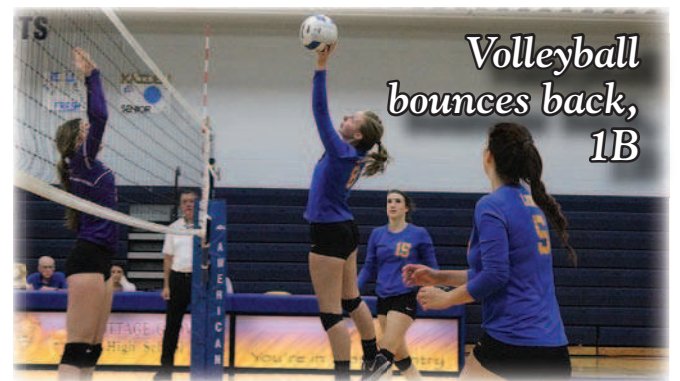


Farm to School Month — 3A  
 Choosing healthcare — 4A  
 'A Chorus Line' — 10A



Volleyball bounces back, 1B

# Cottage Grove Sentinel

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2016

SOUTH LANE AND NORTH DOUGLAS COUNTY'S MOST AWARD-WINNING NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1889

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## Brigadier General to speak at first annual Mayor's Ball

Brigadier General William Edwards, who assumed command of the Oregon Army National Guard's Land Component in April, is expected to provide keynote remarks at the first annual Mayor's Ball — an event that aims to raise funds and awareness for the restoration of the Cottage Grove Armory — on Saturday, Oct. 22. The National Guard's Land

Component oversees all Army operations for the state of Oregon and is responsible for more than 6000 soldiers. Prior to his promotion, Edwards' service included a deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and command of the 41st Infantry Brigade, which deployed to Afghanistan in 2014. Also a citizen-soldier, Edwards, of Albany, has been

an employee at Hewlett Packard in Corvallis for over 20 years.

Edwards' biography also includes stints at the Cottage Grove Armory itself — he served with the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry in Cottage Grove from October, 2000 through September of 2001 and commanded the battalion again after its relocation to

Springfield.

The City of Cottage Grove estimates that it will cost about \$2.6 million to renovate the Armory, which it purchased for \$395,000 in 2010 from the Oregon Military Department when the National Guard moved to its new facility in Springfield. In June, the City Council approved a contract with Christina Lund Consult-

ing of Cottage Grove not to exceed \$463,000 to secure the needed funds. The Army has seen sporadic use since its purchase, and conceptual drawings have been planned and executed for the building, plans that detail possible uses including a commercial kitchen, emergency shelter, headquarters of the Cottage Grove Kids Club and more.



Brigadier General William Edwards commands the National Guard's Land Component.

## Clown hunt leads to charges for two after altercation

Shawn Patrick Waite, 21, received a 30-day jail sentence and probation for Criminal Mischief

BY JON STINNETT  
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Reports of "killer clowns" and individuals dressing up as such to frighten or intimidate others have exploded across traditional and social media outlets recently, and an alleged clown sighting is believed to have precipitated an altercation last week that landed a 21-year old Cottage Grove man in the local jail.

Cottage Grove Police were called to more than one report of shots fired near the Dollar Tree on Highway 99 at about 10 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5. Officer Sean Branstetter said that the first officer on scene, Jason Cross, observed a subject running east on Chamberlain Avenue. Cross contacted the individual, who reportedly informed him that another individual in the Village Center parking lot had a gun. Later, Branstetter said that police determined the man in the parking lot had his shirt off, which, while being stretched between the man's fists, could have looked to some bystanders like a gun.

The man in the parking lot, Branstetter said, had just emerged from a nearby gas station with a handful of groceries when he witnessed a male and female walking toward the lot, the male half reportedly brandishing a baseball bat, who he thought may be walking toward the parking lot to cause some type of mischief.

"Don't mess with us," the man with the bat reportedly said, adding that they were looking for a clown that Branstetter said had allegedly appeared in front of their home nearby before getting into a car and departing.

"They were out looking for a clown even though he had supposedly left in a vehicle," Branstetter said.

Instead, they encountered the aforementioned subject in

the parking lot, who Branstetter said admitted to a "snarky response" that may have helped convince the male of the duo, later identified as 21-year old Shawn Patrick Waite, to use the glass and do damage to the body of the other man's truck. Branstetter said police believe that the sharp sound of the bat hitting the truck and its windows may have led to the calls of 'shots fired.'

