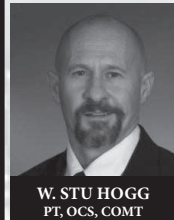


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**Kennedy**

Continued from A1

By **Caitlyn May**  
cmay@egsentinel.com

just under a mile away at Kennedy, an alternative high school in the area.

"It has a stigma but I would recommend it," he said of the school's "alternative" label. At first, Walker was concerned it would be forced to wear the same troublesome label and people would assume he had been forced into Kennedy because of his behavior. But his path to Kennedy and its unique way of teaching, started out of educational concern.

"It was hard at Cottage Grove," he said of the city's traditional high school. "There were big class sizes and I couldn't get one-on-one with teachers."

It was during his sophomore year at Cottage Grove High School that a teacher suggested Kennedy as a solution. Walker made the transition and completed his junior year and will be graduating this June.

When he leaves Kennedy it will be bittersweet. He says his favorite part of the school and the thing he'll miss the most is the teachers.

He'll also leave with a new favorite subject, "Math. Not because I'm good at it. It just made more sense this year," he said.

After graduation, Walker intends to enroll at Lane Community College to pursue a career in physical therapy or personal training.

"I can't imagine not spending a lot of time in the gym," he says, explaining he spends several hours in the local gym after school lets out each day.

"Kennedy was a good choice for me," he said. "I would recommend it to anyone who thinks they can't do well with the 'normal' way they teach you at CGHS."

Like most teenagers in Cottage Grove, Hayden Walker started his high school career at Cottage Grove High School. But this June, he'll be closing it out

*City budget by the numbers*

**Expenditures for all funds:** \$33,115,728

**City's permanent rate:** \$7.2087/\$1,000 of assessed value

**Full levy estimated to garner:** \$4,310,850 in tax revenue

**Combining public works and community development departments saves:** \$120,000

**Water bill increase:** \$3.14 monthly increase for residential users using 5,000 gallons of water

**Added funds for water rate increase:** \$54,400 in the Water funds (Water and Water surcharges),

\$76,700 in the Wastewater funds (Wastewater and Wastewater surcharges) and \$62,700 in the Storm Drain funds

**Marijuana tax revenue:** \$0. The state must reimburse the liquor and licensing department before paying out tax revenue funds to municipalities.

**Marijuana revenue budgeted:** \$15,000 to serve as a placeholder until the city receives funds from the tax.

**General fund subsidized the Building Inspection Fund with a transfer of:** \$10,810

**New debt:** \$1,000,000 in wastewater to complete capital projects as described in the 5 year plan.

For the complete budget, visit [cottagegrove.org](http://cottagegrove.org)

**Pool finances** Continued from A1

ment, the pool would be forced to increase fees and prices by 67 percent. "Just to give you an idea, fitness passes for seniors would go from \$25 to \$42 per month and some seniors have trouble paying the \$25," McCasline said. "A family pass would go from \$306 to \$511 if we raised prices the 67 percent."

Resident Pat Paterson and his daughter Molly commented on the pool's importance to the community with Molly noting that her father had utilizing the pool after being told by doctors he needed to increase his activity.

"He doesn't need a cane in the pool," she said, going on to note that seniors in the community needed the pool to remain active.

Local children were also touted as pool regulars with McCasline informing the committee that 335 children were currently enrolled in swim classes, not including the 25 children who took private swim lessons at the facility.

However, despite public comment in support of the pool, the budget committee opted to leave the city's funding for the facility at its current \$50,000 level.

Councilor Mike Fleck noted his disagreement with the city at-

torney's request that he recuse himself from the final vote due to his position at Community Sharing. The organization is included in the city budget and because Fleck receives compensation from the entity, he was asked to recuse himself from the final vote.

The final vote approved a budget with final expenditures for all funds of \$33,115,728 with \$70,000 moved to the police department to be used for an evidence storage shed.

Meyers drew attention to the intangible concept of the budget in his message, writing, "think about numbers as you walk or drive on a small portion of the 50 miles of streets, think about the 49 miles of water pipes, the 46 miles of sewer pipes or the 31 miles of storm drain pipes under your feet. Hopefully you will feel safer as you go home because of the 509 street lights. As you reach home know that if you need it, there is one of the 431 fire hydrants nearby and there is over 4 million gallons of water behind that hydrant to save your home and property in the event of a fire. Feel better that within the 4 square miles of the City there are at least two police officers on patrol and they are just a phone call away. Within the next week take the opportunity to get outside and enjoy just a small piece of the 244

acres of park land or just curl up in a comfortable chair with one of the 45,000 books from the library. All this and so much more is silently and without any fanfare made available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year through the work of about 79 people. The numbers in this budget impact your neighbors, friends, family and you every day."

**Bakery legacy**

Continued from A1

the hospital. The reason why he had moved, one more time, to Oregon. After refusing another surgery that would keep her in the hospital and on the mend for years, Nancy came home to her children and passed away.

"We buried her ourselves," Alex said. "It was crazy, my sister had to become a funeral director and we had to learn how to do it but it was probably the most powerful experience of my life. No strangers, just us."

With Nancy at rest, the family is headed on a trip to Alaska, one of her old haunts and for the first time, they'll have a motherless Mother's Day.

Now, Alex is back to work. He greets his patrons who once again find his screen door wide-open. They find their coffee and conversation, the ambassadors and food critics and, of course, Alex buzzing between tables, refilling water, conveying the soup of the day and asking what, if anything, he can get for them. This summer, he'll pull out his grill again and join the farmer's market crowd. He'll focus on the recipes his mother left him and experiment with new ones. And the plan, for now is just that he says.

"We're just going to continue on in honor of mom and just rock it."

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