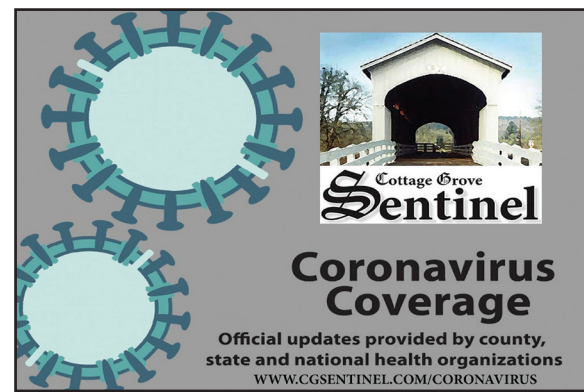


Cottage Grove Est. 1889 Sentinel



Coronavirus Coverage
Official updates provided by county, state and national health organizations
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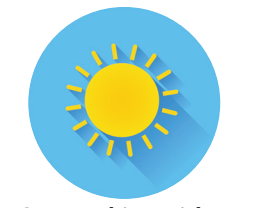
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WEATHER



Sunny skies with a high of 66 and a low tonight of 39.
Full forecast on A5

HALLOWEEN



Trunk or Treat
A11

COMMUNITY — B



Celebrating the dead
B1

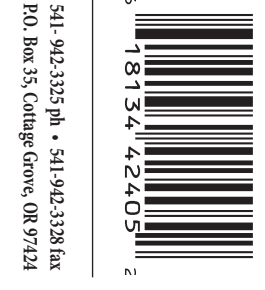
- **RECORDS**
Obituaries
Official releases
A2
- **LORANE NEWS**
B1
- **CLASSIFIEDS**
Listings and public notices
B5-B6

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Council approves purchase of Pallet Shelters

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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In a unanimous vote, the Cottage Grove City Council gave the go-ahead on Monday for the purchase of 18 Pallet Shelters, addressing an anticipated need to secure shelter for the unhoused this winter.

A conversation about the need for shelters arose recently when the board for Beds for Freezing Nights announced it would be unable to provide its services to the commu-

nity this season.

The group normally operates from Nov. 15 through March 31, providing safe, warm places for the unhoused to sleep when nighttime temperatures drop to 29 degrees or below.

The challenges faced in operations and securing volunteers have been complicated due to concerns surrounding COVID-19 this year, however.

Representatives from the city, Beds for Freezing Nights, Community Sharing, Lane County,

Cottage Village Coalition and other organizations subsequently entered into talks to find solutions.

One of the problems needing to be addressed was the risk posed by congregate housing during a pandemic. Multiple people staying in the same room and Beds for Freezing Nights volunteers tending to be in a high-risk category for COVID-19 were determined to make for unsafe environments.

Some participants in the dialogue proposed providing tents to those in need of shelter to reduce

risk, but it was decided that the tents could not sufficiently reduce exposure to cold temperatures.

Moreover, improperly-operated heating devices in the tents would run the risk of starting fires.

Pallet Shelters then emerged as a viable solution.

The Washington-based company Pallet, which defines itself as a “social purpose company” aiming to end unsheltered homelessness and develop a nontraditional

See CITY 7A



Jason Bush (right) and Jayson and Misty Southmayd discuss the project outside the family's home.

Building official works to rehome vet

Local building official Jason Bush is leading charge to rehome a Creswell veteran and his family

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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When building official Jason Bush got a call about a homeowner's disagreement with a contractor, he was a bit incredulous at the claims. After 25 years in the field, he'd seen his share of exaggerations.

Even so, he agreed to stop by the

property just outside Creswell and see for himself.

What Bush found shook him.

“There's only one house I've seen that was worse,” said Bush. “It was when I was a building official in Lebanon and it was a heroin house.”

Homeowners Jayson and Misty Southmayd acknowledge that their house looks fine from the outside at

first glance. But it wasn't long after moving in that problems began to pile up.

From electrical to plumbing to basic carpentry, the family's worries about the integrity of their newly built house grew quickly. And the more Bush learned, the more he

See HOME 5A

Pilot program incentivizes energy efficiency

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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A pilot program exclusive to Cottage Grove and Creswell is offering limited-time incentives to customers who install energy-efficient upgrades in their home.

In a partnership between regional gas provider NW Natural and nonprofit Energy Trust of Oregon, the program aims to reduce the amount of natural gas consumption in small communities by offering residential, commercial and industrial incentives to purchase energy-efficient products.

Residents of Cottage Grove and Creswell can receive cash rebates on energy-efficient gas furnaces, insulation and window upgrades through the program.

A wide range of commercial and industrial incentives are included in the pilot as well.

To be eligible, residents or businesses must be in either ZIP code 97424 or 97426 and primarily heat their buildings with natural gas provided by NW Natural.

Qualified applicants must then select a contractor to complete the work.

See PILOT 8A

Candidates voice opinions during virtual forum

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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Cottage Grove City Council candidates participated in a virtual forum Tuesday night hosted by KNND owner Cameron Reiten and Chamber of Commerce CEO/President Shauna Neigh.

In the upcoming General Election of Nov. 3, 2020, six candidates are vying for seats on the Cottage

Grove City Council. Including the mayoral position, councilor positions for Ward 2, Ward 4 and an at-large position are on the ballot.

Only two positions — the seats of mayor and councilor at-large — are contested.

In the running for mayor are incumbent Jeff Gowing and Ivan DelSol.

For the councilor at-large position, incumbent Kenneth Michael

Roberts and Chalice MP Savage have filed.

Councilor Jon Stinnett is running for the Ward 2 position unopposed since the withdrawal of Ashley Rigel on Aug. 18. Stinnett was appointed to the position on Sept. 28 as the seat was vacant and he remained the only candidate in the running.

Lastly, incumbent Councilor Greg Ervin is running for Ward 4

unopposed.

Candidates answered questions from Reiten and Neigh on topics ranging from the city budget to rural homelessness then took audience questions for the final leg of the forum.

During introductions, DelSol defined himself as a “philosophical candidate” using the platform

See CANDIDATES 10A



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