

# YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD TESTIFIES ON HB3030

By Caitlyn May  
cgsentinel.com

Cottage Grove City Council has six councilors, one mayor and a little bit of help every other

Monday during its regularly scheduled meetings in the form of a youth representative from the city's Youth Advisory Council (YAC). The efforts of the city's government-minded youth have reached the Oregon State Legislature and captured the interest of out-of-state universities this month.

"We had the University of Delaware contact us, interested in how our YAC program works," Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers said. The university is reaching out to similar programs nationwide in an attempt to collect data on what works and what doesn't to make youth-driven councils thrive in relation to local government.

And Cottage Grove's Youth Advisory Council is thriving. Every other Monday, one representative joins the city council to hear comment and staff reports on important city issues and each youth representative "votes" along with the council. Oftentimes, representatives bring issues important to Cottage Grove's youth to the attention of the city council.

The group, made up of students from the South Lane School District, added to their activities and

headed to the legislature last week to testify on House Bill 3030.

Members who made the trip included, Ian Dukes, Emma Meyers, Jennifer McReynolds, M.J. Raade and Tori Raade.

"They brought the issue up last year and representative Cedric Hayden moved it through the legislative process," Meyers said. The issue at hand is the dangerous practice of "whippets," or nitrous oxide containers. Teenagers have been known to abuse the containers to get high and the bill prohibits retail businesses from selling the containers to anyone under the age of 18.

"It's great that they'll get to go and be a part of this process," Meyers said.

HB3030 would restrict the sale of nitrous oxide to individuals under the age of 18. After the bill's hearing, it is eligible to be scheduled for a work session and eventually make its way to the house floor.

According to the city, the youth advisory council originally raised the issue of nitrous oxide to Hayden last year during a similar trip to Salem to visit the legislature.

The YAC students are also expected to visit the legislature this June to meet with government officials and tour the capitol, including the famous "Golden Man" statue that sits atop the capitol building.



The Youth Advisory Council traveled to Salem to testify before the legislature on House Bill 3030.

## Pets Tips 'N' Tales

By Mary Ellen, "Angel Scrib"



While in her kitchen Sonja's cattle dog, Ben, suddenly went bonkers!

You know how a dog acts, said Sonja, when they pick up a nasty sticker, cactus spine or something that they can't get rid of? Well! Ben was insanely zooming around the room with his tail between his legs!

He was favoring his left thigh, so she ran after him trying to stop him. Her plan was to investigate his leg by running her hands over it, but he just would not stop.

I grabbed his leash and as he sped by me, said Sonja, I looped it around his neck, stopping him and ran my fingers through his fur. I found and brushed out a little lump.

Used to Oregon sticker burrs, what she found explained Ben's predicament, but now it became hers!

Well, continued Sonja, that lump turned out to be a very angry wasp! Only European Honey Bees leave its stinger in the skin, but other vespids like wasps, bumble bees, yellow jackets, and hornets can sting repeatedly with no harm to themselves. A small grumpy wasp had stung poor Ben over and over.

Then that darn critter took off after Sonja, stinging her three times through her jeans!

Sonja continues, Ben and I ran outta Dodge, straight out the front door! Those stings hurt!

Then, we cautiously walked around to the back door, into the laundry room, where I gave Ben his doggy sting medicine, before I quietly sneaked into the bathroom to find a "Sting Stick" for myself.

After we were fixed up, it was time to strap on the guns and go after that !!@&^^\$@!!! wasp! I was hoping that the crazed insect had headed to where all flying things go to bonk themselves to death, against a window.

Usually, I gently place a cup over an inside insect, and slip a piece of stiff paper between the cup and window, before righting the cup, using the paper as a lid and carry the innocent insect outside to let them free. Not this time!

I hauled out the heavy guns! I chose my largest fly swatter and swatted that bug to death, several times for both Ben and me. It was sheer unadulterated revenge! Imagine that wasp stinging my innocent dog! I hope that mean wasp is in insect hell populated by giant spiders and praying mantises the size of Tyrannosaurus Rex's!

I wish I knew why that thing went after Ben. The dog wasn't doing anything, but joyfully following me as I was unloading the car. But, gratefully, we will never know as the wasp can't talk because it is in insect hell.

### TIPS

Dog breed's skills are so different! said Sonja, My ex-Marine friend's service lab, Sarge, retrieves his food dish to get his chow. Sarge holds the dish up while Joe puts in the kibble, then Sarge carefully sets it down and begins eating. Once the dish is empty, Sarge picks up the bowl and carries

it over to the sink. Unlike most untrainable human relatives, Sarge then drops the dish in the sink for washing!

Once in a while I tell Ben, "FIND YOUR DISH". When I do this, he looks at me as if I am a teensy-weensy dim, then he runs over and whaps his dish, hard, with a fore-paw, sending it banging across the room! He cracks me up!

I also keep an umbrella at each outside door, so when I head out on a rainy day I have an umbrella on hand.

When a foster dog arrives, I teach them about umbrellas. Most rescues are scared of the mysterious contraptions. To disarm their fears, I open an umbrella, put it upside down, and place several kibbles in it.

This has accidentally interfered with my lesson, Find your dish.

I once sent a new dog to the kitchen with the cue, Find your dish. Drum roll! She came back dragging my umbrella! At least, she knew where the kibble can be found!

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