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Cottage Grove Sentinel

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2016 SOUTH LANE AND NORTH DOUGLAS COUNTY'S MOST AWARD-WINNING NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1889 VOLUME 128 • NUMBER 49

Council discussion of pot 'buffer zones' to continue

City Attorney to examine CG's options with regard to recreational marijuana retailers

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove City Council is expected to explore the option of creating "buffer zones" around its schools and parks, zones that would be free of marijuana-related businesses, at an upcoming meeting.

At its Monday, May 23 meeting, City Attorney Carrie Connelly told the Council that she could explore the City's options for creating "buffer zones," citing public comment received that evening indicating an interest in them.

"We can develop something if you think you might want to go down that road," Connelly said. "Is there some interest in knowing your options? The concern is that we have to legislate something like this uniformly."

The notion of "buffer zones" became prominent in the local conversation on May 18, when the Cottage Grove Plan-

ning Commission examined a conditional use permit for a marijuana processing facility whose owners wished to convert a vacant lot across from Bohemia Park. The Commission approved the permit with conditions related mostly to developing the lot, which angered some of the site's neighbors.

"We have received a number of submittals in opposition to the proposal, and the principal reason is that it is located right across the street from a park," City Planner Amanda Ferguson told the Commission.

"It's about the children," neighbor Mickey Pattingale said during the ensuing public hearing. "This kind of business does not belong next to a family park."

"This kind of business is degrading to our park," Bruce Stewart said. "Nobody wants to donate to a park across from a dope facility."

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Aid for farm stand discussed

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The owner/operator of a Cottage Grove-based farm stand said that a push for heightened marketing of the business is planned for its future.

The Healing Matrix was the site of a meeting that brought interested individuals together to discuss the future of the Coast Fork Farmstand at the corner of 10th and Washington streets on Tuesday, May 24. Farmstand owner Scott Burgwin shared a positive outlook from the meeting, in which a marketing push, fundraising to upgrade the stand's infrastructure and other needs were discussed.

Burgwin has operated the stand at various locations around town for almost seven years; it moved to its current home in late 2014. The building's owners recently up-

graded parking there.

Business had been steady until about last December, Burgwin said, after which sales steadily dropped. He said he's unsure why that happened.

"We're trying to address how to reverse that trend," he said.

A new produce cooler should provide a way to keep veggies and fruits cool during the upcoming warmer summer months. Recent donations are also expected to help bring the stand's inventory back to previous levels, and Burgwin said a change in organizational structure could provide an even bigger lift.

"I've always wanted this to move in the direction of a cooperative," he said.

Burgwin said he just extended the farm stand's lease through July and hopes that a rebound in business could warrant another extension.

MEMORIAL DAY 2016

Ceremony salutes sacrifice

BY SAM WRIGHT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Last week, the Cottage Grove museum hosted a pre-Memorial Day celebration that featured a speech by Jonathan Landon, a U.S. Army Chaplain. The speech focused on raising awareness for the true meaning of Memorial Day and that it should be about honoring fallen service members instead of celebrated as a day off work.

But it was apparent Cottage Grove needed no lesson on how to commemorate military members in the community who

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photo by Sam Wright

Boy Scout Troop 140 led a processional parade from the CG Armory, site of this year's Memorial Day ceremony, to the Centennial bridge. They were followed by cyclists with the American Legion Riders.



photo by Jon Stinnett

Sailboats were some of the watercraft used to ply the waters of a quite-full Dorena Reservoir on Memorial Day weekend. More summertime temperatures are expected this week.

Proposed airport welcome center aims to aid tourism economy

Funds are being raised to construct building where its predecessor once stood

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Fans of the "hundred-dollar hamburger" are among the targets for a building planned to help draw more tourism to Cottage Grove.

Pilots and their passengers who land at Cottage Grove's Airport are currently welcomed by a porta-potty and little else upon their arrival here. A group of pilots and aviation enthusiasts, however, is hoping that a new welcome center at the Airport, which will aim to function as both a pilot pit stop and tourist information center, can entice pilots to stay a little longer.

Nadine Kelley of the Airport's welcome center committee ex-

plained that the "hundred-dollar hamburger" refers to pilots' affinity for flying their planes to certain locales just for a meal and a quick look around.

"We like to fly somewhere and eat," she said. "There's a restaurant right next to the airport in Independence, and it's full of pilots all the time."

Kelley said, though, that the lack of amenities at the Cottage Grove Airport doesn't exactly encourage an extended stop here.

"What greets them now is a porta-potty," Kelley said. "And what does that say about Cottage Grove? People don't come back if that's all there is to welcome them, especially if they're male pilots flying with their wives. A welcome

center could be a big help to our economy, because Cottage Grove has a lot to offer its visitors."

The Airport recently requested and received a waiver of the estimated \$4600 in fees and permits it will need to build a new welcome center from the City of Cottage Grove, which will pay the fees from its contingency funds. The City is currently engaged in an ongoing effort to annex the Airport from Lane County, with bringing city services such as water seen as one of the major benefits of annexation.

"Because there has been no water, people don't want to build in Cottage Grove," Kelley said. "At

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courtesy photos

A new airport welcome center (drawing inset) is planned for construction at the site of a previous building (pictured).

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