

Cottage Grove Est. 1889 Sentinel

Show Local Businesses Some Love!

VOL. 131, NO. 48 • Your Local News Delivered Your Way: In Print. Online. On the Go!

Governor's 2021-23 state budget proposes major cuts

Events from 2020 lead to changes in every aspect of the state's forecast

BY CHANTELE MEYER
FOR THE SENTINEL

"What a year it has been. 2020 has tested Oregon in unimaginable ways," Oregon Gov. Kate Brown said as she opened a press conference on Dec. 1.

Her address was primarily about the proposed budget for the 2021-23 biennium, including shortfalls as well as places of emphasis.

According to the budget document, "The Governor's Recommended Budget for 2021-23 proposes \$100.2 billion in total funds spending, including \$25.6 billion in General Fund and Lottery Funds. ... The budget includes over \$293.8 million in increased

revenues and leaves \$243.3 million in the General Fund. In addition, by the end of the 2019-21 bienni-

Brown said she found "inspiration" for the budget in 2020 and the challenges it presented, includ-

"I think it's so critically important during a global pandemic that every Oregonian have access to health care. [But] we have a shortfall in meeting the funding needs of the Oregon Health Plan."

—Gov. Kate Brown

um, the Rainy-Day Fund is projected to have a balance of \$942.3 million."

The full text of the 522-page budget document, as well as a condensed, 54-page version, is included at budget.oregon.gov.

ing: "A global pandemic, which has taken our dearest loved ones from us and forever changed the rituals of our daily lives; heartbreaking loss from historic wildfires that ravaged our state and wiped entire Oregon communities off the map;

and deepened political divisions and the untimely deaths of Black and brown neighbors from across the country that inspired Oregonians to march in our streets with a clarion call for racial justice."

Oregon's proposed budget will specifically go toward "ensuring all Oregonians' basic needs are met," equity in education and the environment, supporting small businesses and workers, reforming the criminal justice systems and improving systems to better outcomes.

This includes investing into housing and homelessness, COVID-19 pandemic response, senior long-term care, health care,

See BUDGET 6A

Get an insurance plan —not just a policy.
PayneWest
INSURANCE
(541) 942-0555

WEATHER

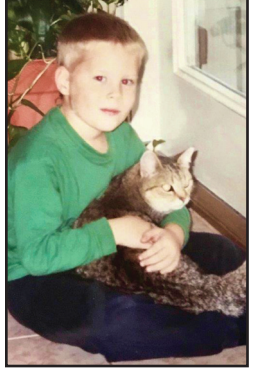
Cloudy skies with a high of 52 and a low tonight of 32.
Full forecast on A5

HUMOR



James Kazad
Remembrances of life before Covid
B1


COLUMNIST



Marry Ellen
Pet Tips 'n' Tales
B1

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

FOLLOW US FOR THE LATEST NEWS:
 /CGSentinel
 @CGSentinel

541-942-3325 ph • 541-942-3328 fax
P.O. Box 35, Cottage Grove, OR 97424




JON STINNETT/FOR COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Bi-Mart Assistant Manager Shailie Estrada and Aimee Sunkler join Joyce Settelmeyer at Bi-Mart's Tree of Joy. And, Walmart's Kayla Lancaster with Joyce at the store's tree. Both trees can be found near their stores' customer service desks.

Community 'network' puts joy under tree

This Saturday's Jingle Rush 5K will benefit the Tree of Joy program, which helps fulfill Christmas wishes for area youngsters

BY JON STINNETT
FOR THE SENTINEL

On Christmas morning, children in homes all over Cottage Grove will awaken to the most pleasant of surprises — the realization that their holiday wish has come true. And despite

their gratitude and the joy that these gifts will bring, they may not realize that their community came together to help make their dream a reality.

It's been that way for about three decades, as Cottage Grove's Tree of Joy program has helped fill the gaps between local young people's

Christmas wishes and the need that often keeps area families from fulfilling them on their own. And this year, with restrictions meant to curb the coronavirus pandemic placing an additional financial crunch on many families, the need

See TREE 8A

'Desperately seeking Santas' for Bohemia students

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

Bohemia Elementary School staff are working to ensure that all its students have presents under their Christmas trees this year. Now in its seventh year running, the school's program is calling on the

community for donations of unwrapped toys, clothes or gift cards to put smiles on the faces of students in need.

The program was initially kickstarted by some of the school's special education teachers, said Bohemia Elementary School Principal Heather Brid-

gens. "They felt very passionate about making sure that all of their students had something during this time of year," she said.

The effort has since grown in scope of both volunteer partnerships and children served. In-

cluding this year, the last few annual efforts have seen about 100 kids make list.

Community involvement, too, has grown and includes staff, retired teachers, families and local businesses.

"It's something that we

See SANTAS 5A

'Freeze' ends, restrictions continue

Lane County among 21 counties classified as 'extreme risk'

BY NED HICKSON
NHICKSON@CGSENTINEL.COM

The governor's office released a new chart on Nov. 25 identifying 21 counties currently identified as "extreme risk," with Lane County joining Portland metro counties Marion and Deschutes due to a continued spike in coronavirus spread.

Other counties determined as "extreme risk" are Douglas, Baker, Benton, Clackamas, Columbia, Grant, Jackson, Jefferson, Klamath, Linn, Malheur, Multnomah, Polk, Umatilla, Union, Wasco, Washington and Yamhill.

In addition, six counties — Clatsop, Coos, Crook, Hood River, Josephine and Lake — have been classified as "high risk," with four others (Curry, Harney, Lincoln and Morrow) determined to be "moderate risk."

Only five Oregon counties — Gilliam, Sherman, Tillamook, Willamette and Wheeler — are categorized as "lower risk."

The Oregon Health Authority will re-examine county case data next week to make a final determination of where each county will sit when the freeze ends today, Dec. 3, with counties being re-classified every two weeks after that.

"We're likely to be in this place for several months until we can complete vaccinations for all who want them,"

See RISK 7A

EVERYONE DESERVES A GREAT SMILE!
THORNTON Orthodontics
EUGENE 622 E. 22nd Ave Suite C 541.686.1732
CRESWELL 195 Melton Rd. 541.686.1732
or visit us at www.thornton-ortho.com
GIVE US A CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR COMPLIMENTARY CONSULTATION TODAY!

Hello, neighbor!
Matt Bjornn ChFC RICP, Agent
Bus: 541-942-2623
www.bjornninsurance.com
Please stop by and say, "Hi!"
I'm looking forward to serving your needs for insurance and financial services. Here to help life go right.
CALL ME TODAY.
1801132 State Farm, Bloomington, IL