

Sigh of Relief details nursery efforts

Local mom shares story of how FRN helped her family

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Help for free? What a relief! Cottage Grove mom and Family Relief Nursery client Bethany Cushman capped off the Nursery's annual Sigh of Relief luncheon on Tuesday, June 16 with a stirring, forceful and emotional account of the troubles that brought her and her young son to seek help when she thought help was nowhere to be found. "My life was messy, and I knew I needed changes," said Cushman, who said she dealt with substance abuse issues, the father of her son's sentence to prison and an unsafe family situation before seeking out

help in the Nursery. Cushman would eventually utilize the Nursery's respite care program, which gives parents a needed break to attend to tasks besides child-rearing, and her son found help in its Wobblers class. "I felt like I had my own support team to help and encourage me," she said through tears. "I'm substance-free, able to track my spending and my son is safe. The Nursery offers invaluable skills, and they teach you how to do things for yourself." Nursery staff members Pamela Helms and Samantha Dieke stood by and encouraged Cushman as she recounted her tale. A large crowd that gathered



photo by Greg Lee
Family Relief Nursery staff members Pamela Helms and Samantha Dieke support Bethany Cushman as she shares her story at the Sigh of Relief luncheon.

at Cottage Grove High School for the luncheon met other members of the "support team," including volunteers Ginger Abraham and Gary Sparks, who were presented the Betty

Wright Good Neighbor Award for efforts on behalf of the Nursery and other community organizations.

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Creswell man drives into path of log truck

Officials with Oregon State Police say that a Creswell man who was killed when his pickup collided with a log truck on Friday morning appeared to have intentionally steered into the path of the truck, according to statements made by witnesses. According to Lieutenant Lang Hinkle, at about 6:30 a.m., OSP Troopers and emergency personnel, including personnel with South Lane County Fire and Rescue, responded to the report of a head-on collision on Interstate 5 near milepost 182 just north of Creswell. Preliminary information indicated that a 1999 Dodge Pickup operated by Keith E. Henningsen, age 36, of Creswell began driving northbound in the southbound

lanes of Interstate 5 from the Creswell interchange. Police say Henningsen's vehicle drove a short distance before striking a 2001 Kenworth truck loaded with logs head-on. Henningsen was pronounced deceased on scene. The operator of the Kenworth, Robert A. Franklin, 62, of Vader, Wash., was transported to a local hospital for non-life threatening injuries. According to witnesses, Franklin tried to swerve to avoid Henningsen's vehicle but it appeared Henningsen intentionally steered into the path of the truck. Further investigation revealed Henningsen had made suicidal comments to family members and was specific about driving into the path of a log truck.

Hayden Homes seeks zone change for adjacent property

BY JON STINNETT
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At its Wednesday, June 17 meeting, the Cottage Grove Planning Commission recommended the approval of a zone change for a parcel of land at the northwest corner of Highway 99 and River Walk Place, land on which its owner hopes to build additional housing. Hayden Homes, a developer with communities in Idaho, Oregon and Washington, began building the 73-lot Riverwalk development on the south end of Cottage Grove in 2008. The company reported strong sales of the homes, which were marketed to first-time homebuyers, throughout the economic downturn. It had originally

sought to sell the commercial land fronting the subdivision, according to City Planner Amanda Ferguson, who said the City's zoning laws mandate that 10 housing units per acre be built on land zoned for residential development. This means that Hayden must build at least 32 homes on the property, though plans for the additional development have not been made public. Ferguson said Hayden Homes has 180 days to submit its plans for a site design review that is not yet complete. She said she expects the City Council, which receives the recommendation from the Planning Commission, to consider and possibly adopt the zone change at its July 27 meeting.



photo by Jon Stinnett
Hayden Homes has applied for a zone change to pave the way for residential housing on the lot next to its Riverwalk development.

Art walk to showcase 'Paw Prints'

Cottage Grove's June Art Walk, themed "Paw Prints," takes place this Friday, June 26 from 6-8 p.m. Art Walk offers the chance to peruse local art in charming historic downtown Cottage Grove on the last Friday of every month from April to October. Complimentary

treats, tastings, and live music accompany a walk throughout downtown, and Art Walk is a free event. Artist Listing: Apple Pie: Randy Deering, Pet Watercolors

Kalapuya Books: Candee Brennan, animal portraits
Imagine It Framed: Horst Hittenberger, Oil Painting and Plein Aire
The Crafty Mercantile: The Basket Cases, Pine Needle Baskets; Patricia Shea, Cat

Watercolors.
Opal Center for Arts and Education: Rae Ann Pendleton' Horse Paintings and Drawings
Bookmine: Gloria Campuzano, author of the book "Alimentary My Dear Timmy," a book on cats.

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