

CGHS ranked 25th best in the state

U.S. News and World Report rankings are out and Cottage Grove High School earned a spot in the top 25 high schools in the state. Barely.

According to the report, released each year, Cottage Grove High School edged out Elmira High School (24) and beat out Sheldon High School (29) out of 328 public, private and charter schools across Oregon.

The report measures more than 6,000 high schools in the country based on teacher and student ratios, test scores, math and reading scores, college readiness, advanced classes and graduation rates.

Cottage Grove high school earned a top five position among graduation rates last year with more than 90 percent of its students making it out of the 12th grade and onto the next phase of their education or careers. Overall, 78 Oregon schools were included in the rankings with only one receiving a gold distinction from the publication: the School of Science and Technology located in Beaverton. Cottage Grove was awarded a bronze medal.



Principal Continued from A1

"The student should learn while being assessed and a great example is learning to tie your shoe," said Olsen. "When you learn to tie your shoe there is tons of practice and skill building involved with the end result being that you can tie your shoe. So the assessment of tying your shoe is what the student will practice the entire time."

The presenters gave examples of different topics that classrooms were focused on and how they were assessed in a new way with this program. One example showed how first graders looked at opinions and opinion writing while talking about artists.

The meeting then moved along to public comments where an impassioned community parent urged the board to make the purchasing of whip-its go from the age of 18 to 21 in congruence with the new tobacco ordinance. She told the story of her son who used this drug and was in a dangerous place. She noted that the current system is a "legal loophole" and she has been work-

ing with stores in the area to make sure that they are not available to minors.

After a brief break, the meeting resumed and a bond update was issued from Superintendent Parent. "We applied for some seismic grants, actually five of them," she said. "They told us absolutely no way that they would only fund one and once in a great while they might pick two and we got all five."

The five grants will be going towards five different buildings to add posts and beams so that they are prepared for seismic damage. The total of the grants was just over 2 million dollars and the work at these buildings will be taking place over

the course of the next two years.

The board then discussed new business including the adoption of a new math curriculum and a ten-cent price increase in student lunches.

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May is Mental Health Awareness Month. If you or someone you know is in need of professional services related to mental illness, South Lane Mental Health offers services for any Lane County resident. For more information, please call (541) 942-3939.

Mental health Continued from A1

Wheeler says Eugene is not "bussing" residents who may suffer from mental illness out of the college town and into Cottage Grove.

"There may be a social worker who will bring someone here because there's a bed open here in a foster home but as for bussing people in, no. People with mental illness go to Eugene and some from Eugene come to Cottage Grove," he said.

South Lane Mental Health may be losing a director, gaining new patients and holding its breath to see what the latest political shake-up will bring but one thing will remain constant.

There is a small smoke shack across the street from South Lane's building on Birch St. Sometimes, staff can hear shouts coming from the structure and upon further examination, will find someone showing signs of mental illness. And while staff can approach them, offer them help and gesture to the building across the street, they can't make them seek help.

"We can't do anything until they cross the street on their own," Wheeler said. "But I tell my staff this all the time. There is no way we can ever repay the community for what they've given us and we will keep our mantra of helping everyone we can while giving back to this community."

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