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Cottage Grove Sentinel

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2015

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

VOLUME 126 • NUMBER 43

Council adopts plan to protect drinking water

Collaboration with stakeholders, informational signage suggested

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The most effective and efficient way to ensure the quality of a drinking water supply is to protect its source, according to consultants that presented a plan to protect Cottage Grove's water supply before the City Council at its Monday, April 13 meeting.

Public Works Director Jan Wellman told the Council that two student interns have worked through the Community Development Department to draft a drinking water protection plan over the past two years. The plan was presented to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Wellman said, which suggested the further step of outlining an implementation strategy to actively protect the watershed that supplies the City with its drinking water. Grant funding was procured to develop the strategy, which calls for coordinated efforts by the agencies that act as stakeholders in the watershed for its first phase; the second phase aims to involve local landowners in restoration and protection efforts.

Wellman told the Council that such a plan is important for good customer relations among the City's water customers, adding that the City should also find itself higher on priority lists of projects to protect the watershed and be eligible for lower rates on loans that could be used to implement the plan's protection strategies.

Guy Sievert and Alex Sifford, consultants with E-Systems Services, were on hand to outline the plan for the Council, which approved the plan's passage unanimously. Sifford told the Council that the plan would save the City money in the long run.

"Protecting a 371 square-mile watershed sounds like a big task, but it has been done and can be done again," he said.

Sifford pointed out that the Row River watershed is actually composed of two systems — the Row River itself and Mosby Creek — that provide water for the City's treatment facilities and customers. Stakeholders that could potentially be involved in protection strategies include the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Weyerhaeuser, the Army Corps of Engineers, Dorena Hydro, LLC and a collection of private landowners.

Sifford said E-Systems Services met with each stakeholder to hear their individual concerns, though he added that the only stakeholder with the "primary responsibility for drinking water protection" is the City of Cottage Grove.

"If anybody in the basin should be motivated to do this, it's you," Sievert said.

Sievert suggested that the City not wait for other agencies to act to protect drinking water. He said some of those agencies are involved in protection projects already and that common ground can be found with most of them.

"Start getting buy-in from groups and residents now; we think you'll find there's a lot of it," he said. E-Systems Services championed the idea of a collaborative of stakeholders that could have annual meetings to keep issues involving drinking water protection on the local radar. The group also recommended signage at key locations reminding the public that their actions upstream have a pronounced effect downstream.

Sifford also pointed out that some communities have managed to attach their drinking water concerns to legislation such as that currently being

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SWING YER PARTNER!



photo by Jon Stinnett

Smiles adorned the face of every square dancer at London Grange Sunday, where a dance was held to commemorate the 62nd anniversary of Cottage Grove's Boots and Sandals Square Dance Club.

Square Dance Club marks anniversary

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Lucille Lusk had a message to share at the London Grange on Sunday afternoon.

"You can put in the paper that square dancing did not die," Lusk said, and with the size of the crowd gathered at the Grange as evidence, it was obvious that the last original member of the Boots and Sandals Square Dance Club knew her stuff.

The Club celebrated its 62nd birthday Sunday, and its members were joined by about 40 dancers from groups throughout the region, who formed six full squares at the climax of a dance that packed the floor at the Grange.

"It's wonderful," said Dennis

Chapman of Boots and Sandals. "I had no idea if we'd get five people or 500. Everybody seems to be enjoying themselves, including some people we've never seen here before."

Chapman said there are still about eight active members of the Boots and Sandals club, which until a few years ago danced at the Square Dance Barn on 10th Street in Cottage Grove. Needed repairs have kept the barn from hosting dances, though its recent purchase by Faye Stewart and efforts at a remodel aim to bring dancing back in the near future.

Chapman said dancers from about eight clubs in the Eugene area helped fill the floor at the Grange, which plans to host more dances in the future. Caller Lenny Ludiker kept the dances coming, as dancers

promenaded and allemanded the afternoon away.

"It's just wonderful to be out and dancing," said 83-year old Lois (last name withheld by request) of Creswell, who recounted tales of square dancing at state and national events in the 1970s. Lois said she's recently gotten back into square dancing — which she pointed out is the national folk dance and the official dance of 19 states — after a hiatus.

"It keeps your mind working," she said, "and once you know how, you can go anywhere and dance with a good group of people. I've never met anybody square dancing that's not a nice person. That's the fun of it — you put on your western clothes and just go dance."

