

# Dozens run for ice cream

Event aims to raise awareness of Child Abuse Prevention Month

A total of 114 community members and Lincoln Middle School track athletes toed the line and earned an ice cream sundae by completing a one-mile, two-mile or three-mile course in the second annual "Great Ice Cream Bowl" held Friday, April 29.

The event was planned to help spread awareness during the April "Child Abuse Prevention Month" effort associated with the local "90 by 30" effort, Run CG and Peggy's Primary Connection.

Prior to the start, participants were asked to be aware and help prevent child abuse and to take information flyers with helpful contact numbers after the run. The symbolism of receiving a blue ice cream bowl they could keep was to remind them of the beauty of the clean blue sky and joy and freedom children should feel in a world free of child abuse.

Participants included: Alex Pacheco, Alina McMilin, Allen Bates, Alvaro Miranda, Austin Rusco, Avery Hutchins, Belle Pennington, Blakely Herbert, Breanna Bechtel, Briahna Guevara, Carter Bascue, Clara Reindel, Daisy Passenger, Derrick Bloomstrom, Dylan Higdon, Emma Burleson, Emma Gilbert-Spires, Gavin Ostrander,

Gracie Arnold, Isabel Thompson, Jaiden Simons, Jason Travis, Jaxson Cooper, Jayda Epperson, Jayden Bartram, Jesus Torralba, Jordan Thielke, Katie Geisler, Kennedy Royse, Kiaya Wright, Lauren Myler, Lexy Cummings, Liam King, Loren James, Maddie Geisler, Madison Goins, Mariah Ludiker, Marissa Tull, Matelynn Ladd, Mathew Burns, Miguel Lopez, Mikayla Carr, Nathan Cristofaro-Anderson, Nicholas Naro, Owen Dragt, Rebecca McCreynolds, Skylar May, Teanna Child, Thane Parsons, Tristin Duwell, Valeta Oliver, William Cooper, Zane Schnee, Darlo Razoto, Judy Razoto, Hilda Razoto, Emmy Bickford, Camila Soto Cruz, Annabelle Stinnett, Mami DeGarlais, Carli DeGarlais, Halle DeGarlais, Rogelio Soto Cruz, Journey Meyer, Nanci Strickland, Debbie Taie, Delaney McLaughlin, Nathaniel Deyoung, Taylor Christie, Seth Lebow, Ryan Williams, Summer Lebow, Sophia Raade, Payton Bickford, Shyla Gordon, Sativa Gordon, Ely Jeffers, Audrey Hartgenbush, Shynelle Holmes, Denzell Cowan, Benjamin Genthner, Brayden Denny, Caiden Lane, Chance Hemenway, Connor Bailey, Cory Butts, Elias Garza, Ethan Petersen, Grace Myler, Helen Leal-Colonel, Isis Becerra-Aguilar, Jaden Owens, Jayden Walter, Justin Fran-



courtesy photo

Participants line up at the start of the Great Ice Cream Bowl at the Chambers Railroad Bridge Friday.

cis, Kalob Keeler, Kopachik Korbyn, Logan Lowrey, McKenzie Baker, Nadia Witt, Noah Hughes, Shambay Gabriel Trapp, Shaquall Holloway, Zen Wemple, Mitchell Johnson, Kenzie Parsons, Sara Meyer, Eli Williams, Cyrese Lee, Cindy Sustaire, April Sexton, Rio Lopez, Jace Meyer and Jean Harris.

# Offbeat Oregon History

Frontier Oregon swindlers: The traveling medicine shows

BY FINN J.D. JOHN  
For the Sentinel

The four decades following the Civil War were something like a golden age of charlatany in the West, and Oregon was no exception. From swindling tourists at a gambling parlor, to fleecing miners in a tent-city saloon, to peddling stock in nonexistent gold mines, the opportunities for a morally flexible fellow to make a stack of ill-gotten greenbacks was probably never higher in the Beaver State than it was back then.

One of the most popular ways for a con man to steal a buck or two back then was with a medical-miracle scam. An enterprising con would mix up a concoction containing a few substances with dramatic effects – red pepper, alcohol and laudanum, say – and mix in a couple different flavoring agents to give it the proper medicinal taste: eucalyptus oil, for example. Then, into a bottle it would go, and the con, calling himself "Doc," would roll from town to town selling it as a secret-recipe folk remedy for whatever seemed most likely to sell.

This basic scheme was demonstrated in one of the more famous episodes of The Lone Ranger radio show, from 1938 – in which "Doc Stubbs" rolls into town selling a product called "Snake Oil Tonic," which does nothing but put the residents to sleep so that his accomplice can pick their pockets.

Unfortunately, there aren't many stories of specific medicos-cons in the historical record. Touring the country under false names and often a skip or two ahead of the law, they did their best to stay out of the history books as long as possible.

But the legitimate physicians in the towns they visited have left us some pretty colorful accounts of their general business methods.

