



photo by Jon Stinnett

Rachel and Roman Dooley chat with Ruby and Amber Organics' Karen Martens and son George.

Crowds gather to meet their farmers

The public seemed to have no problem following the annual "Meet My Farmer" event from its previous home at the First Presbyterian Church to its new location at Pioneer Square on 10th Street Saturday. Expanded offerings included the opportunity to pet animals cared for by local 4-H groups, in addition to food offerings, arts and crafts and much more. Gardening presentations, animal products for sale and live music from local musicians filled out a list of the day's events.

Meet my Farmer was sponsored by local food movement CG Feast, Sustainable Cottage Grove and the First Presbyterian Church.

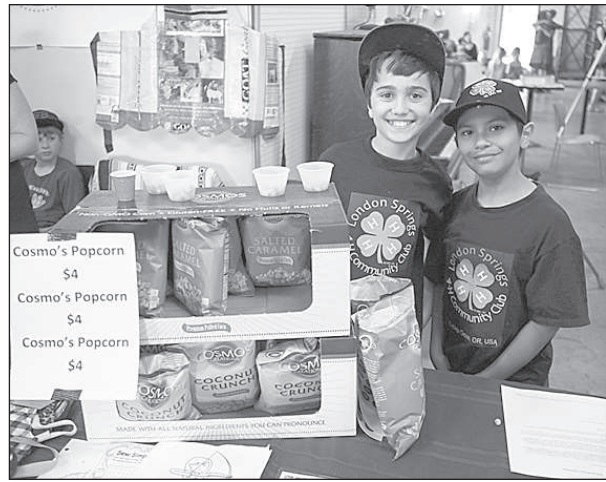


photo by Bruce Kelsch

Luke Sexton and Pablo Garibay from London Springs 4-H Club sell Cosmos popcorn to raise money for their club.

Evening encounter near Creswell leads to mysterious injury

Lane County Sheriff's Deputies responded to an area south of Creswell after a man reported a gunshot wound last week.

On Monday evening, March 28 just before 10 p.m., deputies were reportedly dispatched to the area of Highway 99 near Howe Lane south of Creswell regarding the report of a gunshot wound. Upon the arrival of responding medics

and deputies, a man was located who had an injury. The man reported he had been traveling on his bicycle when he was passed by an unknown vehicle and felt a sensation like he had been shot.

The Sheriff's Office said the man did have an injury and he was transported to the hospital, where he was treated and released with minor injuries. Deputies searched the area and did not locate any

suspects. The Sheriff's Office said it is unknown what type of weapon caused the victim's injury and there is no additional suspect information that can be released. On Monday, the Sheriff's Office said there were no updates regarding the case, and Detective Sgt. Carl Wilkerson could not be reached by Sentinel press time to comment on the case.

Conversation to detail history of Black culture, struggles in Oregon

Cottage Grove's Blackberry Pie Society is set to offer a public conversation this week about the racial discriminatory history of Oregon.

"Why Aren't There More Black People in Oregon? A Hidden History Conversation Project," a historical timeline and discussion with Portland State University adjunct professor and author Walidah Imarisha, will take place Friday, April 8 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Cottage Grove Community Center, located at 700 Gibbs Ave. The program is co-sponsored by the Cottage Grove Blackberry Pie Society, the Cottage Grove Library, the Rural Organizing Project and Oregon Humanities.

"Have you ever wondered why the Black population in Oregon is so small?" asks a recent press release, which goes on to state that "Oregon has a history not only of Black exclusion and discrimination, but also of a vibrant Black culture that helped sustain many communities throughout the state—a history that is not taught in schools."

Cara Shufelt, director of the Rural Organizing Project, said that, "as demographics shift in rural communities, it is all the more valuable to unpack Oregon's history on race and

the lasting impacts of racial exclusion today. These conversations illuminate ways that rural and small town Oregonians can take action and promote human dignity in their communities."

Jess Campbell, also with the Rural Organizing Project, said the conversation is the first of its kind in Cottage Grove, adding that it offers a timeline of events focused on the racial exclusion laws that were on Oregon's books until relatively recently.

"We'll be reading the timeline and asking questions like 'how do you see these issues playing out now,'" Campbell said, adding that today's political conversation "offers the same rhetoric with regard to immigrants that was heard back then.

"I think it's answering a question that a lot of folks have been asking about this state's history, a history that is largely hidden from public view," Campbell said.

The conversation project is touring six rural Oregon communities between April 7 and April 16, including Josephine, Lane, Polk, Union, Crook and Columbia Counties.

The event is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be available.

City Council corrects property line discrepancy

The Cottage Grove City Council fixed a decades-old property-line discrepancy at its Monday, March 28 meeting, in the process returning a piece of land to a local property owner.

City Planner Amanda Ferguson said the City discovered a discrepancy in the way a property line was drawn near Trailhead Park in downtown Cottage Grove, a park adjacent to land owned by Joe Spady that formerly housed Spady's Auto Art business and is now the home of Hard Knocks Brewing.

The original property line was based on the railroad right-of-way from 1901, Ferguson said, though somewhere in the middle of the last century, the line was redrawn to include about 2200 square feet of what

would become city property when the City purchased Trailhead Park as part of its purchase of the land that would become the Row River Trail, land that formerly housed the railroad tracks that led upriver.

The City recommended that the property line be drawn to match a 1960 deed so that the line did not actually run under the northwest corner of Spady's building, in the process making a gift of sorts of the 2200 square foot sliver of land involved. Ferguson said the City did not seek compensation for this piece of land, as it purchased the entire park property for pennies on the dollar in 1995, prior to the land's transition from railroad to public trail. The Council unanimously approved the transaction.

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