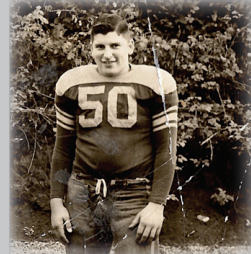


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**This year's class**

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# Cottage Grove Sentinel

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2015

SOUTH LANE COUNTY'S MOST AWARD-WINNING NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1889

VOLUME 126 • NUMBER 45

## Saturday-evening shooting leaves one dead, one injured

Shots fired in a Cottage Grove neighborhood early Saturday evening led to the death of one man and injuries for another.

Cottage Grove Police responded to a call indicating that shots had been fired in a home on Curry Avenue just before 6 p.m. Saturday, according to Police Chief Mike Grover.

Arriving on the scene, officers located a male subject with a

gunshot wound, who was subsequently transported by a South Lane Fire and Rescue Ambulance for emergency medical care.

Cottage Grove Police then requested assistance from the Lane County Sheriff's Office in searching for a possible suspect. The Lane County Sheriff's Office Special Response Team (SRT) used armored rescue vehicles to approach the location and located a deceased subject nearby.

The Sheriff's Office was continuing to withhold the identity of the two men at Sentinel press time Monday and offered no additional information on the circumstances of the incident, citing their ongoing investigation. But Grover indicated that a feud between neighbors may have played a part.

"There's been a feud for years and years," he said. "We've been out here many, many times."



photo by Jon Stinnett

Police Chief Mike Grover and Officer Shawn Branstetter talk with an acquaintance of one of the men involved in Saturday's shooting.

## City gathers feedback on transit plan

Next open house tentatively set for late June

BY MATT HOLLANDER  
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The City of Cottage Grove is in the process of updating its Transportation System Plan (TSP), which will be used to identify the projects, strategies and priorities that will address the city's transit needs through 2035.

On Tuesday, April 28, the City hosted an open house at Stacy's Covered Bridge Restaurant for the community to find out more about the initial proposal and to share feedback.

According to City Planner Amanda Ferguson, 15 to 20 people attended this session; however, she doesn't believe this turnout is indicative of the community's interest in this process. She said that the City has had the same materials available on its website for some time, and many people have already shared their thoughts through various advocacy groups such as the Bicycle Safety Coalition.

One of the key road segments in the plan is on Highway 99 between the Cottage Grove Connector and Woodson Bridge. There have been 16 collisions on this segment over the past five years of available data. Ferguson said that the proposed solution for this segment includes a roundabout, which would be the first such road feature in the City. She added that this idea has prompted some people to ask why there couldn't be more roundabouts in Cottage Grove.

Ferguson was pleased to say that state transportation authorities have already indicated an interest in this segment and have made preliminary plans to complete six separate projects at once,

Please see **PLAN**, Page 8A



photo by Matt Hollander

School Board candidate Nevin Beckes offers a comment during a forum hosted by the Blackberry Pie Society Thursday night.

## Communication key at School Board forum

BY MATT HOLLANDER  
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

'Communication' permeated much of the dialogue at the South Lane School Board forum Thursday evening at Bohemia Elementary.

Given the recent, highly publicized saga of Eugene School District 4J, which hit a crescendo on April 29 when the Register Guard published secret emails between board members that showed potential violations of state public meeting laws, it's no wonder that many questions and answers during Thursday night's session centered on how the nine candidates for the South Lane School Board would communicate should they be elected next month.

During the forum, which was moderated by Rob Dickinson and broadcast live by KNND radio, each candidate was given a minute or a minute-and-a-half to respond in turn to the same questions.

"Frequently, openly and honestly," said Cirila Appeloff of how she would communicate with her constituents. Appeloff, a stay-at-home mom, is running against incumbent Marlene Martin.

Many candidates echoed similar sentiments of transparency in their responses and added that they would invite constituents to contact them through a variety of means, including email, social media and in-person. However, in a later question, the candidates were asked to offer their

thoughts on South Lane's decision to remove from its website personal contact information of current board members in lieu of district-issued emails.

Martin, who had a 22-year career as an educational assistant in the district, said that while the policy could be interpreted as a limitation of access, it was introduced to avoid situations just like the one currently facing 4J; it keeps all of their communications in one place and leaves no doubt as to whether board members are complying with open meeting laws.

Dickinson also asked the candidates how they would envision their relationship with Superintendent

Please see **FORUM**, Page 8A

## Bond committee recommends new Harrison, tech and security upgrades

Initial estimates put the cost of a new school at \$21.2 million

BY MATT HOLLANDER  
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

On Monday evening, the South Lane School Board voted unanimously to move ahead with plans to pursue a recommended 25-year bond that's estimated to generate \$29.8 million to replace Har-

ison Elementary and address other areas of need in the District. The next steps, which were outlined by the bond advisory committee in its recommendation to the school board, include forming planning and outreach committees and submitting requests for proposals.

The 47-member bond advisory committee, which first met in late January, recently completed a thorough and robust process of reviewing current facilities and prioritizing areas of need.

While a replacement for Harrison was always the focal point,

the bond advisory committee offered unanimous support for four other items on its list, including deferred maintenance projects, upgrades to safety and security and hardware and technology throughout the district, and a major renovation of the Warren H. Daugherty Aquatics Center.

Initial estimates suggest that it would cost \$21.2 million to construct and furnish a new elementary school. While the amount of funding for other projects would ultimately be determined after the new school is completed,

the bond advisory committee estimated that it would take just under \$8 million to address the other top priorities.

In addition, the bond advisory committee also offered support for upgrades to the High School's performing arts venue and relocating athletic fields that would be lost through construction of the new elementary school to the high school's campus. It's estimated that these projects would cost \$150,000 and \$1.5 million, respectively.

Members of the bond advisory committee who presented

the recommendation on Monday expressed confidence in their proposal in part due to a survey that drew 485 responses and showed the 89 percent of those respondents would support a general obligation bond to replace Harrison if there was no increase to the high school bond tax levy rate.

"The community has spoken, and we need to move forward on this," said school board member Sherry Duerst-Higgins.

The school board then passed its motion to move forward with next steps.

Superintendent Krista Parent said that new committees will likely be formed out of the bond advisory committee. In addition to their knowledge of the process thus far, the bond advisory committee represents a broad cross-section of the community, including district employees, city employees, business owners and parents, among others.

In addition to submitting RFPs for a new school, Parent also said that the district will seek a formal estimate for a renovation of Harrison.

**For the Birds**  
 Daytripper discovers a bird paradise, page 11A



**Trees topple**  
 Downtown business owners removing maples, page 3A



**For the Birds**  
 Daytripper discovers a bird paradise, page 11A

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Ron Schneider.....521-8713  
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Licensed in the State of Oregon

**CONTACT US**

On the Internet www.cgsentinel.com  
 By telephone (541) 942-3325  
 By fax (541) 942-3328  
 By e-mail cgnnews@cgsentinel.com  
 By mail P.O. Box 35, Cottage Grove, OR 97424  
 In person Corner of Sixth and Whiteaker, Cottage Grove

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