

Fiber optics expanded — 3A
 Economic boost in Creswell — 3A
 Sports awards night — 1B



Equestrian
 Mootz signs
 with TCU,
 page 1B



Cottage Grove Sentinel

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2015

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

VOLUME 128 • NUMBER 21

**Also
 inside:**



Paws that refreshes
 New pet business
 is more than just a
 groomer's.
 page 3A



Devonshire
 Editor takes English
 odyssey, page 6A

Stewart announces U.S. Senate bid

Lane County Commissioner hopes to win
 Republican primary, unseat Wyden

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

East Lane County Commissioner Faye Stewart announced his intent to run for the United States Senate seat held for almost 20 years by Ron Wyden on Thursday, a move he said he's been pondering for about the last year.

Stewart, who has served on the County board for 11 years

and hails from Cottage Grove, said he's spent the last several months talking with his family about the ramifications of a campaign and, if he's elected, a new job that would dramatically alter his life.

"Over the last 11 years, I've realized that I really love helping people," Stewart said, "but in watching the way a lot of things are impacting people's lives at the federal level, I realize that,

as a Commissioner, I can't really help with a lot of them."

Climbing rates in recent years of local students who receive free and reduced school lunches proves that Oregon families are struggling to get by on less income, Stewart said. Counts of the homeless population in the last 10 years have doubled, he said, as County services have been lessened by a drop-off in federal funding. Funding to the so-called "O&C Counties," including Lane County, which receive federal dollars due to

the amount of land there that's owned by the U.S. government, is a "fraction" of what it was in previous years, Stewart pointed out, and he recently cited Senator Wyden's opposition to a plan that would increase logging in those counties as a reason for his decision to campaign. He serves as the vice president of the Association of Oregon Counties.

"It's this way with almost everything," he said. "I've been trying to assess when it's going to get better, with increases in jobs and living wages in Or-



Faye Stewart during a 2014 Lane County Commissioner debate

gon, but these days, many are

Please see **STEWART**, Page 12A

Council bans smoking in City parks

BY SAM WRIGHT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

On Monday, Nov. 9, the Cottage Grove City Council voted unanimously for the second time to ban smoking and tobacco use in city parks. The newly voted ordinance will go into effect on Dec. 9, and will ban not only smoking, but electronic cigarettes and all tobacco use as well, which is a step further than other smoking bans around the state. Councilor Jake Boone says it's a measure that can also prevent marijuana from being smoked in public areas.

At the meeting, a discussion of proposing to build designated smoking areas in the parks came up. Mayor Tom Munroe said in the discussion that it's possible for bigger parks such as Bohemia and Coiner parks to have designated smoking areas, though it would be preferred only during special events during the spring and summer.

"There are other parks that are too small, and there's no point," Munroe said.

Within the next few weeks, signs will be posted in many of the city's parks and those who are caught smoking after Dec. 9 will be initially warned of the ban. Any further disobedience could result in a fine of up to \$500.

BIKES BRING BUSINESS

Report details economic impact
 of Scenic Bikeways

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

About 8400 visits to Cottage Grove last year were directly related to the 37.8-mile loop of pavement that stretches from the center of town, around Dorena Reservoir and back, according to a recent study that points to the Covered Bridges Scenic Bikeway as one of the top tourist attractions in the area.

The study, prepared by Dean Runyan and Associates for Travel Oregon and Oregon's Parks and Recreation Department,

Please see **BIKEWAYS**, Page 5A



Sentinel file photo

Events such as Cycle the Lakes (participants pictured here) draw cyclists to Oregon's Scenic Bikeways, though independent riders outnumber those drawn to events.

Murphy announces resignation from City Council at-large seat

She began position as executive director of
 CASA of Lane County in September

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

By the beginning of next year, the Cottage Grove City Council will find itself one member short once again.

