

# Business owners removing trees

More Main Street maples likely to come down

BY JON STINNETT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Norway maple trees lining Main Street in downtown Cottage Grove have been a hot topic since deliberations leading to the development of the Main Street Refinement Plan began nearly two years ago, and observant individuals downtown may notice that the trees have begun to come down in earnest in recent weeks.

On Monday morning, Tim Schweitzer of Schweitzer's Western Wear and Britz Jewelers could be seen cleaning up the branches left from an extensive trimming of one of the trees in front of his business. Schweitzer said he plans to write a letter to the City of Cottage Grove requesting approval to take the tree down completely. The tree in front of the First National Bank building was removed over the weekend by the building's owner, Danny Solesbee, and Su Rosenthal of Pandora's Box at the corner of 6th and Main had her tree removed last weekend.

City Planner Amanda Ferguson said Monday that she believed many downtown business owners had been waiting for the outcome of deliberations on the Refinement Plan to decide what to do with their trees, though this could not be confirmed before press time with the business owners who



photo by Jon Stinnett

Tim Schweitzer said he plans to request approval to remove the tree in front of his business.

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# Merger off, cable unchanged

The termination of a merger agreement between two cable giants last week prompted a letter to Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers indicating that there will be "no change to the cable service provider in your area."

Comcast Corporation will not merge with Time-Warner Communications, according to the letter, which was dated April 28 and signed by Charter Government Affairs Director Marian Jackson, meaning that Charter will continue to hold the cable

franchise in Cottage Grove.

Meyers said that, while customers will not notice the impact of the merger that never was, the City may now have to wait a little longer in its negotiations to establish a franchise agreement for Charter's operations in Cottage Grove, as the company may have been more likely to push the negotiations in advance of its merger.

These negotiations have been taking place off and on since the late 1990s.

# Activities highlight Mental Health Awareness Month

Eugene psychologist Charlotte Peterson will provide a sneak preview from her soon-to-be published book "Growing Kind Kids: Mindful Parenting from Peaceful Cultures" in the first of four Thursday events taking place through May in Cottage Grove to mark Mental Health Awareness Month.

Peterson's talk will be Thursday, May 7, from 6:30-8 p.m. at South Lane Mental Health, located at 1345 Birch Ave. in Cottage Grove. Refreshments will be provided and admission is free.

Subsequent Thursday evening get-togethers scheduled at the same time and place include

"Living Well with Chronic Conditions," presented by Program Coordinator Leslie Gilbert on May 14, and on May 21, "Holistic Wellness through Eastern Spirituality & Western Psychology" by Eugene psychiatrist Joseph Arpaia, MD, who

will share tips from his books "Real Meditation in Minutes a Day" and "Tibetan Wisdom for Western Life."

On May 28, South Lane Mental Health will present "Happy," an Academy-Award nominated documentary that explores human happiness through interviews with people from 14 different countries.

A Wellness Day Celebration will take place Saturday, May 16 from noon to 4 p.m. at South Lane Mental Health. A labyrinth walk, yoga, storytelling, video games, art and a cooking and gardening activity are among the scheduled events.

All events are being presented as creative ways to encourage and support mental health.

For more information or to request a sign language interpreter or other accommodations, call South Lane Mental Health at (541) 942-3939 or visit www.slmh.org.

# Tagged trout in Coast Fork offer rewards

BY JON STINNETT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Signs posted near the banks of the Coast Fork of the Willamette River detail a program meant to help gauge the use and effectiveness of the river's fishery.

Shannon Richardson of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife said the agency's Tag Reward Program involved the recent stocking of 1500 rainbow trout in the Coast Fork, a waterway some 40 miles in length formed by the confluence of Garoutte Creek and Big River in the Calapooya Mountains. Richardson said 200 of the stocked trout have a "non-reward, spaghetti-style 'floy' tag" similar to one used to mark clothes in a store attached to their dorsal fins, while 20 of the fish have a red tag that will earn the angler who catches them a \$50 reward from ODFW, which asks that fish with either type of tag be reported.

Richardson said the program aims to collect data on the "angling experience" in the Coast Fork.

"We're curious how people are utilizing the fishery," she said. "We've been stocking it for a long time, but we still don't have a



photo by Jon Stinnett

Signs near the Coast Fork detail ODFW's Tag Reward Program.

lot of information on how anglers are using it. We hope to start the conversation of how satisfied they are with the fishery, do they return fish, etc."

ODFW is also anxious to see if any of the Chinook salmon smolts it has stocked in the Coast Fork in years past will return to the river to spawn, with many in the agency believing that 2015 is a kind of make-or-break year in the effort to reestablish a salmon

fishery in town.

"The return may be stronger in 2015, and if it isn't, we may look to change things over time," ODFW Fish Biologist Jeff Ziller told the Sentinel last January. "If the Coast Fork and the Row are going to produce a fishery, 2015 would be the year to see it."

Richardson added, though, that the Tag Reward Program isn't likely to yield much information on the salmon fishery.

"Salmon/steelhead and trout anglers are usually two different camps," she said. "Trout have such a different life history, and once they're stocked in an area, they usually don't go far."

Fish and Wildlife plans to release an additional 1400 fish in the Coast Fork on May 11, Richardson said, with 200 containing white non-reward tags and 20 with tags that earn a \$50 gift card. She said Cottage Grove may be unique in terms of a viable fishery in its city limits.

"There are town-run steelhead in Eugene that have bank access, but Cottage Grove is unique in that it has hatchery trout, a viable cutthroat fishery and the potential for salmon in the Row," she said.

## Death/Memorial Notices

**Carol Mae Van Poll**, 80, of Cottage Grove died April 9, 2015. A memorial and potluck will be held Sunday, May 17 from 2-4 p.m. at Bohemia Park in Cottage Grove.

**Frederick Willis Harding**, 80 of Cottage Grove died April 29, 2015. A memorial will be held Saturday, June 13 at 11 a.m. at Smith-Lund-Mills Chapel in Cottage Grove.

## TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

**LOST:** Ladies prescription sunglasses at vicinity of Brew Station, 6th and Washington, on Friday night, May 1. **\$50 REWARD.** 541-942-9828

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