

School Continued from A1

the project a success, she mentioned groups including Jack Sprats, Rally Coffee, the school board and the political action committee, Build it for Kids.

"The PAC worked for more than seven months, contacting more than 5,000 community members," Bridgens said.

The PAC was not the only entity to work towards passing the bond. According to Bridgens, Parent spoke at more than 50 events around the community to educate voters on the need for a new school and the bond process.

For Parent and the school board, the construction came down to improving students' education and school experience.

"It can be seen at the high school," Parent said. The Cottage Grove High School was built more than 10 years ago, expanding classrooms and the overall footprint of the build-

ing. "Since the high school has been built, we saw our students go from some of the lowest test scores and highest drop out rates to having one of the highest graduation rates," she said. Test scores have also improved.

Senator Prozanski praised the efforts of the community and the school board alike, saying, "They took on an effort to make sure children had the opportunity to learn. This is an investment in the community and it's what the kids deserve from us."

Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Travis Palmer also spoke to the school's investment in the city, noting the direct correlation between education and the financial success of a community.

Rounding out the list of speakers was Cottage Grove City Mayor Jeff Gowing who graduated from the old Cottage Grove High School just beyond the fence line of the ground-

breaking ceremony, 37 years prior.

The new Harrison Elementary School will feature Pacific Northwest designs and enough room to house students who are currently crammed into the current Harrison building.

An art installation will greet students at the entrance while a "living room" of sorts will enable visitors to view other art work along the ceiling line. The library will house pine cone light fixtures and a mural of Pacific Northwest mountain ranges and reading areas.

The school will be separated by color to guide students to the correct grade-level areas and after a school board meeting held last week, come with a list of "extras."

In descending order, the board agreed to place new street lights outside the school, add a covered play structure and solar tubes along with several other "alternate" construction options.

The price tag for the new Harrison Elementary School landed at just under \$23 million and the

project is expected to be completed in time for students to attend in the fall of 2018.

Jim Markus bestowed a blessing on the project during the groundbreaking ceremony asking that the construction be guided and added, "We are

bold to ask that this project go smoothly and even come in under budget."

Superintendent Krista Parent raises a glass with community leaders at the groundbreaking ceremony on March 23.



Meet the DJ/Program Host



CAMERON REITEN

I was born in the small town of Valley City, North Dakota on December 21, of 1986. I moved to Oregon in 1994 when I was seven years old. I graduated from Cottage Grove High School in 2005. In 2003 I came to KNND as an intern in the news department. My eight week internship served to reinforce my conviction that I wanted a career in radio. I was hired in 2005 after graduation and have been working at the radio station since. I have numerous duties at KNND, among them local news producer, host of the Rockin' Oldies Morning Show, as well as the Round Up Classic Country and Western Hoedown, (Monday and Thursday 11:00 am - 3:00 pm) and the ever popular Swap and Shop show. As of June of 2013, I am also now the proud owner of KNND, and love the opportunity to carry on the tradition of service that has been the hallmark of KNND.

321 Main Street
Cottage Grove, OR 97424
Lobby Phone: 541.942.2468
Studio Line: 541.942.5548
Online requests: request@knnd.com



Grab a BITE of Cottage Grove

Restaurant GUIDE

FIESTA CANTINA SPECIALS
M-MARGARITA MONDAYS
T-TACO TUESDAYS W/FRESH MADE TORTILLAS
W-WELLS DOWN CALLS UP
TH-TRIVIA NIGHT
FRI. & SAT. DJ & DANCING
SUN FOOTBALL PRO SPECIALS, GIANT TV

EL TAPATIO 725 Gibbs • Cottage Grove
 Mexican Restaurant & Cantina (541) 767-0457

delicious
FAMILY DINING

We'll make you feel right at home with great food and friendly service!

OPEN DAILY
 Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
 6am-10pm Sun-Thur
 6am-10pm Fri & Sat.