"Do you see that open barouche coming down the street with a torch on either side ... and two California sharpers sitting just back of the driver?" wrote Dr. William L. Adams, an eclectic physician working in Portland in the 1870s. "They wear stovepipe hats and are neatly dressed in broadcloth with high standing collars, and wear massive watch chains washed with oroids and glistening in the light

of their torches. ... They stop on the corner of First and Alder streets. By this time, attracted by the torches and the music of a fiddle, there has gathered around them a crowd. The orator stands up in the barouche. He takes in the character of the crowd and begins his oration: He has a medicine for sale that will cure catarrh, asthma, epizotic, and all other diseases.

"He is a ventriloquist. Here he lifts up his 'Punch and Judy' and makes her sing a song about Henry Ward Beecher, which amuses the crowd. He then makes her say something about the value of his medicine in curing all diseases. ...

"He makes an eloquent speech with loud intonations and violent gestures. 'This medicine is a sure cure for asthma, consumption, catarrh, or anything else you happen to have. Anyone who buys it and is not satisfied will have his money refunded. We sold 5,000 packages here in Portland last year at a dollar a package and if there is a man here who was not satisfied, let him walk up and return it and we will refund the money.'

"Of course nobody does.

This satisfies the crowd that the medicine is a good thing, and one poor laboring man walks up and hands over a dollar and receives an ounce bottle of magnesia, table salt and red pepper, nicely mixed. 'Now take a pinch of that,' shouts the doctor, 'and see if it doesn't clean out your nose.' The victim obeys and sniffs, sneezes, snorts until the tears run down his cheeks and then laughs. He proudly shoves the package into his breeches pocket, with an expression on his face that shines out through dirt and tobacco juice, which the crowd reads as saying, 'By golly, I think that medicine ain't no humbug.'

"Now the sharper shouts out: 'Gentlemen, if you are skeptical of this medicine, I don't blame you. You have been humbugged and robbed by your doctors until you have no faith in medicines.' 'Here he snatches up a package of his stuff and, extending it to the crowd, proceeds: 'Gentlemen, we humbug nobody. We believe in dealing on the square. Please, walk up and try some for yourself. This may be your last chance to get a medicine for a

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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Cemetery meeting

The annual Silk Creek community Cemetery meeting will be held Tuesday, May 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Silk Creek Chapel, located by the Cemetery 4 1/2 miles west of Cottage Grove.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

### Speakers, movie highlight Mental Health Awareness Month

Corporate speaker and leadership coach Robert Elliott will offer his 'Everyday Intuition' program in the first of four

Thursday evening events taking place through May in Cottage Grove to mark Mental Health Awareness Month.

Elliot's interactive presentation will be Thursday, May 5 from 6:30-8 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 216 S. Third St., in Cottage Grove. Refreshments will be provided and admission is free.

Subsequent Thursday evening get-togethers, to take place at the same time and place, include 'Creating Healthy Relationships From the Very Beginning,' presented by South Lane Mental Health's Early Childhood Specialist Helen Reilly on May 12, and, on May 19, Ed Feil, a Senior Research Scientist from Oregon Research Institute in Eugene, will present 'Using

Mobile Technology to Support Parents of Young Children.'

On May 26, South Lane Mental Health will present "Happy," an Academy Award nominated documentary that explores human happiness throughout the world.

The 2016 events are organized by South Lane Mental Health, with sponsorship support from Northwest Health Foundation and the Cottage Grove Sentinel.

For more information or to request a sign language interpreter or other accommodations, call South Lane Mental Health at (541) 942-3939 or visit [www.slmh.org](http://www.slmh.org).

South Lane Mental Health is a nonprofit comprehensive mental health services provider based in Cottage Grove.

### Dental Clinic grant

South Lane Children's Dental Clinic is in the second year of a grant provided by a consortium whose goal is to increase school-based dental programs statewide. This year, the grant provides \$25,700 for children's dental services in the Cottage Grove area.

The grant is provided by Kaiser Permanente, Oregon Community Foundation, The Collins Foundation, The Ford Family Foundation, Meyer Me-

morial Trust, Northwest Health Foundation, Providence Health & Services and A-dec.

Oregon has one of the nation's highest rates of childhood dental disease. As Cottage Grove dentist Park McClung, DDS, says in an Oregon Community Foundation video: "I've told the team I used to work with in Haiti as a volunteer dentist that I need to stay here and take care of the children in my own backyard. The need here is just as great as anything I've seen in the developing countries where I've provided volunteer dentistry."

The other Lane County grant recipient is White Bird Dental Clinic in Eugene, which is providing dental services to Bethel School District elementary school students.

### WOE work

On Tuesday, May 10 at 6 p.m., the WOE Heritage Fair volunteers meet at the Fairgrounds. Those interested are invited to help plan the upcoming WOE Heritage Fair and are asked to bring ideas and their enthusiasm.

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**Penny Dorr**



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**MaryLou Teel**

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