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Big wins!

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Cottage Grove Sentinel

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

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Community mourns shooting victim

Kyle Ledford, 22, died of a gunshot wound in a home on Sixth St. on Tuesday, Jan. 5

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Family and friends are mourning the loss of a 22-year old Cottage Grove man following a shooting that occurred in a home on Sixth Street on Tuesday evening, Jan. 5.

That evening at 8:47 p.m., the Cottage Grove Police Department received a 911 call from a male reporting that another male had been injured with a firearm at a home just south of Main Street downtown and needed help. Officers arrived at the location to find an adult male — later identified as 22-year old Kyle Ledford of Cottage Grove — with an apparent gunshot wound. Officers and medical personnel attempted to revive Ledford,

who later died at the scene. Police said two witnesses were at the scene and were cooperating with the investigation.

An outpouring of emotion colored social media in the days after Ledford's death, and a gathering was held at the El Tapatio lounge, where he loved to play pool and drink Shirley Temples, on Saturday evening. Besides pool, Ledford's mother, Terry, said her son loved dirt bikes and that his "love for skating never ceased," a love that shone forth when Ledford led a group of skaters to campaign to get the Cottage Grove Skate Park reopened after vandals damaged the park back in 2011.

"He skated at the new skate park in Eugene every chance he got," Terry Ledford said. "It was still his big thrill."

Ledford said her son recently had a job stocking inventory for Walmart stores throughout the Pacific Northwest. He was due the day after his death to start a new job at Aaron's Rent to Own Furniture and Furniture Rental, she said.

"He was a good kid," Ledford said. "He didn't drink, didn't do drugs. He might've known a lot of people that did that kind of stuff, but he didn't. It was hard for me to even get him to take an aspirin."

Ledford said her son "had a good heart" and would help his friends whenever he could, adding that she's heard a lot of great things about him since his death.

"I heard how he'd always try to make people feel better. I was really proud of him," she said. "His dad and I both were. We're going to miss him horribly."



courtesy photo

Ledford was remembered by many on social media following his death.

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Paving again planned for I-5 south of CG

Construction to repave Interstate 5 south of Cottage Grove is about to ramp up once again.

The Oregon Department of Transportation announced last week that Interstate 5 motorists traveling between Rice Hill and Cottage Grove should expect lane closures and delays for the next 18 months as construction begins on a new highway project in north Douglas County.

The \$40.3 million I-5: Anlauf to Elkhead Paving project aims to pave all four travel lanes with concrete between milepost 154 and 162. The project will also build a southbound auxiliary/climbing lane on the hill south of Exit 162 (Drain/Oregon 38 junction) between milepost 162 and 160.

Starting on Tuesday, Jan. 12, ODOT said rolling slowdowns will be used during the morning or other off-peak hours as workers begin clearing trees, drilling and preparing to excavate the new climbing lane. The slowdowns will take place in both directions and may result in traffic being briefly delayed, ODOT Public Affairs Officer Dan Latham wrote in a recent press release.

Southbound motorists should also watch for lane closures between milepost 160 and 154. This will allow workers to repair the shoulder of the highway in several areas.

Motorists are advised to give themselves extra travel time to reach their destinations.

An earlier I-5 paving project caused long traffic delays in 2014 and 2015 south of Cottage Grove. Hours-long delays were reported at the Drain exit as travelers returned from weekend journeys to the Coast.

Over the last six months, ODOT said that the agency and prime contractor K&E Excavating of Salem have adjusted the plans for the new project to reduce the likelihood of long delays occurring.

The southbound auxiliary/climbing lane was recently added to the project, and ODOT said this will reduce the need for lane closures during construction. In the long term, the climbing lane aims to provide additional space for vehicles traveling slowly uphill.

The project's website can be found at: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION3/Pages/Anlauf-Elkhead.aspx>



photo by Jon Stinnett

Mayor Tom Munroe recognized Danny and Candace Solesbee for their work refurbishing three downtown buildings at Monday's City Council meeting.

Address recounts a busy 2015

Transportation update passes, tobacco ordinance shelved

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove Mayor Tom Munroe saluted the efforts of three citizens toward community betterment prior to his annual State of the City Address on Monday night, an address in which he recounted the accomplishments of a "busy and active year" in 2015.

A rather large crowd joined the City Council for its first meeting of the new year and the last

State of the City Address for Munroe, who reiterated following the meeting that he will not seek reelection in 2016. However, without the presence of a full Council due to the absence of Councilor Jeff Gowing and the resignation of Councilor Heather Murphy at the end of last year, Munroe also accepted a motion to delay deliberations on an agenda item that may have brought many to Council chambers on Monday.

Before the Mayor's speech, he saluted three individuals who "do things above and beyond the norm to try to make things better for those

Please see **COUNCIL**, Page 11A

City's wastewater report details extent of 2015 drought

Much of last year's rainfall — almost 15 inches worth — occurred in December

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

A report recently released by the supervisor of Cottage Grove's Wastewater Treatment Plant sheds light on just how dry a year 2014 was in the area.

Each Superintendent Ed Mills submits a recycled water report to the Department of Environmental Quality, a report that showcases last year's drought in surprising numbers.

Back in 2014, 889 million gallons of wastewater flowed through the plant on the south

end of Cottage Grove, a number that generally "doesn't fluctuate too much," according to Public Works Director Jan Wellman.

In 2015, however, just 668 million gallons of water flowed through the plant, a 21.3 percent overall decrease.

Wellman said the decrease was the result of residents conserving more water in dry times, in addition to less "inflow and infiltration" into the City's storm drainage and wastewater

collection system.

"I&I, as it is known, is a major contributor to total wastewater flows and results from storm drainage waters entering the collection system, vis-à-vis, rain events," City Manager Richard Meyers wrote in the City's Friday Update publication last week.

To really illustrate the magnitude of last year's drought, Wellman pointed out that, of the 668 million gallons that flowed

through the plant last year, 183 million gallons came in December alone, an extremely wet month that saw 14.77 inches of rainfall locally.

"If you take December, 2015 flows out of the equation, total flows for 2015 were roughly half of the total flows for 2014," the Friday Update stated.

"It shows just how severe the drought was," Wellman said. "It's rare to see that dramatic a change in a number that doesn't

fluctuate much."

The Friday Update also stated that 33,200,000 gallons of treated wastewater effluent were land-applied last summer at Middlefield Golf Course for irrigation purposes. The City also recycled 390 yards of limbs, 1,010 yards of leaves and 16,108 pounds of scrap metal, and 210 gallons of waste oil were used to heat the City Shop.

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