

Cottage Grove Half — 3A  
 Toys for Tots — 6A  
 Wreath ideas — 8A



# Reflections

Album draws from CG subjects, page 8A

# Cottage Grove Sentinel

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2015

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

VOLUME 128 • NUMBER 25

## Council raises garbage rates, approves card payments for water

BY JON STINNETT  
*The Cottage Grove Sentinel*

Monday evening featured the last meeting of the Cottage Grove City Council in 2015, and as such its agenda was a crowded one.

By the close of the meeting, the Council had raised garbage rates by 6.5 percent, tabled a tobacco retail licensing program, appointed three members to the Cottage Grove Planning Commission, set a Jan. 25 date to review applications for an open

Council seat and moved forward with a plan to accept debit and credit cards to pay water bills and view online water usage statements.

Little discussion preceded the increase in garbage rates, which had already essentially been green-lighted by the Council at its Nov. 23 meeting. Back then, Tim Alverson, manager of the Cottage Grove Garbage Service, wrote to the Council that rising costs for recycling and other services led to the request for a rate increase.

"Since our last increase on Oct. 1, 2013, Lane County has increased the disposal fee 12 percent," Alverson wrote, "and the cost of commingled recycling increased in increments from no cost to \$40 per ton."

The increase changes the rate for garbage carts between \$.55 for a 35-gallon cart and \$1.85 for a 95-gallon cart; one-yard containers will increase from \$104 to \$109.

Also at its last meeting, the Council heard from representatives with Lane County Public

Health about the need for a licensing program for tobacco retailers in Cottage Grove. The County pointed to increased use of tobacco products among teens as reason for the program, though Councilor Jake Boone questioned the merit of targeting retailers to lessen teen tobacco use when teens typically get their tobacco elsewhere.

On Monday night, Boone presented data to the Council that he said proved that the State of Oregon already conducts the type of monitoring that the County is

proposing through its licensing program. Boone lambasted the County's program, and the rest of the Council agreed to table the issue until it could examine the data that Boone had just presented them.

"I don't think this is going to do anything in reducing youth smoking," Boone said. "All I can see is that it's going to take money from our constituents and transfer it to an agency in Eugene."

Next, the Council voted unanimously to reappoint Bob Ehler,

Jeremie Eckstine and Dan Nord to fill their three expired positions on the Cottage Grove Planning Commission. The Council thanked the three returning commissioners and Kenneth Roberts, a fourth applicant for the Planning Commission who was not appointed.

Councilor Heather Murphy held her at-large Council seat for the last time on Monday, and the Council discussed

Please see **COUNCIL**, Page 10A

## School Dist. plans active shooter training

BY JON STINNETT  
*The Cottage Grove Sentinel*

A change in approach to active shooter situations in schools will bring personnel with the Lane County Sheriff's Office, Cottage Grove, Eugene, Springfield and other agencies to Cottage Grove High School on Monday, Jan. 4 for training in the "A.L.I.C.E." method of response to such situations.

A.L.I.C.E., which stands for "Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate," reflects evolving thinking with regard to active shooter situations in schools, according to South Lane School District Superintendent Krista Parent.

"In the past, you would generally lock yourself in, close the windows and wait," Parent said. "Now, the best thinking says that there are other procedures that can be used to counter and confront a shooter."

Personnel with the Sheriff's Office have taken the lead in A.L.I.C.E. training throughout the County, and on Jan. 4 — not a school day for South Lane students — staff members will witness seven different scenarios in seven different classrooms at CGHS, with two officers in each room to lead the exercises. Officers will use blank rounds in real weapons and Nerf guns for live practice situations, and Parent wished to caution those living near Cottage Grove High that they may hear the sound of shots fired and witness an intense police presence during the drills. She said the next step in the process will be educating students on the new procedures.

Officer Charlie Martin, who serves as South Lane's School Resource Officer, said the old thinking that involves students staying in one spot and waiting for help is being augmented.

"Countering and evacuation are the newer thinking," he said, though Martin and others are keeping quiet on the methods used to counter an active shooter.

Parent said it's unfortunate but quite necessary that the District conduct such drills.

"It's sad that we're using our precious time for this instead of teaching reading and writing," she said. "But you have to be proactive in these types of situations, and as educators, we have to protect ourselves, too. We're a high target."

## Transportation plan calls for Highway 99 improvements

BY JON STINNETT  
*The Cottage Grove Sentinel*

A recent traffic fatality and the addition of land to Cottage Grove's urban growth boundary helped prompt an update to the City's Transportation System Plan, or TSP, which is meant to guide the ongoing development of the City's transportation system until 2035.

