

Cottage Grove Est. 1889 Sentinel



Model hobby club seeks new members (A6)

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WEATHER

Rain and snow with a high of 39 and a low tonight of 32
Full forecast on A5

COLUMNIST

Mary Ellen
Pet Tips 'n' Tales
A5

SPORTS & REC

Bulldog girls BB bowl over Toledo
B1

- **RECORDS**
Obituaries
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A2
- **LORANE NEWS**
A5
- **CLASSIFIEDS**
Listings and public notices
B5-B6

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A White Christmas in The Grove



Photos by Damien Sherwood (center), Kendrick Murphy (left) and Kenneth Roberts (right)

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

Snow blanketed the region just in time to frost the southern Willamette Valley in a "White Christmas" last weekend, with residents

reporting anywhere from a few inches to a foot of snow in Cottage Grove and the surrounding areas. Roads began accumulating snow on Christmas Day and by Monday several area businesses had temporarily closed due to employees un-

able to make it to work. Some residents in the Dorena and London areas reported losing electricity this week as well, though no prolonged outages have been reported as of *The Sentinel's* press deadline on Tuesday (Dec. 28).

Electricity company Pacific Power has stated it is aware of scattered outages around the state caused by the winter storms and reminds the public to always treat downed power lines as live and dangerous.

See **GROVE A7**

Nonprofit looks to home sharing for housing solution

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

While Oregon faces a housing shortage ranked among the worst in the nation, nonprofit Home Share Oregon is trying to empower homeowners to be part of the solution.

Judy Smith, Lane County area representative for the nonprofit, is working to get the word out about the service, which pairs homeowners with potential tenants.

"It's all about compatibility," she said. "What we're hoping to do is to facilitate home sharing with compatible, stable, safe people."

Home Share Oregon has been around for just over two years, originally under the umbrella of Harbor of Hope, a Portland-based nonprofit which seeks to address the diverse needs of Portland area's homeless population.

See **HOUSING A3**

Lane County families surprised with holiday gift cards



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNITED WAY
Gift cards good for \$50 were distributed to families throughout the county last week, many of which made their way into Cottage Grove and the surrounding communities.

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

For the second year in a row, many Lane County families received a small, unexpected gift in time for the holidays.

In a collaboration between the Lane Community Health Council and United Way of Lane County, 1,700 families across Lane County received \$50 gift cards for their holiday celebrations and day-to-day needs.

"We are excited to partner with United Way again to relieve a little bit of pressure during this busy time of year for families throughout Lane County," said Tony Scurto, community impact committee chair for the Lane Community Health Council.

See **GIFT A8**



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