

Foundation presents grants to local non-profits

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel



photo by Jon Stinnett

Judd Van Gorder (far left) and Travis Palmer present a grant to the Cottage Grove Museum's Tara Sue Hughart for the Museum's Passport to History program, a scavenger hunt of sorts for local historical information provided for Cottage Grove's youth .

The Cottage Grove Community Foundation saluted efforts at community betterment while distributing grant awards to 13 nonprofits at the Community Center on Tuesday, March 17.

Foundation President Judd Van Gorder said that, between the organization's grant and scholarship programs, the Foundation would distribute over \$100,000 in the community this year.

Programs funded included transition facilitation at South Lane School District, whose David Bascue explained that the \$1000 foundation grant will allow parents who do not speak English to hear a translation of a school-related function they attend from wherever they choose to sit in the school's auditorium.

South Lane Fire and Rescue Chief John Wooten said

the fire department will use its \$767 grant to update the fire prevention videos it uses to educate local children on fire safety.

"Fire prevention begins at a young age," Wooten said. "Our videos were 15 years old and some of the information in them was out-of-date. This is a wonderful opportunity to upgrade those videos."

Dorena's Bob Dill accepted an \$800 grant for the Grove Music Camp, which aims to keep middle-school and high-school aged musicians busy with music in the summer. The camp takes place over

six weeks in the summer, and Dill said Cottage Grove High School music teacher David Larsen and Lincoln Middle School music instructor Joanna Newton have done a great job since assuming leadership of the camp.

Other grants included \$1000 to Family Relief Nursery to conduct developmental screenings of local youth aged three weeks to six years. Community Sharing's Project White Paper received a \$1000 grant to purchase toilet paper and other toiletries.

"We receive a lot of funding for food, and this is as neces-

sary as food," said Community Sharing's Lise Colgan. "We'd like to thank the Foundation for being realists and funding this effort."

Bohemia Mining Days was also awarded a \$1000 scholarship to purchase tables and chairs for the popular summer festival. Womenspace received a \$1000 grant to help the victims of interpersonal violence flee harmful situations, and the Cottage Theatre's \$1000 grant will fund a marketing effort to bring more locals to the theater, in addition to adding Thursday evening performances.

Police seek information on pedestrian fatality

Oregon State Police (OSP) troopers are continuing the investigation into a fatal pedestrian crash that occurred on Interstate 5 near milepost 174.5 southbound just outside Cottage Grove on Tuesday, March 17.

Police say that, at approximately 9 p.m. last Tuesday, OSP troopers were dispatched to a report of a pedestrian walking on the shoulder and also in the right lane of travel on I-5 southbound near milepost 174.5, nearly being struck by passing vehicles. As troopers responded to the scene, additional callers reported what appeared to be a person lying on the shoulder.

Upon arrival troopers say they discovered Eric A. Boldt, 42, of Eugene

and with ties to Idaho, deceased on the highway shoulder. They say Boldt was wearing a multicolored pullover and carrying a large digital camouflage backpack. One caller reported that Boldt may have had a mid-sized dog walking with him as well, which has not been confirmed.

Troopers believe Boldt may have been struck by a large or commercial type vehicle which may not have been aware of the crash. Anyone who may have witnessed this incident or have information pertaining to this crash is asked to contact Oregon State Police Collision Reconstructionist Sr. Trooper Blaine Hlebechuk at 541-726-2536 or by calling the Northern Command Center (NCC) at 800-243-7865.

Municipal Court schedule changed

During proceedings at Cottage Grove Municipal Court Thursday morning, Judge Martin Fisher outlined a new schedule for the court's operations going forward.

Fisher said those accused of traffic violations will be scheduled to appear in court at 8:30 a.m. Thursday mornings; criminal violations by those not in police custody will be scheduled to arrive at 9 a.m. with their proceedings to start by 9:30, and the court will hear the cases of those in police custody as time allows.

"We'll have traffic violations at 8:30 so those folks don't have to sit

waiting here for two hours," Fisher told Prosecutor John Woodworth and Public Defender Ryan Gifford. "We'll process in the out-of-custody cases at 9 so that court can hopefully start by 9:30 and deal with the in-custody cases when we can find the time."

Fisher said he sought to avoid negotiations between attorneys while the rest of the courtroom waited. He cited the desire of the Cottage Grove Police Department not to pay overtime costs for the time its officers spend in the courtroom as the major reason for the change.

Two repeat offenders have their day in Municipal Court

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A group of community members gathered at Cottage Grove Municipal Court

Thursday morning to serve as a panel of jurors for a trial that almost was.

Jurors assembled for the trial of Cottage Grove's Dillon Privitt were thanked for the part they

played in the judicial process by Judge Martin Fisher, who told them that they had fulfilled an obligation just by showing up.

In the minutes prior to the trial, Prosecutor John Woodworth and Public Defender Ryan Gifford reached a deal that found Privitt, not quite 20, pleading guilty to charges of carrying a concealed weapon, unlawfully possessing an implement of graffiti, possession of a burglary tool, unlawful entry into a motor vehicle, theft II and failure to appear in court.

Woodworth said Privitt will serve 30 days in the Cottage Grove Jail for possessing the

concealed weapon and 14 days for the failure to appear charge, in addition to paying restitution to the victims of his burglaries, serving 24 months probation and attorney's fees. His other charges were dismissed as part of the plea deal. After the court proceedings, Woodworth called Privitt one of the "menaces of this community" and promised to seek the maximum sentence against him at any subsequent court appearances. Police say he was captured after successfully eluding them on two previous occasions.

"He likes to break into cars, steal from them and shoplift,"

said CGPD officer Jarrod Butler. Butler said Privitt had previously served a long sentence for the widespread application of graffiti that often depicted his nickname, "Tank," on surfaces throughout Cottage Grove.

On a morning that featured a very light court docket, Fisher also presided over a show-cause hearing for 29-year old Jeremy Overstreet in relation to charges of violating probation and violating a no-contact order. Fisher explained that Overstreet had placed calls to the victim of a previous incident of violence from the Lane County Jail in violation of the no-contact order.

"Of all the things I get to tell people to do, this is the one I take most seriously," Fisher said, "because it deals directly with someone else's safety. I know when a person is doing this that it isn't a misunderstanding; the person is intentionally giving the court the proverbial finger."

Fisher gave Overstreet credit for a week of time served in the Lane County Jail, citing the fact that Overstreet owed the court almost \$7000 and needed to find employment to begin paying off that debt. He cautioned Overstreet that his next infraction would immediately result in a lengthy jail sentence.

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A little reuse from way back when...

photo by Jon Stinnett
City Manager Richard Meyers displays a piece of flashing removed from the roof of the Cottage Grove Armory during recent renovations, which appears to have originally functioned as a printer plate for a December, 1970 edition of the Cottage Grove Sentinel.



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