The Cottage Grove City Council got a look at the TSP during an hour-long worksession held before its Monday night meeting, along with reports from the engineering firm that's overseeing updates to the plan and a representative from the Oregon Department of Transportation. The Council will examine the plan again at its Jan. 11 meeting, which will include comment from the public, and consider its adoption. The

full TSP document can be viewed at cottagegrovetps.org.

Mat Dolata, a transportation engineer with DKS Associates, explained that the TSP is meant to guide the "20-year vision" for transportation in Cottage Grove, which should in turn guide investments in transportation projects that can accommodate many modes of transport. The plan, Dolata said, should also help the City's planning depart-

ment coordinate with other agencies such as ODOT and be competitive in the search for grant funding for road projects.

The TSP was last updated in 2008, but the expansion of the City's urban growth boundary, data from 2014 showing lower traffic volumes in Cottage Grove than in previous years

Please see **TSP**, Page 10A

## SNOW RIDE



photo by Jon Stinnett

Guitar in hand, Kevin Dow traverses the swinging bridge amid a wintry mix of snow and rain over a roiling Coast Fork of the Willamette River Sunday morning. Winter weather brought heavy snow to the mountains surrounding Cottage Grove over the weekend.

## Safe Haven hopes to found sober living facility, says support in the community is strong

BY JON STINNETT  
*The Cottage Grove Sentinel*

A group of locals interested in establishing a sober living facility in Cottage Grove said they've noticed a "tremendous response" from the community to their efforts.

Dolores Anderson, president of the board of directors of Safe Haven, said the group hopes to provide a safe and sober place to live following drug or alcohol treatment or incarceration. Their first meeting in July drew 12-15 people interested in making the facility a reality, Anderson said.

"Everyone was so excited and saying we just have to get it organized," she

said. "The reception from the community has been amazing. We've gotten a passionate, committed response from so many people."

Many of those committed to the effort are participants in Alcoholics Anonymous or other groups, Anderson said, adding that the beginnings of the Safe Haven effort can be traced to Billie Bird, who arrived in Cottage Grove 18 months ago and noticed that the community did not have its own "recovery house."

"You have to have a clean environment to go back to after treatment," Bird said. "I talked to a couple people who said, 'Let's start it up,' and before long there were 20 people wanting to get involved. It's something this community

needs."

Bird said a recovery house can have a "trickle-down effect" that can have a benefit beyond those it serves directly.

"It helps everyone," she said. "It keeps crime down and is a big part of having a community that shows it cares."

Bird said the effort has "stirred up quite a conversation" in the AA/NA community.

"Every time you go to meetings, people are so excited," she said. "Everyone is 100 percent behind it."

Anderson said Safe Haven has incorporated as a business and is now filing paperwork for non-profit status. The group has already solicited donations but could receive more as a non-profit, she said. In the beginning, Anderson

said the recovery house will only serve women, though a second facility for men and another for women with children are also in the works. The group is currently searching for a home, likely a three-bedroom house that can house an office for the facility's manager.

Safe Haven is hosting a spaghetti dinner and raffle in the Shepherd Room of the Cottage Grove Community Center on Saturday, Dec. 19 from 5-8 p.m. A plate of spaghetti, garlic bread and drink can be purchased for \$6, and raffle tickets will be \$2 each or three for \$5. Questions can be directed to Bird at 541-228-4751 or billiebird60@gmail.com or through Facebook at "Safe Haven Cottage Grove."

**Rain Country Realty Inc.**

545 Crestwood Loop, Creswell

Large corner lot has room for RV, Boat or other toys. 2002 Home boasts 3 bedrooms, 2baths, vaulted ceiling and large kitchen with extra storage. Come and get it!

**\$188,750**

33985 Witcher Gateway

This huge ranch house is on 88 acres of trees, pasture, barns and more. Home has several bedrooms including separate guest quarters downstairs. Lots of amenities and room to roam!

**SALE PENDING**

Principal Brokers

Teresa Abbott .....221-1735

Frank Brazell.....953-2407

Lane Hillendahl .....942-6838

Brokers

Laurie Phillip .....430-0756

Valerie Nash .....521-1618

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

Licensed in the State of Oregon

### 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



Some showers

HIGH 44 LOW 40

### CONTENTS

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



6 18134 42405 2

1 Dollar