

Globe is warming — 5A
 Jewel Heist— 3A
 Plans for Lakeside Park — 1B



Little Free Libraries — page 3A

Lions stave off Sisters

Neely shines in fourth quarter, page 1B



Cottage Grove Sentinel

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2015

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

VOLUME 126 • NUMBER 30

Also inside:



At the movies

Film with many local ties premieres in Oregon this weekend, page 3A



Dock of the Bay

County hopes to build new marina at Baker Bay, page 3A



Street talk

photo by Jon Stinnett

A driver maneuvers down South Sixth St. in Cottage Grove. City officials call this stretch of road one of the City's worst, and the City is exploring ways to finance repairs.

County, City exploring funding for maintenance backlog

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Lane County officials continue to explore the feasibility of a \$35 registration fee for most vehicles registered here, with the proceeds generated to pay for road and bridge maintenance. But officials with the City of Cottage Grove say that roads within the city limits need work, too, and there may be no easy answer for funding those improvements.

The County manages over 400 bridges and 1400 miles of road within its boundaries, and, like many of Oregon's counties, is facing a funding shortfall to maintain them. Data shows a gap of about \$9 million between the County's road revenues and expenses, a gap covered in recent years by drawing from the County's reserves.

County Commissioner Sid Leiken appeared before the state legislature

in December to make the case for the state's counties, which together share a 54 percent shortfall for road maintenance. Leiken mainly reported the plight of Oregon's "Timber Counties," which until recently enjoyed the infusion of federal revenues to their road funds, particularly funding from the Secure Rural Schools Act, which has largely dried up, making ongoing maintenance an ongoing concern.

"We're not in the business of offering up new capital projects," Leiken told the Sentinel in November. "It's about maintaining the infrastructure we've already got in place."

Still, Leiken said that Lane County's roads are not in awful shape, comparatively.

"The County's roads are in pretty good shape," he said. "The challenge is to maintain them so we don't have to pay to replace them in 10 years' time."

But Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers said that the County's roads are in better shape than many in Cottage Grove, due mostly to those same timber revenues.

"Our roads are worse than the County's," he said. "The vehicle registration fee could be a tough sell."

Back in November, county officials approached the Cottage Grove City Council to seek its support for placing the vehicle registration fee before voters on the ballot this May.

The Council gave its support for placing the County's vehicle registration fee on the ballot (but stopped short of supporting the fee itself), and 40 percent of the revenue generated is earmarked to return to the cities in Lane County.

Still, the \$165,000 Cottage Grove

Please see **STREETS**, Page 10A

Sheriff's Office investigating rural homicide

Officials with the Lane County Sheriff's Office are continuing their investigation into the death of a man reportedly caused by a gunshot wound southeast of Cottage Grove on Thursday evening.

Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a gunshot wound at a residence on Lower Brice Creek Road past Dorena at about 7:30 p.m. Thursday, according to a news release. The male subject was transported to the hospital, where he later died from his wound.

Carrie Carver, who serves as LCSO's Public Information Officer, said the agency was continuing to withhold the identity of the victim Monday evening as it worked to contact his next-of-kin. The Medical Examiner's Office is also still attempting to determine the cause and manner of his death, Carver said.

No arrests had been made by Sentinel press time Monday, though the Sheriff's Office did state that they "have no reason to believe that there is an ongoing threat to the community in connection with this case."

Police seek links in string of burglaries

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

A string of home-invasion burglaries has kept Cottage Grove Police busy through the first two weeks of 2015, and work continues to determine if the crimes are somehow related.

Commander Scott Shepherd said CGPD has not yet established any "direct links" between the seven burglaries that occurred between Jan. 2 and Jan. 14, with six break-ins occurring in a five-day span. Police continue to try to establish those links this week, however.

"In my experience, burglars tend to hit multiple places, and if we can make that link between them, we might be able to narrow down suspects in these cases," Shepherd said.

The burglaries — which are defined as illegal entry into a building with the intent of committing a crime — all involved homes or outbuildings, Shepherd said. The series of home invasions began Jan. 2 at a location on S. 6th St.; affected addresses also include addresses on N. 10th and N. 9th streets, Whiteaker Ave., Harvey Rd. and Pennoyer Ave.

Shepherd said police will also work to establish any possible correlations between the burglaries and those known to have committed such crimes here in the past.

"We have several people living in Cottage Grove that have been charged with burglary in the past, so we can try to link up the evidence we have, the M.O. (modus operandi) of the individual — we're always looking for connections."

The type of property targeted during burglaries often offers a clue as to the perpetrator, Shepherd said, adding that two home invasions where tools and equipment were taken could potentially have a link. He said crooks typically target items they know they can get rid of and quickly turn around for cash.

Please see **BURGLARIES**, Page 10A

Chamber honors the year's best from citizens, businesses

BY MATT HOLLANDER
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Well over 200 people attended the 66th annual Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce Awards and Installation Banquet, held Saturday evening at Emerald Valley Resort and Event Center in Creswell.

"That was by far the best turnout we've seen in several years," said Chamber Executive Director Travis Palmer. "A lot of people questioned the move to Emerald Valley, but I think that the attendance validated our belief that we had outgrown our past locations."

The Distinguished Service award was given to Gene O'Neil, who has been a member of the Cottage Grove Kiwanis Club since he moved to the area over 20 years ago. Over that time, O'Neil has typ-

ically cut 40-50 cords of wood per year, which the club has sold to support the local Special Olympics chapter and scholarships for high-school students.

Tiffany Thackara was installed as the new president of the Chamber Board of Directors, filling the spot vacated by Tim Wilson.

The Junior First Citizen scholarships were awarded to Justin Bennett and Jarett Raade. As the runner up, Raade — who plans on attending the University of Oregon — received a \$750 scholarship. Bennett, who plans to enroll at Oregon State, received \$1000.

In the middle of the ceremony, Palmer announced that the Dessert Dash — which solicited donations in exchange for a better spot in the desert line — fully funded

Please see **CHAMBER**, Page 10A



photo by Greg Lee

South Lane Wheels Executive Director Ruth Linoz accepts the First Citizen Award for her work at the nonprofit and in the broader community.

Rain Country Realty Inc.

NEWLY LISTED

1541 Bennett Creek Road. Great potential for 3.22 secluded acres in town with Bennett Creek through it! Fixer 2 bedroom home but stall barn and fenced pastures! Really cool project at

\$119,900

PRICE REDUCTIONS!

- 205 Chad Drive 3/2 in golf community reduced to \$205,000!
- Splittable, pretty lot on LaRae, needs to sell. \$32,000
- 130 Creek View in Drain nearly 7 splittable acres with cabins! Down to \$255,000
- 301 N First St in Drain. Commercial building reduced to \$150,000

RainCountryRealty.com raincountryrealty@gmail.com 1320 Hwy 99 • 541-942-7246



Principal Brokers
 Teresa Abbott221-1735
 Frank Brazell.....953-2407
 Lane Hillendahl942-6838
 Brokers
 Ron Schneider.....521-8713
 Laurie Phillip.....430-0756
 Valerie Nash521-1618

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 cgsentinel@cgsentinel.com
 By mail P.O. Box 35, Cottage Grove, OR 97424
 In person Corner of Sixth and Whiteaker, Cottage Grove

WEATHER



Afternoon sun

HIGH

52

LOW

36

CONTENTS

Calendar.....11B Obituaries.....2A
 Channel Guide.....5B Opinion.....4A
 Classified ads.....6B Public Safety.....5A
 Sports.....1B



6 18134 42405 2

75 CENTS