

# Cottage Grove Retrospective

A look back at Sentinel stories from 30 and 60 years ago

## 1987

When Delores Ragan had surgery recently, she thought she knew what awaited her during the post-operative recovery.

"I was expecting a very miserable time, which you always have," said the Cottage Grove resident. Following five previous operations, her recovery was spent between periods of pain and a state of drowsiness brought on by pain relieving drugs.

The PCA system, developed by Illinois-based Abbott Laboratories, uses a portable, computerized pump to dispense the drug from a pre-filled syringe. The patient, connected to the pump by an intravenous tube, presses a button in order to receive a pre-measured dose of

the drug, either morphine or Demerol.

"I anticipate that it is going to be the standard of care for post-operative pain relief," said hospital pharmacist Julie Boffing. The hospital has purchased two of the devices at a cost of about \$3,000 each.

In the traditional system of administering pain-relieving drugs through intramuscular injection, patients had to wait about a half hour for the drug to take effect, Boffing said. That was on top of the time it took to summon a nurse and prepare the injection.

Ed Hack, the hospital's anesthesiologist, has had experience on both sides of the machine. He had surgery himself soon after the hospital received its first PCA and was the first patient to use the system.

With the old system, a patient experienced a drug-induced stupor when the pain killer was at its peak, but often suffered as the drug effect wore off before a patient was allowed another injection, he said. Intramuscular injections are usually administered at intervals of four to six hours.

The PCA system is programmed to allow the patient only a prescribed dose of the drug at intervals established by the physician, normally five to 10 minutes.

The patient presses a button whenever he feels pain, but the PCA will not dispense any of the drug if the prescribed interval has not elapsed.

A series of safety checks prevent the patient from receiving an overdose of the drug. Once the dosage and interval is set by

the physician, the PCA is locked to prevent tampering.

Even if the doctor prescribes too high of a dosage, the machine shuts down when a patient has received a certain amount of the drug. "It won't let you mess up," Boffing said.

"It made it possible for me to get up and move around, which makes recovery easier," he said. "I had gall bladder surgery, and I was up and walking that afternoon."

One problem the hospital may face is getting patients acquainted with the new technology, said Ragan, who was skeptical when she was first put on the PCA.

"It scared me to death. I had never heard of the contraption," she said. Now she recommends it for anyone who is recovering from surgery.

## POLICE BLOTTER

Cottage Grove Police Department 24-Hour Anonymous Tip Line: 767-0504

### April 24

Cottage Grove Police received a call from a resident who stated her son was a member of the Clown Posse and could be located on S. 10th St. The report noted the individual was known to carry knives and is "a runner." Authorities completed a welfare check at the caller's request.

An incident was reported by a resident near the bike path after she heard a small explosion but did not see anyone in the area.

Police took a call from a woman who said she was lost but would not identify herself. The report notes the woman was crying and upset, telling officials she was on Main St. before saying "never mind" and hanging up.

Authorities responded to a domestic disturbance at the Chevron Market on Gateway. Calls of a male and female yelling at each other came in just

### April 23

after 3 p.m. The male reportedly drove away leaving the female crying on the curb. Authorities provided a courtesy ride to her residence.

A resident filed a complaint at the police department noting a stolen firearm. Police took a report and photographs of the 70 Winchester .243.

A bicycle was found at Vintage Inn.

### April 22

The Chevron Market at Gateway reported that a customer attempted to pay for gas with a fake \$20 bill. The individual told police they had "just gotten their car back and found the bill inside the car."

A child called authorities to Bennett Creek Rd. The report states, "Father has come home and is beating on mother. Also has 7 year old sister in the house." No arrest was made.

A non-injury car accident was reported near Village Green. Both parties declined medics and exchanged insurance information.

### April 21

A woman called police after her tires were reportedly slashed outside a business on Gateway.

Personal items were reported missing from Harvey Ln. when residents filed a report stating a quad was missing and a camper door on the property was open.

A call from Main St. complained that a gray pickup truck had not been moved recently behind the Shell station.

Safeway reported a possible shoplifting incident, describing a male in his 30s with a black backpack allegedly placing items in his bag without paying for them, inside the restroom.

### April 19

Cottage Grove Police made an arrest after taking a call for domestic disturbance. A caller notified police that her boyfriend was "out of control" and had punched her in the back of the head multiple times. David Reece, 52, was arrested for assault in the fourth degree and interfering with making a report.

Safeway reported that two males jumped into a fenced area and stole cans and were headed in the direction of Walmart. The cans were reportedly already crushed.

A woman reported waking to the sound of her window being broken on Ash Ave. No arrests were made.

A welfare check was conducted after a resident reported an individual never returning from church.

A runaway juvenile was reported after leaving home two and a half weeks prior.

A car was reported stolen from London Rd.



## CAPITOL BEAT

News from the state legislature and around Oregon

### From the legislature

- House Bill 3087 passed committee. The bill creates a family and medical leave insurance program to provide covered employee with portion of wages while on family medical leave or military leave.
- Senate Bill 197 failed to make it out of committee before the deadline, sending it to the pile of killed bills. The proposed legislation would have allowed the DEQ to adopt a program to regulate air quality contaminant emissions for dairy confined animal feeding operations.
- A law that would prohibit termination for the use of legal substances is closer to becoming a reality with the passage of Senate Bill 301 out of committee. The proposed legislation would make it illegal for an employer to fire or refuse to hire an individual who tests positive for a legal substance such as marijuana.

### From around the state

- The state of Oregon is giving \$153.6 million to 10 schools around the state for seismic rehabilitation. The money comes in the form of a grant and must be used to ready the school's infrastructure for the coming Cascadia Quake. The majority of the money was allocated to Portland schools. No schools in Lane County were selected but lawmakers noted more preparations were needed to prepare schools for the disaster and further funding would be available in the future.
- The University of Oregon is contemplating a \$4.5 million cut to its budget. The news comes shortly after the board of trustees voted to increase in-state tuition by 10 percent for the coming fall semester.
- Governor Kate Brown has implemented a state-wide hiring freeze. The executive order will go into effect on May 1 and last until June 30 unless Brown takes further action. The move would place a freeze on hiring certain employees but would not effect positions that are crucial to life, health, public safety or that generate revenue. All agencies were also ordered to cut travel expenses by at least 10 percent and all out of state travel is to be suspended unless deemed absolutely necessary.
- The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has adopted a year-round ban on sturgeon fishing in the Gilbert River as well as additional seasonal angling closures. Under temporary rules that take effect Monday, April 24, the Gilbert River closes to sturgeon fishing, including catch-and-release, year-round, and closes to fishing for all species April 24-June 15 and Oct. 1-Dec. 31. Fishery managers intend to make this closure permanent starting in 2018. The closure is primarily a conservation measure designed to protect sturgeon on the Gilbert River, which have been targeted by poachers.

## State

## Representatives

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## 6-day weather forecast

THURSDAY APRIL 27

52° | 42°



Mostly Cloudy

FRIDAY APRIL 28

58° | 38°



Showers

SATURDAY APRIL 29

65° | 43°



Mostly sunny

SUNDAY APRIL 30

66° | 44°



Showers

MONDAY MAY 1

65° | 45°



Showers

TUESDAY MAY 2

66° | 43°



Sun

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