

# P-20

Continued from page 1A

depression. For those living in poverty, the risk factors skyrocket. "Stress created by these factors has a tremendous impact on brain development," Lester said. "Some of these kids have levels of toxic stress, and it doesn't go away. They're worrying 24/7."

Lester said — and many educators present seemed to agree — that students facing such challenges are common in South Lane School District.

"It's a super scary picture," she said. "When we think of some of the kids we work with and what those kids have been exposed to, I don't think this is far off."

Still, Lester said that there are avenues for support that can change outcomes for these students, and she and her team have reached out to other agencies to try and create a network of such support.

"We can't do this by ourselves in education," she said. "No matter how great a leader you are, you can't do it by yourself. We need to work with the health care system, with social

services."

Lester and her team are working with groups like the Early Learning Alliance, Lane Education Services District, University of Oregon, South Lane Mental Health, 90by30, Be Your Best Cottage Grove and others to pool resources to better serve local youth. She said an asset mapping exercise calculated 160 modes of support available for young students and families in a group of about 45 organizations.

This coordination exposed the need for a "resource hub" through which organizations can compare and contrast the services they offer to paint an accurate picture of supports available locally.

"There is currently no way for providers to come together to talk about what their organization offers, which families they're serving, where there is redundancy or barriers to their success," she said.

Agencies like Lane County, PeaceHealth and Be Your Best Cottage Grove have their own plans for improving community health, and Lester pointed out common goals between the plans such as the afore-

mentioned resource hub, a school-based health clinic and expanded family resource center.

Under the P-20 umbrella are initiatives like Peggy's Primary Connection, a family resource center that currently operates at the Lane Community College campus in Cottage Grove but will move to the new elementary school at 10th and Taylor Streets. Lester said that hours at the center have been expanded to serve kids after school. The South Lane Children's Dental Clinic also operates at LCC here, and Lester said the need it serves is great.

Grants have been procured for the dental clinic, as well as the Kits in Transition to School Program (KITS) — which offered study skills and school experience to incoming kindergarteners over the summer. Lester said that KITS could be renewed for up to five years, depending on its federal funding. A Preschool Promise grant was used to establish preschools at Bohemia Elementary and Dorena School, and there are waiting lists for both schools. South Lane is also offering early education for kids whose second language is English.

"We've generated a lot of jobs and a lot of supports for kids and families," Lester said. She gave much credit to Ana Maria Dudley and Leslie Canales at Peggy's Primary Connection, Marta Hendrickson at KITS and Mary Nisewander, teacher of the ESL classes, for their work in expanding local supports for youth.

Still, Lester said the most challenging aspect of these efforts has been aligning the K-12 system with those that offer early childhood programs.

"The biggest challenge is the alignment between early education system policies, rules and the K-12 system," she said. "Things are so different. The idea was to align the two, but it's going to take a long time. It's really challenging just to talk the same language. There are different systems for hiring, different development requirements, different degree requirements for teachers, and none of them match. We need to come together. It's exciting to be at the forefront of this work, to be able to be behind the advocacy for the change that needs to happen."

# NINJAS

Continued from page 3A

them remember these facts." The problem with a lot of digital study applications, Meyers said, is that they act as little more than question banks. With Scrub Ninjas, however, students use a 'ninja' to create a surgical weapon that can be used to answer the many hundreds of questions a medical student needs to answer.

Its promotional materials invite users to "awaken the mind with the Scrub Ninjas® and arm yourself with epic surgical infused ninja weapons and traditional Japanese masks! and slice through a database of thousands of high-yield exam review multiple choice (MCQs) test questions," calling the game a "modernized test prep, designed for the visual learner, a question bank developed as a study companion for all of you digital hipsters on the go!"

Meyers, who also volunteers as the art teacher at London School, said her first goal was to support students that are terrified by testing.

"My vision is truly to support students in a visual way, to make studying fun again, and to reduce test anxiety around high yield information," she said.

Meyers is also launching a line of digital courses for entrepreneurs that is set to debut in January. Scrub Ninjas can be downloaded on iTunes and Google Play, and more information is available at [www.scrubninjas.com](http://www.scrubninjas.com).

