

Cottage Grove Sentinel

photo by Eric Eligott

A stunning double rainbow decorated the skies over Cottage Grove on Saturday.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2015

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

VOLUME 128 • NUMBER 16

Friends gather to celebrate APC move, anniversary

A Primary Connection Family Resource Center



photo by Bruce Kelsh
Ana Maria Dudley (left) and Peggy Lintula share a moment during last Tuesday's ceremony.

A Primary Connection commemorates 25 years' service, move to LCC campus

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Though many visitors came to a room they may never have visited before, it wasn't long before the gathering had a family feel.

Guests came together at Cottage Grove's Lane Community College campus on Tuesday, Oct. 6 to tour the new facilities and mark the 25-year anniversary of A Primary Connection, the family resource center of South Lane School District that has been helping young parents and their children for generations. Nearly all those who gathered — including many who

have contributed their own efforts to A Primary Connection over the years — shared stories of the first time they brought their children to the center, children now grown and pursuing their own higher education and careers.

It was a celebration that in many ways revolved around one woman, Peggy Lintula, who transformed an initiative to connect with young parents into a resource center that has thrived despite budget concerns, first at the SLSO office, then at Lincoln Middle School, Bohemia Elementary and, beginning this year, at LCC.

"This is probably only a millionth of the families she's touched

over the years," said Mary Nise-wander, who first visited A Primary Connection as a young parent and recently retired from teaching. "Do you know how many times I'd call and ask for help?"

Ana Maria Dudley, now herself a fixture at the center, first visited 22 years ago.

"I was new in town, and I didn't know anybody," she said. "I walked the streets with two kids and didn't know what to do. This place gave me a community. I came here in 1993 and never left."

During her remarks on the occasion, Lintula explained that, after

Please see APC, Page 11A



Check out the insert in this edition supporting Breast Cancer Awareness Month!

HORSE POWER



photo by Jon Stinnnett

Ruby and Amber's Organic Oasis owner Walt Bernard speaks with intern Carlin Briner as Belgian draft horses Tom and Jerry pull their wagon on a beautiful Sunday afternoon.

Organic farm shows off its system

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Walt Bernard has been working with draft horses for about 20 years, and the ease with which he speaks about their value to his farm near Dorena only adds to the slow cadence of a Sunday-after-

noon wagon ride.

Bernard, owner of Ruby and Amber's Organic Oasis, is in the driver's seat, though he's content to let Carlin Briner, an intern who's spending a month on the farm to learn the art of equine farming, do the actual driving. Tom and Jerry, two massive Belgian draft horses, plod along, seem-

ingly oblivious to the wagonload of visitors behind them.

It's a busy day on the farm, where a patch of land teeming with pumpkins has drawn a crowd and a tour group with the Living on the Land workshop series has made a trip that's a

Please see HORSES, Page 11A

Police plan to ticket distracted drivers

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Need to check a text while driving across Cottage Grove? Have trouble stopping for pedestrians at crosswalks? Hate wearing that pesky seatbelt?

These days, driving behaviors such as these will be more likely to warrant a ticket from the Cottage Grove Police Department, whose interim chief, Scott Shepherd, said that police will be working to target distracted drivers.

"In addition to speed and traffic enforcement, officers will be encouraged to look for distracted behavior that can lead to accidents," Shepherd said, adding that enforcement in the near future could include stings set up at crosswalks to target those who don't stop for pedestrians (drivers must stop for pedestrians at crosswalks that aren't controlled by a traffic signal), in addition to tickets for those who use mobile devices while driving, are observed speeding or not wearing seatbelts.

Shepherd took over for outgoing Chief Mike Grover last month, and he said he's already responded to requests for more traffic enforcement by writing more tickets and stationing police in school zones. The push to ticket more distracted drivers also stems

Please see DRIVERS, Page 11A

Also inside:



To the dogs
City kennel hailed as a success, page 3A



Faster!
Harriers cranking out season-bests, page 1B

Council approves franchise agreement with Charter Communications

City has sought a new agreement since 1999

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

At its Monday night meeting, the Cottage Grove City Council came to an agreement with Charter Communications that the City has sought for over 15 years.

In 1999, the franchise agreement that guided the way the cable company does business in Cottage Grove expired, and a provision was put into place to continue the old agreement on a month-to-month basis,

which has guided the relationship between the City and Charter since. The City has worked to renew the Charter franchise agreement since then, especially attempting to secure added revenue in the form of franchise fees — fees that companies pay for the privilege of using the City right-of-way to conduct their business — from a company whose offerings in the community have expanded into other realms beyond cable television.

Charter has resisted efforts to increase the franchise fees it pays to include its telephone and Internet services, but the City recently attempted another way to secure an agreement.

After consulting with its legal counsel, the Local Government Law Group, the City learned that its existing month-to-month agreement included provisions that Charter reportedly does not typically agree to in new agreements, according to the firm's Christy Munson. (A representative from Charter could not be contacted by press time for this article). These provisions include stronger protection of the right-of-way, according to Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers.

Over the summer, Charter asked the City Council to consent to its merger with Time Warner Cable and its acquisi-

tion of Bright House Networks, LLC. After consultation with legal counsel, the City consented to the merger and acquisition in August but added in the stipulation that its current month-to-month franchise agreement be renewed for 10 years. To the City's apparent surprise, it worked, though Charter responded with two conditions of its own.

"We were waiting anxiously to see how Charter responded," Meyers said. "They liked the idea, which surprised both Christy and I. But they didn't want 10 years; they only wanted five."

The second condition that

Charter wanted changed, Meyers said, was the requirement that they maintain a physical office for customers to do business with the company in Cottage Grove. The revised agreement includes conditions by which the company could close its local office, though it spells out that certain services would still have to be provided for customers.

"They have approved the document, so as soon as you adopt it, it will be in place," Meyers told the Council on Monday. "We're able to have a signed, sealed agreement that is our old franchise agreement, though it has a lot of language in it that

they will not approve now."

Mayor Tom Munroe said the agreement was full of "lawyer-speak" and asked Munson if she indeed felt it was in the City's best interest. Munson responded that she has represented numerous cities in negotiations with Charter and that "your existing franchise is pretty good."

"When these agreements were written before, they weren't as exacting," Munson said later. "This franchise gives the City a lot more options. There's no longer a mandate that they have a physical office here, but there are provisions in place to make sure the customers' needs are still met."

Rain Country Realty Inc.

UPDATING

505 Gateway
3 bedroom, 1 bath, undergoing some renovations, can be business or residence. Pest and Dry Rot being completed.
\$134,900

CORNER LOT

545 Crestwood, Creswell
3 bedroom, 2 bath, big kitchen, corner lot, convenient location, RV Parking come see!
\$199,500

Principal Brokers
Teresa Abbott221-1735
Frank Brazell.....953-2407
Lane Hillendahl942-6838

Brokers
Laurie Phillip430-0756
Valerie Nash521-1618

Licensed in the State of Oregon

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

CONTACT US

On the Internet
By telephone
By fax
By e-mail
By mail
In person

www.cgsentinel.com
(541) 942-3325
(541) 942-3328
cgnews@cgsentinel.com
P.O. Box 35, Cottage Grove, OR 97424
Corner of Sixth and Whiteaker, Cottage Grove

WEATHER



HIGH 78
LOW 47

CONTENTS

Calendar.....9B
Channel Guide.....6B
Classified ads.....8B
Obituaries.....2A
Opinion.....4A
Public Safety.....5A
Sports.....1B



6 18134 42405 2
75 CENTS