

# Lincoln principal Jeremy Smith loses locks to raise funds

BY SAM WRIGHT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Thursday's lunch period at Lincoln Middle School was not an ordinary one, especially for Principal Jeremy Smith. Each year, the school hosts a fundraiser with a walk-a-thon for the school. Smith pledged that if the school reached \$14,000, he would dye half of his beard and allow a student to shave his head in front of everyone during the school's first lunch period. Smith reported that the students raised close to \$15,000.

"I thought it would be a good way to motivate the students," Smith said, and his method worked.

Last year, the school barely broke \$10,000, showing Smith's motivational tactics to be worth around \$5,000.

Before the haircut, Smith dyed the right half

of his beard yellow, which made the whole ordeal a lot funnier than just a shaved noggin.

"I didn't realize how much this would smell," Smith said laughing at his half-yellow beard.

As the bell sounded for lunch, Smith made his way to the cafeteria, where students eagerly waited to see their principal's head be sheared. The principal and other faculty waited for everyone to get their lunch and settle down before beginning.

The shaving was done by student Hannah Mathis, who earned the honor by raising the most money. Mathis reportedly raised over \$2,000 in just over two weeks. She said that she wrote handwritten letters to clients of her mom's business and sent in a pledge sheet to her dad's work. Her words obviously swayed many to donate, and she earned the right to give her principal a buzz cut.

"I thought it was fun and cool to do that,"



photo by Sam Wright

**Student Hannah Mathis earned the right to shave her principal's head after raising over \$2000 for the school.**

Mathis said. Smith received a sporadic zig-zag pattern throughout his head and showed up to school on Monday with a completely shaven head.

The \$15,000 raised goes to teacher grants so they can buy supplies for their classes. Some of the money also went in to some campus equipment such as picnic tables in the courtyard outside the cafeteria.

# Cottage Grove alum takes top BIA forestry job

A 1980 Cottage Grove High School graduate has become the top forester at the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Peter Wakeland, 54, became the BIA's chief of forestry and wildland fire on Sept. 19. He is responsible for policy and budgets for all tribes that manage timber across the United States. He also oversees the BIA's wildland fire management agency based in Boise, Idaho.



Peter Wakeland

An enrolled member of Oregon's Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Wakeland grew up in Cottage Grove and graduated from Oregon State University. As a Cottage Grove Lion, he earned varsity letters in football, baseball and wrestling.

"I'm a Grover through and through," Wakeland said. "I love the Grove and I loved growing up there."

"Who knows? When I retire, I may find myself back in the Grove. That'd be fantastic."

Wakeland worked for the Grand Ronde Tribe for nearly two decades, first as the tribe's forester and then rising to the tribe's No. two job as deputy executive director and director of development.

He left the Grand Ronde in 2014 to lead the Coquille Tribe's Natural Resources Department. In that job, he was responsible for managing about 10,000 acres of tribal forest, including programs dealing with water quality, fish and wildlife, and other environmental issues.

Wakeland is no stranger to the nation's capital. He spent a year there in the 1990s, working for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and another year as a Mark O. Hatfield Fellow in the office of U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden.

"But Oregon is my home, and I'll miss it every day until I make it back," he said.

He is joined in Washington by his wife, Bonnie. They have been married 34 years and have two sons: Brooks, a lawyer for the Grand Ronde Tribes; and Torey, a biologist for the Coquille Tribe.

He said his goals for his new job include bridging the gap between the forest management efforts of the BIA and America's tribes.

"There are so many good people out in Indian Country — really good foresters and wildland fire folks," he said. "We need to find ways to better share resources, share knowledge, eliminate challenges to moving between governments, and prepare a workforce that will lead and sustain Indian forestry into the future."

# School Board worksession talks school bond specifics

BY SAM WRIGHT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The South Lane School Board was given another update on the bond and the design for the new elementary school that is to be constructed off of Taylor and 10th streets. Architects Mike Gorman and Greg McCracken presented their progress to the School Board on Monday.

The architects, who started the project in May, are currently in the "design development" process, where the overall design is done

but different tweaks and changes are being made in detailed areas. McCracken says that the team plans to be done with this process by Nov. 7 and will have a detailed 3-D animation presentation on Dec. 5.

