

Cottage Grove Retrospective

A look back at a Sentinel story from 30 years ago

March 11, 1986

High school students take over city council

If you walked into city hall Monday and thought the city manager or police chief looked a little young, there's an explanation.

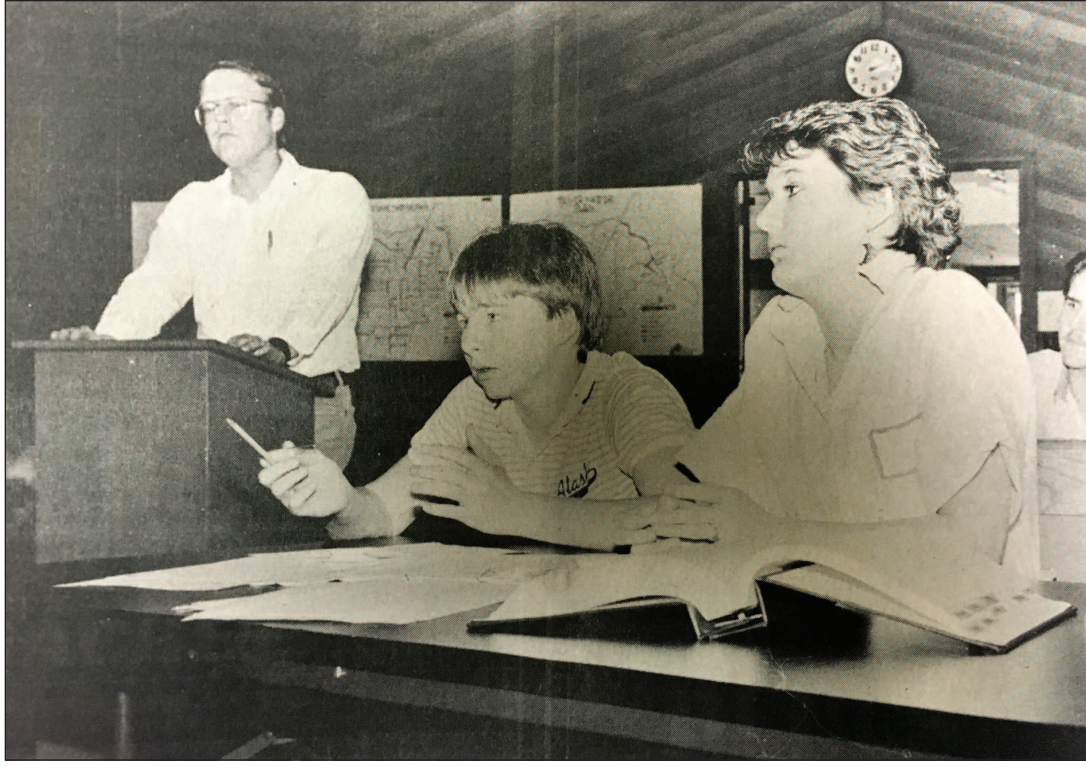
The reason is simple: Cottage Grove High School seniors from a government class spent the day taking over the jobs of city staffers and councilors to get some first-hand experience on how their local government operates.

With the aid of their adult counterparts, students took part in a mock trial and city council meeting.

And judging from the comments of students and city officials alike, the project was a resounding success.

"It was really good," said student Paul Johnson. "It's different than in class. The hands-on experience was worth more than a month in the classroom. It's unfortunate they can't do it more often."

Participants agreed the most popular and humorous part of the experience for everyone was the mock trial, which featured foreign exchange student Raphael Pena protesting a drunk driving charge. The jury, after



Dave Olson makes a point to the mock city council, while Dove Lawson (right) and Howard Schesser look on.

hearing the argument that the defendant couldn't understand the sobriety test directions of the police officer, finally rendered the verdict of "not guilty."

Asked about the verdict dur-

ing the real city council meeting that evening, one student admitted the decision was made easier because it was time for a lunch break.

Both government teacher

Clive McDonald and City Manager Bruce Williams agreed the program should become an annual or semi-annual affair.