# OFFBEAT

Continued from page 4A

was able to articulate his belief to the devout among the audience members that evolution was the mechanism God had chosen for Creation, and that the references to "six days" in the book of Genesis was better understood as "six epochs." Not everyone believed that, but he did, and many who would have rejected the fossil record as antibiblical found themselves able to contemplate it because the man explaining it to them was a credentialed minister.

In 1872, the Oregon State Legislature appointed Condon as Oregon's first state geologist — this in spite of the fact that he had no formal credentials in the field. However, he was one of the most learned people in the state, and his years of obsessive collecting, studying and writing on the subject of geology made him a natural for the post. With it, he moved his family back to Forest Grove and took a position there as a geology professor — finally leaving the old life as a man of the cloth behind.

Then, in 1876 when the University of Oregon was launched, Condon was brought aboard to teach all the sciences there.

As a university professor, Condon was a huge hit. He named a textbook for his geology classes, because one was required; but it was barely even cracked. Instead, students would pore over actual fossil specimens kept in glass-topped display cases that functioned as tables in his classroom. He actively encouraged women to take his classes and get involved in the sciences, and in 1878 his daughter Nellie was the valedictorian of the university's very first graduating class. He also took seriously his role as a public intellectual, leading community members on nature walks and giving plain-air lectures on the beach during summer vacation.

He also became famous for his field trips, in which the whole class would journey to some interesting place and study its geology. It was on one such trip that he and his class, in 1883, visited and autographed the stalagmite in the Oregon Caves.

If you should visit the Oregon Caves and see those autographs, you'll likely be startled by how good they look. The intervention of 135 years seems to have left those pencil marks stronger and clearer than ever, rather than faded like the notes in a Civil War soldier's commonplace book.

That's because the constant dripping of mineral-laden water onto the stalagmite over the past century has deposited a tiny layer of translucent calcite over the marks. If anyone would wish to erase them, they would have to actually damage the stalagmite to do it.

It's interesting to think about the fact that Professor Condon's signature will be there on that rock, clearly visible to all visitors, for hundreds of millennia after their meaning has disappeared into the mists of ancient history, slowly fading as new layers of calcite are added and the stalagmite gradually grows. As an analogy for the professor's life's work as the father of Oregon geology, this seems particularly apt.

(Sources: Jelsing, Nadine. "Thomas Condon: Of Faith and Fossils," Oregon Experience. Portland: Oregon Public Broadcasting, February 2016; Bishop, Ellen & al. Hiking Oregon's Geology. Portland: Mountaineers, 2004)

Finn J.D. John teaches at Oregon State University and writes about odd tidbits of Oregon history. For details, see <http://finnjohn.com>. To contact him or suggest a topic: [finn2@offbeatoregon.com](mailto:finn2@offbeatoregon.com) or 541-357-2222.



**Curves**  
Get strong  
+ STAY STRONG

-  Body Balance
-  Arms-Core-Legs
-  Dance and Tone
-  Curves Circuit with Jillian Michaels

 **Our All-New Boxing Class is Here!**  
Strength + Balance + Cardio + Core  
All in 30 Minutes

1133 E. Main Street, Cottage Grove **541.942.9580**  
[www.curves.com](http://www.curves.com)



*Live in Affordable Luxury!*

Our beautiful community is designed for those who need assistance or have memory impairments. You can be assured that you or your loved one will receive the best in care along with compassionate personal attention from our well trained staff.

Assisted Living and Memory Care Apartments  
**Call or stop by for more information and a personal tour!**

**Middlefield Oaks**  
Senior Living Community  
We are available 7 days a week!

1500 Village Dr., Cottage Grove, OR 97424  
541-767-0080 • [www.MiddlefieldOaks.com](http://www.MiddlefieldOaks.com)



**KRISPY KRUNCHY CHICKEN**  
Cajun Recipe

**25 Pieces Dark Chicken**  
**\$19.99**

Offer valid with coupon only. Coupon expires 11/30/16

**25 Piece Chicken Tenders**  
**\$19.99**

Offer valid with coupon only. Coupon expires 11/30/16

**LUNCH SPECIAL**

**4 Chicken Tenders and a honey butter biscuit for \$4.99**

Offer expires 11/30/16



**Shell**

1220 N. Highway 99  
Cottage Grove, OR  
**541-942-0480**

*Located across the street from The Koffee Kup*