Coiner Park on Feb. 17.

Hiroshima Peace Tree added to Coiner Park

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

Coiner Park received a new tree on Feb. 17 as Mayor Jeff Gowing and the Urban Forestry Committee held a planting ceremony for a Hiroshima Peace Tree.

The ginkgo biloba sapling was germinated from seeds of a ginkgo tree that survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima 75 years ago this August.

The sapling is one of 30 saplings that will be planted on public lands around the State of Oregon between now and May 2020.

The peace trees are part of a remem-

brance and reconciliation project organized by the One Sunny Day Initiative with the support of A-bombed Trees, Oregon Community Trees and the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Gowing proclaimed Feb. 17, 2020 “One Sunny Day of Peace” and held a moment of silence during the ceremony.

The One Sunny Day Initiative, founded by atomic bomb survivor Hideko Tamura Snider, aims to educate the public about the consequences of the use of nuclear weapons and “plant seeds of peace, hope and reconciliation among people of the world.”

After last year’s ‘Snowmageddon,’ emergency readiness sees progress

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

On the evening of Feb. 24, 2019, area residents were caught off guard by the sudden arrival of a once-in-a-century snowstorm which crippled power infrastructures and rendered streets impassable.

Now nearly one year later, some local steps have been taken to ensure the community is prepared for future disasters. For South Lane Coun-

ty Fire & Rescue (SLCFR), efforts to increase preparedness in the area have been in the works for years.

“We’ve seen a need for assistance to help improve preparedness and community readiness,” said SLCFR Division Chief Aaron Smith.

One need SLCFR has seen is with unserved rural homes as areas like Dorena fall outside the fire district’s jurisdiction.

To address this, SLCFR began offering rural residents a fire sup-

pression agreement in 2018, which would guarantee an emergency response if they pay a tax of \$1.85 per \$1,000 of property value, as reported by residents.

More than 30 contracts have been made throughout the area so far.

Also impactful has been SLCFR’s expansion of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, a Federal Emergency Management Agency-based program sponsored and administered by many local

government agencies across the nation.

The program provides community members with standardized testing, training and an operational framework for emergencies within a designated jurisdiction. Though the program was once a feature of the Cottage Grove community, it gradually lost traction and dissolved years ago. The past few years, however,

See READY 6A

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