



Cottage Grove Sentinel

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SPORTS

The Lady Lions can't pull out a win against Sutherlin. PAGE B1

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Full six-day forecast inside. Page A5

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COTTAGE GROVE COMES OUT FOR EARTH DAY

Council's 2017 goals

By Caitlyn May
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The Cottage Grove City Council has a long list.

During the Monday, April 24 meeting of the board, Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers presented councilors with a list of their goals for 2017. The list was compiled during a closed board session in February.

"You have quite the list," Meyers told council. "It's staff's hope that this can be a two or three year goal list just because of the length," he said.

The council divided its goals into five sections including quality of life, public safety, infrastructure, economic development and governance. The top goals included the continued development of city parks, strengthening the community emergency preparedness through promotion and education, fund, replace and maintain community infrastructure and conduct an analysis of the inventory of available land for residential development. The list also called for a neighborhood infrastructure city educational (or NICE) block party.

The council agreed to adopt the list and complete it in no more than two years.

The full list of goals will be available to the public on the city's website at cottagegrove.org.



Key Club members help clean-up Main St. during Earth Day on Saturday, April 22.



River Hoskins, 5, tries her hand at crossing the "Swinging Bridge" at Coiner Park.



Faye Stewart helps local volunteers weed All-America City Square Park on April 22.

Saturday events saw crowds turn out to celebrate Earth Day and help clean-up Main St.

By Caitlyn May
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Amy B. Merryday was on duty. She was standing guard in the middle of the field at Coiner Park, her antennae askew after what she jokingly described as a run-in with a windshield. Her bee costume made her easy to find but the 10-foot tall structure she guarded made it easier. Eventually, the wooden poles and rope would become a bridge for children to cross, all in an effort to bring

attention to, and donations for, the Swinging Bridge.

Friends of the Swinging Bridge were one of over a dozen participants in the Earth Day celebration held at Coiner Park on Saturday, April 22. While the bridge group asked for donations and aimed to spread information about the bridge in need of repair, other groups sold wares, food and gave our information.

Food vendors lined the park while children flooded the playground. Despite swings between pouring

rain and sunshine, the event drew residents to the park where it began with a Native American blessing. Music and entertainment were provided for the duration of the six-hour event.

While some residents got a start on Earth Day at 10 a.m. in Coiner, others were hard at work an hour earlier, meeting at All-America City Square Park to give back to Mother Nature. The Cottage Grove High School Key Club came out to help councilman Ken Roberts on his

Please see EARTH PG A10

Neighborhood watch group meets, clarifies intention

By Caitlyn May
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"This is not a vigilante group. This is not an armed militia." That was the final word from Cottage Grove Police Chief Scott Shepherd on the rumors that originated on a popular social media page concerning efforts by residents to start a neighborhood watch group.

Three residents and three city councilors showed up at city hall for the Stand Up for Cottage Grove meeting held on Friday, April 21 where Shepherd addressed the rumors and offered suggestions on how to properly aid the police department in the ongoing fight against petty theft and other small, neighborhood crimes.

The frenzy regarding the "armed militia" started not long after resident Reese Bailey posted a message on a Cottage Grove Facebook site to gauge interest in a neighborhood watch group. Hundreds of comments and several pejoratives later, the post was taken down but the issue continued to spark contentious conversations across down. While Bailey noted he would carry his firearm for his own protection, he insisted the group was an "observe, document and report" model and would not take direct action against any individual. However, the original post was taken down after several participants responded with comments that spoke of shooting individuals and "tweakers." Resident Venice Mason was a participant in the thread who said she attempted to express concern over some of the posters' desire to carry concealed firearms.

Mayor Gowing and I spoke to him and we do not believe that his intention was to start an armed militia. I don't think that's his true heart," Shepherd said. He went on to note that he believed the original post was taken out of context and that Oregon is an open

Please see NEIGHBORHOOD PG A10



Models ready to walk the runway for the 10th year in a row for Opal Theatre's Trashion Show. Designers used discarded trash such as plastic bags and cotton balls to create fashion lines.

"Trashion" Show makes a splash at Opal Theatre for 10th year in a row

By Caitlyn May
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Michele Rose is not a designer but on Saturday night, she had a three-piece collection walk the runway; not in her native New York's Bryant Park during Fashion Week, but in Cottage Grove as part of the Opal Theatre's 10th Annual Trashion Show.

"Rubbish Renaissance" debuted on Friday, April 21 to a sold out house and continued through Sunday, showcasing 11 designers' work.

Master of Ceremonies, Charles Mattoon "emerged from an underground space" after crafting his costume as a ninja creature fashioned from

a pogo stick, cones, bright red material and other trash that was at his disposal.

Opal Center Director Leah Murray also created a costume, said to be inspired by government red tape and piles of paperwork. "This year's Rubbish Renaissance marks 10 years of Opal's Trashion shows," she said. "The first show, 'The Truth is Stranger than Fiction' in 2007, changed the path for the organization."

Opal Theatre is a community arts center that invites residents to take part in plays, musicals and this past Saturday, fashion shows.

Designers of all ages took the theatre up on the

Please see TRASHION PG A3

ART WALK IN DRAIN

By Caitlyn May
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When Stephanie Barrow moved to Drain, she was immediately struck with the absence of family-friendly activities. Soon, she was pulling her own paints out and hosting Saturday art sessions, free of charge and on Saturday, April 22, the idea morphed into something bigger.

"Art Everywhere" was held in downtown with people coming as far away from Eugene to help make the event a success.

"Our goal is to create accessible art events and in this community, that means free because if the event isn't free, half the people can't come," Barrow said.

Saturday's event was free of

Please see DRAIN PG A3

COMMUNITY

DIVA takes over Drain

With Drain's library closed, DIVA is stepping up. PAGE A5



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Arrested: CG's women

What happens when a woman is arrested in a city without a place to house them? PAGE B1

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VOLUME 129 • NUMBER 41



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Come chat about the community!