In Cottage Grove Municipal Court the following morning, Waite received a 30-day jail sentence, two years' probation, a fine and restitution for Criminal Mischief II and Physical Harassment related to the incident; a charge of menacing was dropped by the City prosecutor. The involved female, identified as 20-year old Cheyenne Graves-Ford, was cited in lieu of custody and will face a charge of disorderly conduct on Oct. 27 in Municipal Court.

Branstetter said that he hoped the recent clown sightings don't prompt people to "see clowns and immediately go on the offensive," and a news release from CYPD attempted to calm any collective hysteria last week.

"We have no current information to indicate that persons dressed as clowns present any inherent threat to the safety of the community," the release stated. "It appears that individuals...find it stimulating to imitate social trends and scare people."

Police pointed out that it's "not illegal to dress as a clown," adding that they will respond to calls regarding suspicious persons dressed as clowns, but "absent anything other than their dress, enforcement action is unlikely." The report also states that "chasing people around and intentionally scaring them can get you arrested."



photo by Jon Stinnett

Mason Hughes enjoys the new toddler swings at Coiner Park while Grandpa (Pat Hughes) supplies the power.

## Coiner's new playground equipment dedicated

BY JON STINNETT  
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Many of Cottage Grove's Rotarians were joined by City employees under the pavilion at Coiner Park Thursday afternoon to officially dedicate the park's new playground equipment. Nearby, four-year old Mason Hughes couldn't be bothered to notice their ceremony.

Throughout the lunchtime dedication, Hughes, powered by pushes from his grandpa, Pat, swung steadily back and forth in the new toddler swings recently installed at Coiner. Nearby, a spidery climbing structure and new merry-go-round awaited more young visitors.

"This will be great," Pat Hughes said of the new climbing structure,

adding that he has "a couple of real climbers" among his 11 grandchildren.

Ruth Linoz, the Rotary Club president in 2015 who championed the new construction project, said that the club sought to provide equipment for younger park visitors that still might be fun for older ones. A survey conducted last year also indicated that parents sought a set of toddler swings closer to the main play structure at Coiner.

During the dedication ceremony, in which a plaque was unveiled renaming the "Rotary Pavilion," Linoz called the project a "fabulous collaboration" between Rotary and the City of Cottage Grove, and many

Please see COINER, Page 11A

## Ballot Box



The lowdown on each of the fall election's ballot measures

## Measure 97

Increases corporate minimum tax when sales exceed \$25 million; funds education, healthcare, senior services

BY JON STINNETT  
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Opponents of Measure 97, an initiated state statute that would increase the state's minimum corporate tax rate by establishing a 2.5 percent tax on gross sales exceeding \$25 million, had outspent supporters two-to-one by Oct. 8. If approved, the tax would go into effect for "C Corporations" (an IRS designation for businesses that pay their own taxes) on Jan. 1; should it pass, it is estimated to raise \$548 million in its first six months and about \$3 billion per year thereafter. Supporters from the Yes on 97 campaign and Our Oregon, a coalition of labor and other groups, say those funds are needed to shore up decades of sub-standard funding for schools and social services, while opponents frame the increase as essentially a sales tax that will be passed down from corporations to consumers.

At its Sept. 21 meeting, the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce joined nearly 50 other chambers statewide in opposing Measure 97. Director Travis Palmer said the Chamber's legislative committee, formed to help the local Chamber stay abreast of local and state government workings, responded from concerns and calls for more information from chamber members to examine the measure in greater detail.

The Cottage Grove Chamber's legislative committee listened to a presentation from Alison Hart of the state Chamber of Commerce opposing the measure, though Palmer said the Chamber also researched the opposing arguments before voting to oppose Measure 97.

"They believe that businesses that are affected will have to pay an extra percentage, and those costs are going to be passed down," Palmer said. "A lot of people are reading into this that those companies are just going to raise our prices; that's the fear."

Personally, Palmer said he's wary of the "huge jump" to Oregon's budget that would occur if Measure 97 passes.

"The state budget could increase by 30 percent, and that's an awfully big move," he said. Palmer said that not everyone involved with

Please see 97, Page 11A

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### WEATHER



HIGH LOW  
68 53

### CONTENTS

Calendar..... 11B Obituaries..... 2A  
 Channel Guide..... 4B Opinion..... 4A  
 Classified ads..... 6B Public Safety..... 5A  
 Sports..... 1B



1 Dollar