



courtesy photo

Representatives from organizations awarded grants by the Cottage Grove Community Foundation gathered at the Cottage Grove Community Center for an awards ceremony on Tuesday, March 8.

Foundation grant awards presented

Visitors to Cottage Grove's annual Bohemia Mining Days should have one more way to keep cool this July as the festival utilizes grant funding from the Cottage Grove Community Foundation to purchase misters for use in Coiner Park. The project was one of 13 recognized by the Foundation at an awards ceremony held in the Cottage Grove Community Center on Tuesday, March 8, a list that Foundation

Director Travis Palmer said will now include one more award. Palmer said a \$1000 contribution from Betty Wright led to a 14th grant of that amount to aid in the purchase of iPads for students at Latham Elementary, a grant that was not included among the original roster. In all, then, community grant funding totaled \$17, 121 for the Foundation in 2016.

Several projects to aid Cottage Grove schools were in fact funded, as were a popular band camp, special food boxes for Latino families through Community Sharing, the Humane Society's spay and neuter program, life jackets and training equipment at the Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center and social service efforts such as CASA of South Lane County's "A Voice for Every Child" initiative.

Planning Comm. to examine zone change application

On Wednesday evening, March 16, the Cottage Grove Planning Commission will deliberate on a change of the Land Use Map designation for two properties on North Lane Street in Cottage Grove. The applicants, Erik Scully and Glenn Taylor, are seeking to change the designation at the properties near the railroad tracks from C-2 Central Business District to C-2P Community Com-

mercial. City Planner Amanda Ferguson said that Scully has stated an intention to change the zoning to allow "light manufacturing and horticultural use" on his property, which he reportedly told the City would entail a marijuana grow operation. (Scully could not be contacted by the Sentinel for this story). Ferguson said that such an operation is not permissible under the Central Business District zon-

ing but would be allowable with Community Commercial zoning. She said the City has fielded "a number of requests" downtown and in the City's industrial park for marijuana grows, though that type of use is forbidden downtown and in the Industrial Park. She said this is the first application that has sought to change zoning on a property for this use. Despite not technically being located downtown, Ferguson said

the properties' previous owners sought zoning in the Central Business District to avoid having to add paved parking, which Scully and Taylor will have to do. In addition to the zone change request, the Planning Commission will also elect its officers for 2016 at the meeting, which begins at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

LORANE COUNTRY NEWS

BY LIL THOMPSON
For the Sentinel

There's so much information to share, but I'll start with two events this weekend: SPRING BREAK actually starts when school is out this Friday, and school's days off are Monday, March 21 through Friday, March 25. Enjoy your

break, everyone! This Saturday, March 19, Lorane Grange will host another spaghetti dinner and bingo evening. Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. followed by bingo starting at 6:30 p.m. Dinner is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children eight and under and includes your spaghetti, Caesar salad, French Bread, beverages and desserts. For those coming for bingo only, there is a nominal fee of \$2 for unlimited beverages and desserts. There is still the ever popular 50/50 and no one has won the progressive blackout yet.

Congratulations to our district students for raising \$1,016 for their Pennies for Patients campaign. Two Crow High School students have won great honors for their short stories as a part of the Wordcrafters Annual Writers Conference. For the high school division, Crow High sophomore Hunter Black's "Copenhagen Estates" placed third, and Ryan Larsen's "A Dream at Death's Door: The Long Flight" took first place! These awards were presented at the UO Baker Center. How exciting for them to

hear their work acclaimed from a highly professional writer. Congratulations! Some Lorane students were positive behavior Panthers for the week of Feb. 29- March 4: First grade — April Casto, Fifth grade — Ian Eshleman, and sixth grade — Logan Eshleman. Just a reminder that open enrollment is during the month of March. If you know of anyone, share the greatness of our district and have them call Lee Ann at the District office at 541-935-2100.

Grant to CDC aims to aid would-be entrepreneurs

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

A grant recently received by the Cottage Grove Community Development Corporation is expected to bring events dedicated to helping develop the ideas of would-be entrepreneurs. The City announced that the \$42,608 grant from Lane Workforce Partnership aims to stimulate workforce development through a partnership with FertiLab to bring new programs and support the growth of ideas in the area. Fertilab works to support idea-stage and emerging entrepreneurs by offering tools and resources to start successful businesses. Grantwriter Lori Bumgardner, who said she has worked with FertiLab for some time, said the program caters to business ideas that "aren't really at the acceleration point" in their development" and may "require a little more handholding." In Cottage Grove, two events are scheduled to help what are known as "wannapreneurs" get started. A start-up clinic features six visits from a panel of experts that evaluate and prescribe actions to help get new ventures focused and healthy. "They're for people who think they may have a great idea but aren't really sure," Bumgardner said. "It's really hands-on, a little 'Shark-Tank'-ish." Another event, billed as the "Big Mix," is labeled as a "social mixer for entrepreneurs, techies, designers, founders" and "startup folks of all types." During the Big Mix, entrepreneurs with concept stage startups are given three minutes to introduce who they are, what problem they are working on and who they are looking to connect with. The goal is to celebrate and support founders of new startups and help them access the network effects of Fertilab's system. The grant funding for these events is expected to assist up to 56 start-ups in one year, serve 100 entrepreneurs via the Big Mix, serve six companies or eight individuals in the start-up clinic and refer two companies to RAIN (The Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network) Eugene, an organization that works to "advance the formation of high-growth innovative startup companies throughout the South Willamette Valley," according to its website. Bumgardner said that, while RAIN tends to focus on products, FertiLab expands the possibilities to include technology, bioscience and other fields. Matt Parsons, chair of the Cottage Grove CDC, said the events funded by the grant are still in the planning stage. The Cottage Grove Community Development Corporation was founded in 2011 when citizens "banded together to address the blight and disinvestment that had turned our once thriving timber community into one of stereotypical rural decay." It is dedicated to helping Cottage Grove become a destination for the cultivation of business potential. More information on the CDC is available at <http://www.cgcdc.org/>.



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