



Ana Maria Dudley (left) and Leslie Canales of Peggy's Primary Connection show off a self-portrait made by South Lane P-20 Coordinator Jackie Lester in honor of Peggy Lintula, founder of the family resource center, who passed away early last week. They said many visitors came to pay their respects to Lintula at the center she loved.

photo by Jon Stinnett

Friends gather at family resource center to bid founder farewell

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Families with young children are a familiar and welcome site in a room on one wing of Lane Community College's Cottage Grove campus. Last week, however, their visits were tinged with a bit of sadness and more than a little reflection.

Last Monday evening, South Lane Superintendent Krista Parent told the Cottage Grove City Council that Peggy Lintula, who founded the family resource center known as A Primary Connection over 25 years ago, had succumbed to cancer. The next day, families whom Lintula had counseled over generations began visiting the center's new headquarters on the local LCC campus to pay their respects.

"To feel the warmth of people coming in and sharing their stories was wonderful," said Ana Maria Dudley, a longtime colleague of Lintula's. "People were making portraits and sharing sweet memories, and to hear from the children about the impact Peggy had was so special."

Flowers and comfort food, the staples of a celebration following



Last month, the School Board voted to rename the center "Peggy's Primary Connection."

a loss, were in plentiful supply as families who visited the center over the years for parenting advice, to take a break or socialize their little ones made their visits. Generations of families like the Urendas, one of the first Hispanic families to come to Cottage Grove in the mid-1990s, told of acts of kindness Lintula bestowed upon them.

"Back when I was at Bohemia (Elementary), she always helped me with my work," Mario, now a teenager, said. "She was very nice to everyone, and especially me."

"Peggy has been really special to the kids," said longtime employee

Leslie Canales. "It's been hard for everybody to express it. To this minute, I can't think of her gone."

Last October, Lintula was among the guests at a celebration to mark 25 years of A Primary Connection in Cottage Grove, in addition to the center's move from Bohemia Elementary to the LCC campus. She explained that she had been named the District's kindergarten coordinator in 1989 and started formulating plans for the center shortly after. The center had been located at the district office and Lincoln Middle School before its move to Bohemia.

Last month, after hearing that Lintula was losing her battle with cancer, the South Lane School Board voted unanimously to rename the center "Peggy's Primary Connection" in her honor. It's a title that is expected to travel with the center as it moves to what many hope will be its next new home, on the campus of a newly built Harrison Elementary School.

"It's so special that so many remember her," Canales said. "We miss her terribly but we need to keep going, because it's what she would want."

Porter tapped to lead South Umpqua S.D.

South Lane director of technology departs this summer

A South Lane School District administrator will depart at the end of this school year to become the superintendent at another district.

Timothy L. Porter, who currently serves as the director of technology and student achievement at South Lane in addition to the director of its children's dental clinic, has been named the new superintendent of the South Umpqua School District, the District announced last week. The hiring is effective July 1, 2016.

"We had an excellent field of 21 candidates for the open superintendent position," Board Chair Jerry O'Sullivan said, adding that Porter "has demonstrated a record of success in the South Lane and Sweet Home districts."

Porter's prior administrative positions have included the curriculum director at Sweet Home and principal in the Condon School District. Porter has a doctorate degree in educational leadership from George Fox University and a master of arts in theology from Fuller Theological Seminary.

"I believe that every student has the ability to learn, and it's our job as edu-



Sentinel file photo

Timothy Porter, who will become the new superintendent at South Umpqua School District, also served as an assistant boys' basketball coach at Cottage Grove High School.

cators to make sure they reach their potential in an ever-changing world," Porter said. "All students are capable of performing at a high level given the time and support they need. It's up to our educational systems to change so that we can give this additional time and support while not leaving any behind."

Search for missing CG man continues

Police say they have lots of leads but have yet to positively identify William Thomas Stuart

The Cottage Grove Police Department said late last week that it has uncovered a "bunch of leads" regarding the whereabouts of a local man who reportedly had not been in contact with his family since Christmas.

Detective Doug Skaggs said CGPD has received lots of phone calls regarding William Thomas Stuart, 44, who is reportedly a member of the local transient community. Skaggs said police have been able to find Stuart's camp on a piece of property south of town that's known as a camp for several transients.

"We did an extensive search where his

camp was, and the homeless community has been awesome in helping us with the search," Skaggs said. He added that police worried that Stuart may have been victimized.

"The information we're getting is leading us in the direction that he may in fact be safe," Skaggs said, though he declined to elaborate pending the ability to positively identify Stuart.

Skaggs said that no one has seen Stuart locally since at least early January, and that a habit of moving around frequently can lead others not to question a person's whereabouts.

"People move on, and others assume that everything is okay," he said. "It's scary for us, because people may not take someone being gone as seriously, and these people may be more likely to be victimized."



William Thomas Stuart

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