

Cottage Grove

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CG costume designer gets national recognition (A6)

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WEATHER



Partly cloudy with a
high of 82 and a low
tonight of 52.
Full forecast on A5

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DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Will Flint (center) teaches basket weaving with willow stems to a group of Singing Creek students on Monday during the center's Opal Whiteley Nature Camp.

Singing Creek summer camps made available for low-income families

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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Summer camps with a unique historical focus are making their debut this August at Singing Creek Educational Center (SCEC). The local nonprofit has recently received \$7,745 from the Oregon Community Foundation's Summer Learning Grant. The grant is geared toward underprivileged children in the Cottage Grove area, enabling them to attend free summer camps this year. "It was specifically in response to COVID," said Singing Creek Executive Director Karen Rainsong, see **CAMPS** on A9



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

As well as crafts, Singing Creek offers a range of lessons in cooking, gardening, sewing and nature exploration.

Safe Routes to School 'substantially' complete

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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With the completion of construction work on the intersection of Eighth Street and Taylor Avenue, the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project has wrapped up the last major item on its list. Last month, contractor Wildish Construction informed the city the project was "substantially complete," meaning the project is fit for its intended use. Remaining obligations include an inspection and a punch list of minor items such as restriping, relocating a fence and grass re-seeding. "It's basically little tweaks," said City Engineer Ron Bradsby of the remaining items on the list. Once the city approves

the completion, there will be a one-year warranty on the project to fix any issues which arise, such as stress fractures to pavement. Depending on a few factors such as the success of reseeded efforts, the city should approve completion by this fall, Bradsby estimated. SRTS is a nationwide effort to assist communities in identifying and reducing barriers and hazards to children walking or bicycling to and from school through infrastructure improvements and safety education. Cottage Grove's nearly \$1.7 SRTS project addresses key safety concerns on five routes to Harrison Elementary and Lincoln Middle schools. More than \$1.2 million in grant funds from the Oregon Department of



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Crosswalks, clearer lines of sight and ADA-compliant sidewalks are some of the improvements which have been made as part of the Safe Routes to School project.

Transportation (ODOT) toward the Safe Routes to School project was approved by Cottage Grove City Council vote in January of 2019. After lacking dedicated funding in Oregon for many years, the SRTS pro-

gram was revitalized in 2017 with the passage of the state's landmark transportation funding package. Among 112 applications for the SRTS grant, 24 were selected for funding.

see **SAFE** on A10

BMD board: No Proud Boys in parade

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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Concerns that Boemia Mining Days (BMD) would include the Proud Boys in its main parade this year were put to rest Thursday (July 8) when a self-identified leader of the far-right group told a member of the BMD board he would not be submitting an application. His decision to not participate was made after the board received backlash from the community. Early last week, rumors of the Proud Boys' interest in participating in the parade made their way through the community and BMD organizers confirmed as much on July 6 with a Facebook post which said the board would meet Thursday to "make a decision on whether or not to allow [a] controversial organization to participate in our parade." On July 4, an unauthorized Independence Day parade was held in Creswell after organizers were denied a permit. Organizers and participants in the parade included those affiliated with the Proud Boys. It was understood that the same organizers expressed interest in the BMD parade. Following the BMD post, dozens of emails and social media messages flooded board members' inboxes. Letters from sponsors as well as community members expressed deep concern that the group would even be considered, with many claiming they would sever ties with the BMD organization should the Proud Boys be allowed in the parade. One concerned community member, who preferred to remain anonymous, said they were worried that the group would "highjack" the parade in a fashion similar to the unpermitted parade in Creswell. In a letter to the BMD board, one person wrote: "If allowed, that [Proud Boys] participation would cause dissension, promotion of the wrong kind of values, possibly endanger public safety and order,

see **BMD** on A11

Rotary members are making an impact
in the fight against COVID-19 in our community.
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