

# First CG baby arrives on first afternoon of 2016

Cottage Grove didn't have to wait long for its first baby born in 2016.

At 4:06 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 1, Brenna Register and Tresvelle Gray of Cottage Grove welcomed their first child, daughter Kamaya Irie Gray, into the world at Peace-Health Sacred Heart Medical Center. She weighed in at 7.78 pounds and was 20 inches long, her mom

said.

Kamaya was born a little before her due date, and when her mom's water broke just before 3 a.m. on New Year's Day, she knew something special could be in the works.

"I thought, 'Oh my, she's going to be a New Year's baby!'" Register said.

Grandparents are Judy Register

of Cottage Grove and Randy Register of Medford and Echo Gray of Cottage Grove and Gary Bounds of Portland.

As winners of the Cottage Grove Sentinel's First Baby contest, Gray and Register will receive a one-year subscription to the newspaper, a FireMed membership, lunch for two at El Tapatio and other prizes.



Kamaya Irie Gray was born at 4:06 p.m. Friday.

# Council to examine transportation plan, tobacco ordinance

Jan. 11 meeting also features State of the City address

BY JON STINNETT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

A packed agenda for the Cottage Grove City Council's Monday, Jan. 11 meeting includes Mayor Tom Munroe's State of the City Address, a public hearing on the City's Transportation System Plan and another look at an ordinance that would create a countywide tobacco retail licensing program.

The Transportation Plan, or TSP, is meant to guide the ongoing development of the City's transportation system until the year 2035. The Council explored the document during a worksession on Dec. 14 and could adopt the TSP with two majority 'yes' votes. The full TSP document can be viewed at cottagesgrovetps.org.

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 and the recent adoption of the Main Street Refinement Plan — which is meant to guide the revamping of Main Street downtown between its historic buildings — have all led to a need for an updated plan. The plan breaks needed road projects down into two categories: projects that should be prioritized given the amount of funding the City can reasonably expect and projects that are needed but for which funding may not be readily available. It also gives priority to areas of the City that have proven to have safety issues. It is hoped that the TSP can help the City secure grant funding for the upgrades it describes, and an engineering consultant told the Council that a special package of projects has been identified as a possible source for grant funding. These include converting Highway 99 from four to three lanes near the Connector, examining driveway access to the highway, widening the connector bridge, building sidewalks to span gaps where they don't exist and planning for the Connector/99 intersection.

The Council will also revisit an ordinance that would make the City part of a countywide tobacco retail license program. Representatives with the County health department advocated for the program twice before the Council last year, presenting data showing that youth tobacco use for all products rose in 2014. The issue was tabled at the Council's Dec. 14 meeting after Councilor Jake Boone presented information that he said proved that the state of Oregon is already conducting the kind of oversight that the County claims its program would cover.

"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."

Monday's Council meeting is open to the public. It begins at 7 p.m. at the Council chambers in City Hall.

# Gamesquall storms into Odd Fellows Hall

BY JON STINNETT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The "Squall" started to pick up steam after lunch.

Cottage Grove's Odd Fellows Hall played host to the Gamesquall, a gathering of board game enthusiasts reminiscent of Portland's annual "Gamestorm," beginning at 11 a.m. New Year's Eve. By the end of the event, which stretched into the first few hours of 2016, organizer Jake Boone said 75 people had taken part.

Lining the walls of the Odd Fellows Hall were over 300 games from Boone's personal collection. "I have a vice," Boone, who also serves as a City Councilor in his spare time, said by way of understatement. Apparently, others share Boone's vice, as gamer Eric Johnson said that Boone's game collection is smaller than his own.



photo by Jon Stinnett

Danny Hintze, Eric Johnson, Harry Anderson and Daniel West enjoy a game of "Raiders of the North Sea."

Please see SQUALL, Page 11A

# Home destroyed by fire believed to be one of area's oldest

BY JON STINNETT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Local historians believe that a part of the Cottage Grove area's early history went up in smoke last week.

South Lane Fire and Rescue personnel responded to reports of a house fire on Hillside Drive south of Cottage Grove on Monday afternoon, Dec. 28, a fire that heavily damaged the structure. Following the fire, Holli Turpin of the Cottage Grove Historical Society told the Sentinel that information suggests

the home was that of Alexander Cooley, an early settler in the area, and was built in 1865.

"I believe the overwhelming evidence shows the home that burned was owned by Alexander Cooley until his death in 1921, when it was bought by Virgil D. White, then passed down to Frank White (Virgil's son)," Turpin wrote.

Local history enthusiast Colette Kimball recently shared an account of the home's history on her blog at [www.mysouthlane.com](http://www.mysouthlane.com).

"What burned was not just an abandoned house but a little part

of Cottage Grove's early history," Kimball wrote, adding that she had the chance to meet Alex Cooley's grandson, Clair, several years ago. Using recollections that Clair Cooley penned in 1995, in addition to reports from University of Oregon students and Internet sources, Kimball compiled a brief history of the home and its inhabitants. Alexander Cooley was born in 1835 and came to Oregon on the Oregon Trail at age 18 with his family.

"Once in the valley the family 'got their claims and started homesteading.' George settled in the Browns-

ville area, however he continued to support his family in Cottage Grove until the land was paid off. The rest of the Cooley family lived together in a log cabin on their land claim until Alex married Eliza Shields in 1865...

Afterwards, the family began constructing two homes, one for Alex and Eliza to the north, the other for John and the rest of the family to the south. John never married, so his mother lived with him until she died.

Please see COOLEY, Page 11A

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