The Council recently appointed Amy Slay to its Ward IV position after the resignation of Heather Murphy Price, and last Monday, Councilor Heather Murphy announced that she will resign her at-large position at the end of 2015. She cited work and



Heather Murphy

family commitments as the reason for her resignation.

Murphy first took office when she was appointed to replace Robert Hunt, who moved to Montana, in 2008. At the time, she cited the fact that her kids were growing older as a reason for her decision to seek office after considering the move for some time. Now, with her son a senior in high school and a new job that started in September, Murphy said a similar reason has her convinced it's time to move on.

"I've got a commute to Eugene that's been drawing me north and three kids with busy schedules," she said. "It's difficult to schedule around Council meetings and committee appointments, and I don't do any-

thing I can't give my full energy to."

In September of 2014, Murphy announced that she was leaving a position as executive director of Cottage Grove's Family Relief Nursery, which works to lessen stress factors for local families, after a 16-year stint there. She transitioned to a position with Yoncalla Early Works examining early childhood education policy in the community she grew up in.

Murphy worked in Yoncalla for 10 months before being encouraged to apply for a position as executive director of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Lane County, which recruits community volunteers to represent children in court hearings in the County's foster care system. She began a position there Sept. 1.

"It's a great opportunity that couldn't be passed up," she said.

"It's back in the child protection realm, which is my true passion, and it's a great organization."

In reflecting back on her Council tenure, Murphy said she joined the legislative body at an interesting time, just after controversial proceedings involving the Cottage Grove Speedway and an attempted expansion of the local Walmart store.

"There had been a lot of blame to go around, but I think I'm most proud of the fact that this Council has raised the bar of professionalism since that time with regard to how we approach issues and deal with each other," she said. "There are still comments related to the 'good old boy' network, but it felt a lot more prevalent back then. I believe we've worked well together, and it doesn't cause the contentions it had in the past, which I think is attributable to a lot of people on the Council and

not just me. I'm proud of what we've done, and I think the citizenry can feel confident that its Council puts in the time to approach the issues properly."

Still, there are Council proceedings with which Murphy has disagreed, such as the decision to terminate the employment of Judge Richard Brissenden in 2012 and the City's handling of "The Stench," the overpowering smell in a local neighborhood caused by the dumping of solid wastewater byproducts on fields nearby in the summer of 2011. She said the response of some community members to a possible restaurant tax was also disappointing.

"It wasn't necessarily the decisions made but a problem with the approach to them that bothered me," she said. "I was disappointed in the way certain people dealt with them and how personal it got."

Murphy said she sought office to bring the perspective of a working parent to the Council.

"We had just finished the visioning process, and a lot of the priorities laid out dealt with children, though the Council wasn't really looking through that lens," she said. "I encourage the Council now to consider looking through that lens (when considering her replacement.) Cottage Grove is diversifying, and we need to continue to hear different voices."

Applications from those interested in serving on the Council will be accepted until Friday, Dec. 18 at 5 p.m. The term to be filled ends next December. Applicants must be a registered voter that has resided in Cottage Grove for a year before appointment. Applications can be turned in to City Recorder Trudy Borrevik at City Hall.

Rain Country Realty Inc.

SOLD

1500 Harvey Rd
 Large House, open floor plan was a church then care home. 5 Bedrooms 2.5 baths.
\$170,000

REDUCED

1908 E. Whiteaker
 Log cabin on nearly an acre - much recent work done, lovely yard. 4 bedrooms, 1 bath
\$175,000

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 www.cgsentinel.com
 By telephone (541) 942-3325
 By fax (541) 942-3328
 By e-mail cgnews@cgsentinel.com
 By mail P.O. Box 35, Cottage Grove, OR 97424
 In person Corner of Sixth and Whiteaker, Cottage Grove

WEATHER



HIGH 52 LOW 45

CONTENTS

Calendar.....11B Obituaries.....2A
 Channel Guide.....5B Opinion.....4A
 Classified ads.....7B Public Safety.....5A
 Sports.....1B



6 18134 42405 2
 1 Dollar