Daily Specials
 20% off for Active Military & Vets.
 Tuesday Night is Senior Night 4-8 pm.

the **Vintage Inn** FAMILY RESTAURANT
 1590 Gateway Blvd. • Cottage Grove
 541-942-7144

STEWART Continued from A1

"I've always said I wanted to run for that seat," he told The Sentinel. However, out of respect for Stewart, Fleck never tossed his hat into the ring. "He's done such amazing things for the county that I would never run against him."

However, now that Stewart has stepped down from his post, Fleck said his application has already been turned in.

If selected, Fleck would have to leave his position at Community Sharing, something he said is a well-known fact.

"I've told my board that I always say I love my job and I'll be here forever unless there's a spot on the county commission," he said.

Fleck, like Matthews, is a longtime East Lane County resident. And while he says the other applicants are qualified as well, he likes his chances. "I'm excited," he said.

So too, is Weeldreyer, who said she was excited to get back to

work helping county residents find employment utilizing programs she began and implemented during her first stint as commissioner. And while being chosen for the commission seat would mean leaving some of her community projects, she said she would continue to serve Lane County residents.

Likewise, Matthews is currently working with East Lane residents in Oakridge. "They're fighting a gravel mine that would chop off the top of the butte that's the background of that town," he said. Taking the job would not mean leaving his horse farm but Matthews said he isn't stopping at a denial to Stewart's seat. "Chosen or not, I will be campaigning in 2018," he said.

Gary Williams did not respond to requests for an interview before press deadline.

Bridge Continued from A1

Several residents came out to support the restoration of the Swinging Bridge with speakers commenting on the need for the bridge to remain as historically accurate as possible. They also noted that it was important for the bridge to swing.

"Option two is going to give you the most movement," Bradsby said. "Option three will move when heavily loaded and option one will probably not move."

Meyers was quick to point out, however, "The move because they don't meet the standard."

Option three, which was described as a mix between options one and two, could cost the city as much as \$600,000. And while council members noted that money is certainly a concern, Meyers informed the board that option two's price could also rise.

"The question is, if the price goes up and it is more than option one, do you still want to go with option two?" he asked.

Councilman Jake Boone said it would depend on how much higher the price rose and suggested tabling the discussion.

However, the letter of intent for the grant is due March 1, preventing a tabled discussion.

"I guess there's three facets of the discussion," Boone said. "The historic look of the bridge, safety and the cost." Boone said safety would have to be paramount and after hearing public comment, maintaining the historic nature of the bridge was a close second.

Dana Merryday spoke during public comment and informed the board that Friends of the Swinging Bridge, a new community group dedicated to restoring the bridge, was eager to help raise the funds needed to restore the bridge.

Resident Cindy Weeldreyer also spoke before the board, asking that the bridge remain as historic as possible.

"This is the one thing everyone agrees on. They want their bridge back," he said.

The council opted for option two with Mayor Jeff Gowing saying, "I've seen that bridge closed for safety maybe three times in my life but it always comes back."

Joyful Singing
Spiritual Worship
Practical Bible Preaching

Sunday 11:00 AM

HOPE FELLOWSHIP
 United Pentecostal Church

100 S. Gateway Blvd
 Cottage Grove, Oregon
 541-942-2061
 www.hopefellowshipupc.com

Find us on facebook.

Douglas G. Maddess, DMD
FAMILY AND GENERAL DENTISTRY
 Brightening Lives One Smile at a Time

Comprehensive Family Dentistry
 Now Offering Digital X-Rays
 Financing Options Available

Welcoming New Patients
 Call for an appointment today!

914 South 4th St. • CG • 541-942-1559
See our new website:
douglasgaddessdmd.com

Happy Birthday
Celebrate Sassy's
13th birthday

at the
This 'n That store,
33 N. 8th St.
Cake will be served
March 30, 31
and April 1, 2017.
In lieu of gifts,
you are welcome
to donate pet food.

WE CARRY DRAINAGE PIPE AND CULVERTS!

Family owned and operated for over 47 years.

BOYCE & SONS

LANDSCAPE AND BUILDING MATERIALS
Open 7 days a week!
 79149 N. River Road
541-942-4664

U-HAUL
 AUTHORIZED DEALER