Art Walk features Bookmine's 40th

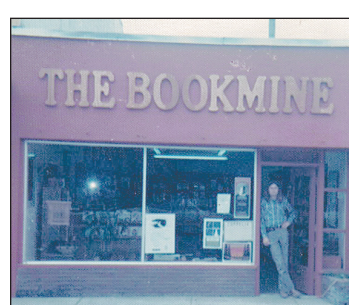
Cottage Grove Art Walk kicks off its 2015 season with the theme "Spring Awakenings" this Friday, April 24 from 6-8 p.m.

This month, the Art Walk committee is excited to announce that the Bookmine's 40th Anniversary celebration will be happening during Friday's Art Walk. Founders Gail and Birdy Hoelzle opened their iconic store downtown in April of 1975, and they'll have lots of stories to share at Art Walk.

Presenting artists at Art Walk include:

Delight: Noelle Ervin — Vintage buttons and feathers made into earrings and hairpieces

Apple Pie Antiques: Cassidy Gruelle — Wood fired pottery



The Bookmine first opened in a storefront across from its current location in 1975.

with an emphasis on tableware and teaware; Randy Deering — New Watercolors.

Coast Fork Feed and Brewstation: Alex Ihnat — Paintings and Mixed Media, Music by Guitar Recovery Project and Flies with Honey.

Bookmine: James Cloutier

— Cartoonist/author; 40-year retrospective; Mary Grace playing the Harp.

Kalapuya Books: Laurell Reynolds — Mixed Media

In Front of Pandora's Box: Marilyn Wilber, Ant Farm Textiles

Imagine It Framed: Delena Aseere Britnell — Mixed Media Art.

The Crafty Mercantile: London School Artists; Crafty Kids Special Art Walk Workshop (Free).

Opal Center for Arts and Education: Hollie D. Owen- Mixed Media, Fabric, Collage; Sharon Patrice Propst — Watercolors.

Victoriana: Robert Steinhilber — Cartoon Artist; Janice Meisner — Organ Music.

Open house slated to review transportation plan

The City of Cottage Grove's Planning Department will host an open house to familiarize the community with projects that might find their way into the City's Transportation System Plan on Tuesday, April 28 from 5:30- 7 p.m. in the back room of Stacy's Covered Bridge Restaurant, located at 401 E. Main St. downtown.

The City has billed the event as an opportunity for interested citizens to hear about road and other projects planned "to meet the needs of Cottage Grove through 2035" and to add their opinion regarding priorities for the City's transportation systems.

"We have identified an initial list of projects and strategies. Now we want to hear if these projects address the transportation issues that matter most to you," says a brief on the project's website, located at cottagegrovetp.org. The website points out that there have been several studies conducted and changes to Cottage Grove that may impact its planning, adding that "the updated plans and land uses will be factored into the development of the future needs of the transportation system in 2035."

School Board election draws a crowd

Nine candidates have filed; forum set for next week

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove's Blackberry Pie Society will host a forum next week to introduce the public to the candidates for South Lane School Board in the May 19 election, and with a crowded slate of candidates and timely school district issues making recent headlines, it's certain there will be plenty to talk about.

Nine candidates will vie for four open seats on the Board, and many of those hopefuls have indicated that they'll attend the BPS forum, which is scheduled from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, April 30 at Bohemia Elementary School, located at 721 South R Street.

Current Board Chair Tammy Hodgkinson will run unopposed for another four-year term at Position 1, and Hodgkinson said the strong slate of candidates speaks to a broader characteristic of Cottage Grove.

"We've got a great district and a lot of people that are truly engaged with what's going on," she said. "It's great to see that there are people who want to take part."

Hodgkinson said she wouldn't be surprised if the implementation of full-day kindergarten throughout the District came up in the conversation due to opinions she's already heard on the topic. Others believe that a prospective bond to replace the Harrison Elementary building will elicit responses.

In addition to Hodgkinson, current board members vying for reelection are Merlene Martin, who will face off against newcomer Cirila Appellof at Position 3, and realtor/property manager Darin Hemenway, who will run against Tony (Lyman) Appellof and Gary Mort at Position 7. Information filed by Cirila Appellof indicates that she's a stay-at-home mom

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WEATHER

HIGH 61 LOW 39
Partly Cloudy

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