POLICE BLOTTER

Cottage Grove Police Department 24-Hour Anonymous Tip Line: 767-0504

March 2

Theft, E Main St.

A caller advised that she ordered an iPhone 6 from Walmart. After picking it up from being delivered at the store, the caller brought it home and opened the box to find nothing inside. The value is \$495.

Unlawful Entry into Motor Vehicle, Hayes Ave.

A caller advised that his vehicle had been rifled through. The incident occurred between Monday night and Tuesday morning. The only reported missing item was spare change.

Suspicious Subject, Hwy 99N

On the north side of a business, a caller told police of witnessing a possible drug deal by a male approximately 35 years in age driving a Geo Metro and another 40 year old male on foot wearing a beanie and a dark colored backpack.

Wanted Subject, Coop Ct. DHS

A caller advised that a subject is at a location for a visitation and has a warrant. The arrestee was put into custody and a violation of probation.

Unlawful possession of a firearm, Coop Ct. DHS

During the previous case, the arrestee advised that she had a

loaded gun in her backpack. During the search of her backpack, several other narcotics were found.

March 3

Hit and run-property, 7th St.

A caller advised that a company vehicle was hit at the location at approximately 11:30 p.m. the previous night. The caller has a video recording of the incident. The estimated value of damage is \$500.

Offering liquor to a minor

A caller advised that a Hispanic male offered his 13-year old daughter alcohol. The caller was parked at a different parking lot in a white Mazda Van. The subject had a red hat a grey sweatshirt and a bag. He was last seen west-bound on a bike path.

Trespass, Hwy 99

A caller was told by an individual that a subject is outside her house pounding on the windows and refusing to leave. The caller advised police that there is a 'No Contact' order via the court against the subject.

Theft, Gateway Blvd.

A complaint at the police department came in that all the papers from the box outside the location were stolen. The incident occurred sometime between

Tuesday night and the morning of the complaint.

March 4

Trespass, E. Whiteaker Ave.

Three male subjects were seen in the backyard of the caller's residence. The subjects ducked under the fence. They were wearing a blue coat, a brown coat and a dark-colored coat with a black and white knitted stocking cap. The caller also saw that an unknown person has removed old tires that she keeps in her backyard and ditched them on the bikepath.

Forgery, Row River Rd.

A reporting person advised that a female customer attempted to pay for her purchases with a counterfeit \$100 bill. The bill was refused by the cashier and returned to the suspect. The purchases were left at the location. The subject left in her vehicle.

March 6

Mental issue, N 6th St.

A caller called 911 advising that there was a "severed head on her pillow that is talking to her," and she wanted someone to come and remove it. Officers contacted the caller for a welfare check and cleared the situation.

Theft from Vehicle, Mosby Creek

A caller reported that she returned from her bike ride to find that unknown person(s) had smashed her driver's side window of her parked vehicle and

stolen some items. Officers contacted the caller for additional info and found that a DVD had been stolen valued at \$25 and the damage to the driver's side window was estimated at \$400.

Disturbance, N 9th St.

The caller is an employee of a nearby business and observed two males in a verbal and physical dispute. One male got into a yellow Ford Mustang or similar type of domestic vehicle, the other got into a blue Toyota. Upon arrival, the responding officer reported that a yellow Corvette had departed the area and a blue and green Toyota was still in the parking area. A male and female from the Toyota went back into the bar and reported the dispute was verbal only. No other information was provided.

Suspicious Conditions, Row River Rd.

The assistant manager of a business advised that a customer ran into the business out of breath and stated that a male subject inside an RV parking lot had pointed a gun at him. The RV is yellow with orange stripes and unknown plate numbers. The caller could not tell if this occurred inside the RV or outside and it is unknown in the customer knows the subject or why it may have occurred. Officers contacted the parties and no weapon was found.

Trash pick-up

Staff from the Public Works department and several inmates from the Cottage Grove jail and community service workers cleaned trash and debris from under the I-5 overpass at Row River Road last week. The crew filled a truck with trash and debris from the ODOT right of way. The City said there was so much trash it would not fit in the dumpsters at the City Shop, so it was hauled directly to Lane County Solid Waste.