Once the design development package is complete, BLRB Architects will hand off the designs to Highland Construction, who will return with a price at the same time the architects get a price from a third-party consultant.

Originally, BLRB Architects estimated the cost of building the

elementary school to be around \$18.9 million. After bringing in multiple consultants (one of which gave an estimated cost of around \$28 million) Gorman and McCracken arrived at an average price of \$23.5 million. The architects took measures to decrease the cost such as changing the square footage of classrooms from 960 square feet to 930. The school's total area covers around 80,000 square feet. Currently in the design development process, the estimated cost is \$21.5 million, though McCracken projects the price to eventually

drop to around \$20.9 million.

"We believe we can still bring the price down a bit more," McCracken said.

The school is designed to fit 600-800 students and will include modern building features such as FOB keys to lock and unlock classrooms. The building is also designed to be extremely energy efficient. Gorman says that the entire building will utilize LED lights.

Please see **SCHOOL BOND**, Page 10A

# Main Street Halloween celebration set for Oct. 31

Over 20 businesses, groups have already signed up to operate a booth

Cottage Grove's Halloween celebration has been planned for Monday, Oct. 31 from 3-5 p.m. on Main Street.

Chamber of Commerce Direc-

tor Travis Palmer said the event has been a coordinated planning effort of the Chamber, the Main Street Program, City of Cottage Grove, Cottage Grove Sentinel and Economic and Business Improvement District. Main Street will be closed beginning at 1:30 p.m. to allow for the setup of booths for businesses and organizations that do not have a storefront on Main Street. Palmer said that 20 such groups had already committed to operating a booth by press time Monday.

The celebration will feature a costume contest, pumpkin carving contest, scavenger hunt, carnival games and more. Those interested in having a booth on Main Street are encouraged to contact Palmer at 541-942-2411.

# Four-year old lost to crash on CG-Lorane

Area family and friends are in mourning after a car crash on Cottage Grove-Lorane Road claimed the life of a four-year old girl on Tuesday, Oct. 11.


The Lane County Sheriff's Office was called to a report of a motor vehicle accident at Milepost 7 of the winding, curvy road between the communities at about 9 a.m. The vehicle, a 2002 Ford Explorer, was reportedly traveling eastbound toward Cottage Grove when it left the roadway and rolled approximately 30 feet down an embankment. The driver, later identified as 23-year old Courtney Bowman, survived the

crash, along with two of her children. Four-year old Payge Bowman was killed in the wreck.

After the crash, Payge Bowman's father, Cyrus, put out a call for a guardrail to protect drivers at the dangerous curve.

"The one request we have is to get a guardrail up on that corner so this happens to nobody else," Bowman told the Register-Guard.

Family members set up a gofundme account to pay for Payge Bowman's burial expenses. The account had surpassed its \$8000 goal by Sentinel press time Monday.




## ALLIGATOR AUCTION

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The Alligator Auction promises fun and great deals for businesses and listeners

A percent of the proceeds to benefit South Lane Dental Clinic



## In Honor of All Veterans

The Cottage Grove Sentinel is preparing to publish its "Proud to Have Served," a special section devoted to all military veterans who are Cottage Grove-area residents or have a connection to this area.

If you are interested in sharing your military story in the annual Veterans Day publication, or in updating information that we have published previously, please complete the form below and submit it to the Cottage Grove Sentinel. Service photographs are also welcome.

Submit forms and photos (preferably) by e-mail to [cgnews@cgsentinel.com](mailto:cgnews@cgsentinel.com); or by mail to Cottage Grove Sentinel, Attn: Jon Stinnett, PO Box 35, Cottage Grove, OR 97424; or drop forms off at the Cottage Grove Sentinel, 116 6th Street, Cottage Grove.

Please be sure that all materials are carefully labeled with your name and phone number. **ALL FORMS AND PHOTOGRAPHS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY OCTOBER 31, 2016.**

Thank you for participating in this project to remember and honor our veterans.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank Achieved (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Dates Served: \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you serve? \_\_\_\_\_

Special Information (E.G., POW): \_\_\_\_\_

Has your veterans information been published previously in the Cottage Grove Sentinel Veterans Publication?  
YES NO

Do we have your military photo(s) on file? YES NO

(Note: If you have submitted photos in the past, we will still have them on file.)