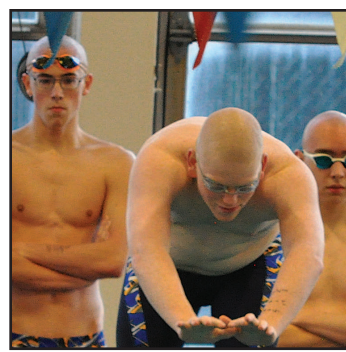




Cottage Grove Sentinel

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SWIMMING AT DISTRICT PG. B1

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GOVERNMENT

CITY READY TO FIGHT STATE ON IMMUNITY LAWS

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cg sentinel.com

The Cottage Grove City Council voted unanimously to adopt a resolution recommending the restoration of recreational immunity rights during its Monday, Feb. 13 meeting.

The issue first appeared earlier this year when the Oregon Legislature introduced several bills concerning the matter, particularly Senate Bill 504 which would effectively hold city employees responsible in some cases of injuries on city property meant for recreation. Initially, recreational immunity barred legal action against cities due to the inherent nature of recreation. However, after the

Johnson v. Gibson court case was decided in which a city's employee was not covered under recreational immunity, the lines blurred.

City Manager Richard Meyers spoke previously on the issue noting that, if Senate Bill 504 were to pass, parks inside of Cottage Grove would be closed and possibly sold, citing the city's inability to hold and afford such a liability. It is the city's contention that it is unable to maintain parks without employees and SB504 would cause a liability to that maintenance.

In a memorandum to the council Meyers wrote, "Failure to restore recreational immunity could have major impact on the health and

livability of the community. Recreation is important to the physical, mental and financial health of Cottage Grove." He went on to note that both city parks and private property used for recreation could be effected by the change.

During Monday night's meeting, Meyers noted that the resolution had been prepared by the League of Oregon Cities and would be used by the organization to lobby the legislature on behalf of Oregon cities to restore recreational immunity.

The city has deemed the issue a "top priority" for the 2017 session of the Oregon Legislature.

COMMUNITY

Dojo urges unity

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cg sentinel.com

Since the conclusion of the 2016 election cycle, news talk shows, commentary, magazines and other outlets have reflected a divided America with polling by the Pew Research Center supporting its claims. According to polls, Americans are divided along party lines and with several protests taking place across the county. Marches have been completed and more organized over issues of race, women's rights and reproductive rights, the divide does not seem to be yielding.

In Cottage Grove, however, a shop on Main St. has taken its own course of action to stem

the growing tide of partisanship and political and social discourse.

ATA Martial Arts, located at 802 E. Main St., painted its front window with a message: Love one another.

The message in full reads: "Trump lover? Clinton lover? None-of-the-abovover? Black? White? Red? Brown? Or some other color? Each woman is a sister here and every man a brother. Let us put our judgements down and love one another."

Owner and instructor Erin Lauraine said the message is

Please see **DOJO PG 8**



EDUCATION

ROSIE THE RIVETERS VISIT COTTAGE GROVE CLASSES

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cg sentinel.com

Opal Nelson earned \$1 a week as a maid in Indiana. But it wasn't enough. When a girlfriend suggested they try their luck in California and answer the call for workers at an aircraft plant, she hopped on a Greyhound bus and headed west.

"We had \$20 between us which shows how far we planned ahead," she said. The money got them as far as Denver, CO where they took on jobs as waitresses to earn the rest of the fare to California.

That was 70 years ago. On Friday, Feb. 10, Nelson joined three other women during a presentation to Cottage Grove High School students, each reminiscing of their time spent helping the war effort as Rosie the Riveters.

Between 1939 and 1943, women made up 65 percent of the workforce, aided by a government-funded campaign utilizing a partially fictional character, "Rosie the Riveter." They built tanks, ships, guns and other wartime necessities before being asked to leave their positions when men came home from the war.

Nelson worked eight-hour shifts building A-20 aircrafts under intense security. Each morning and night her lunch box was searched and she worked her days away in a factory camouflaged to look like the roadway from the air.

Alice Heiney, 99, worked in a similar factory.

"We didn't have all the cell phones and things people have now," she said. So, there was no phone call informing her or her

family of the attack on Pearl Harbor. "The paper boys were selling papers and yelling about it. 'Read all about it! Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor!'"

Heiney had a four-year-old daughter who she left with her own mother while she went to work checking cartridges for defects 13-hours a day.

Doris Graham worked long hours as well, on her feet nine hours a day, six days a week. "Then it was Sunday and there was

Please see **ROSIE PG 8**



Dog park opens

By Sam Wright
swright@cg sentinel.com

Steve Nisewander has been working for around a year to ensure our four-legged friends have a place to safely run free off leash. With the help of his children, Nisewander bought the car wash on Main Street that had an unused plot of land behind it. Back in the 70s, the plot used to be part of a putt-putt golf course.

"To help my kids pay for their college tuition, I told them to buy a business. They each own 40 percent of the car wash and I own 20," Nisewander said.

In the past year, Nisewander decided it would be helpful to the community if there was a dog park in the area. The park is now fully fenced in with two double-gated entrances and is open to the public with two waste bag stations and a picnic table. But Nisewander says the park isn't completely finished yet.

"We still want to put in a few benches for people to sit down, and I'll be able to lay the concrete foundations down pretty soon," he said. Currently, there is only one picnic table for community members to sit at while their dogs run around.

Nisewander has paid for most of the park out of his own pocket. He received about \$250 from a gofundme.com page and also received a small grant. The city offered to pay for the signage around the park and for a small

parking lot. A few people also donated some of the fencing for the park, but Nisewander says he has put in about \$2,000 of his own money into the project.

According to Nisewander, the most challenging part was putting the time and labor into constructing the fencing and waste bag stations.

"It was hard at times, especially with the weather," he added. In this past December and early January, Nisewander had begun part of the fencing, but due to poor weather conditions, he would have to stop for a few days because the ground was too muddy.

"People would stop me and ask when I would be done, but I couldn't lay in the foundation because of the bad weather," Nisewander said.

The benches should be added over the next month or two, and Nisewander also wants to put in a couple of water stations for the dogs, along with a barrel for people to leave dog toys.

"Someone asked if I had any water with me and I brought out our dog's water bowl and about 10 dogs swarmed the bowl to get a drink," laughed Nisewander's wife, Mary, who has helped supervise the project.

Nisewander says that there has been a good amount of traffic now that the park is completely fenced in. He said that any donations are welcome to help extradite the completion of the park.

GOVERNMENT

Pump station update

Taylor Pump Station asks for more money from council. **PAGE A6**



COMMUNITY

Tiny home plans

Plans for a tiny home development may face issues from city. **PAGE A6**

INDEX

Calendar	B11
Channel Guide	B5
Classifieds	B7
Obituaries	A2
Opinion	A4
Sports	B1

cgnews@cg sentinel.com
(541) 942-3325 ph • (541) 942-3328 fax
P.O. Box 35, Cottage Grove, OR 97424
Corner of Sixth and Whiteaker, Cottage Grove

VOLUME 129 • NUMBER 30



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