Pollinator Garden discussed

This week, Cottage Grove's Fleet and Facilities Supervisor, Russ Kaleese, met with Krista Farris, Botanist with the Cottage Grove Ranger District to view sites near the Row River Nature Park for the creation of a pollinator garden. Farris applied for and received funding in the amount of \$9,000 to establish pollinator gardens along the Row River Trail. The City says there will be a total of five sites.

Pollinator gardens will be established in the spring of 2016 to target declining pollinator populations across the region, including the Western Bumblebee, Rufous Hummingbird, and Monarch Butterfly. Native plant species seed was collected in the fall of 2015 and matured at local plant nurseries to plant in these gardens. Species to be included in the gardens are Oregon Grape, Red Flowering Currant, Western Columbine, Western Cone Flower, Horsemint, and Showy Milkweed. The footprint for each garden will be no larger than 25 by 25 feet and will be installed by volunteers and the Kennedy High School Conservation Corps later this spring.

The project also aims to provide educational opportunities for local school children K-seventh grade to learn about pollinator ecology. School groups will be visiting and collecting data at these gardens. All gardens will reportedly be installed by hand; there will be no heavy equipment used.

Police increase patrols downtown

Working with the Main Street Program, the Cottage Grove Police Department has increased presence and patrols in the downtown area in response to increased reports of criminal

activity in the area. The City said officers are using all the resources available including unmarked vehicles, increased foot patrols and marked vehicle presence in the area. Citizens are encouraged to call the police department to report any suspicious activity.

Exhibit happenings

Last Saturday over 100 kids, families and seniors attended the "Cave Painting" special event at the Cottage Grove Public Library. The event, associated with the Smithsonian Institution Human Origins Traveling Exhibit, introduced folks to Cave Painting Art as seen in France and Spain and elsewhere as inspiration for their own art creations. Local Artist "Tinika" led the workshop and also did a similar workshop at Cottage Grove High School. A gallery of these pieces of art will be on display soon at the Library.

On Thursday night, March 3, a full house at the Cottage Grove Community Center attended a lecture by Dennis Jenkins, Senior Research Archaeologist at the Museum of Natural and Cultural History at the University of Oregon, a lecture dedicated to the prehistory of the Great Basin of Eastern Oregon. As Director of the Paisley Caves Archaeological Research Project in Central Oregon, his excavations have recovered the oldest known human remains in North America.

Jenkins, widely published and the subject of numerous documentaries, shared an amazing and informative perspective of his Archaeological Research here in Oregon, and the audience of 85 people left the lecture inspired with visions of life in Oregon 15000 years ago.

Remaining events scheduled as part of the Smithsonian exhibit are:

Thursday, March 10, 6-8 p.m.
"Science and Human Origins: What Does The Evidence Say?" *Special guest speakers from the Discovery Institute will include Ann Gauger and Richard Sternberg*

Saturday, March 12, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

"Oregon's Native American Cultures, Artifacts and Traditions." *The Education Team from the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History will lead this kid and family friendly event.*

The Smithsonian Institution,
The American Library Association, John Templeton Foundation,
and the Cottage Grove Public Library Present:

**"Exploring Human Origins:
What Does It Mean To Be Human?"**

March 10th:
Science and Human Origins – What does the evidence really say? **6-8pm** with Ann Gauger & Richard Sternberg, Discovery Institute

March 12th:
U of O Museum/Oregon Native American Cultures & Traditions **2:30-3:30pm** with Mia Jackson – **Kids Event**
– See and touch artifacts from Oregon's past.

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6-day weather forecast

THURSDAY March 10 41° 51° Rain	FRIDAY March 11 41° 51° Poss. showers
SATURDAY March 12 40° 49° Poss. Showers	SUNDAY March 13 41° 49° Poss. Showers
MONDAY March 14 40° 49° Poss. Showers	TUESDAY March 15 41° 49° Chance of storms

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