



# Cottage Grove Sentinel

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Attention: Memorial Day means an early Sentinel deadline for the May 31st edition. Materials will be due by noon on Thursday, May 25th.

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**WED**  
69°/45°

For a full six-day forecast please see page A5

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2017

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## GOVERNOR BROWN HONORS CG YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

## Vietnam Veteran presents his life's work

Through multimedia, Marc Waszkiewicz works to reduce veteran suicide by making it ok to talk



Governor Kate Brown traveled to Cottage Grove on Friday, May 19 to honor the city's ongoing efforts to educate the community about the dangers of tobacco use and the county's historic and continued legislative efforts to prohibit the addiction from beginning in teens and spreading through adulthood. The Cottage Grove Youth Advisory Council was honored at the event with Brown bestowing upon the group, a tree to plant on campus to signify the fresh air tobacco-free lungs breathe. In exchange, the youth council gifted Brown a plaque made from the now defunct Chambers Bridge.

For the complete story please see page A8.

### Brown visits Cottage Grove High School to honor the city for its ongoing efforts of tobacco prevention and singles out YAC as tomorrow's leaders



### Tobacco by the #s

- Nearly 9 out of 10 cigarette smokers first tried smoking by age 18, and 99% first tried smoking by age 26.
- Each day in the United States, more than 3,200 youth aged 18 years or younger smoke their first cigarette, and an additional 2,100 youth and young adults become daily cigarette smokers.
- In 2014, 73% of high school students and 56% of middle school students who used tobacco products in the past 30 days reported using a flavored tobacco product during that time.
- About 2 of every 100 middle school students (2.3%) reported in 2015 that they smoked cigarettes in the past 30 days—a decrease from 4.3% in 2011.
- About 9 of every 100 high school students (9.3%) reported in 2015 that they smoked cigarettes in the past 30 days—a decrease from 15.8% in 2011.
- Current use of electronic cigarettes increased among middle and high school students from 2011 to 2015.
- About 5 of every 100 middle school students (5.3%) reported in 2015 that they used electronic cigarettes in the past 30 days—an increase from 0.6% in 2011.
- 16 of every 100 high school students (16.0%) reported in 2015 that they used electronic cigarettes in the past 30 days—an increase from 1.5% in 2011.
- 2 of every 100 middle school students (2.0%) reported in 2015 that they had used hookah in the past 30 days—an increase from 1.0% in 2011.
- About 7 of every 100 high school students (7.2%) reported in 2015 that they had used hookah in the past 30 days—an increase from 4.1% in 2011.

Source: Centers for Disease Control

By Caitlyn May *cmay@cg sentinel.com* Ben is a regular at the Book Mine on Main St. He sits in the shop for hours people-watching. It's not unusual to see him popping into the Axe and Fiddle for a drink or rounding the corner at 7th and Main just outside of Backstage Bakery. He always has a smile for everyone he meets but he doesn't speak; he leaves that for Marc.

He's Ben's "dude." He keeps the dog in walks and hamburger sliders and in exchange, Ben keeps Marc in peace and confidence.

Without Ben, Marc finds social situations difficult. He's not good at striking up conversation. But as Ben circles Marc's chair, a furry reminder that he's not alone, the words come easily.

And now, after 31 years of wading through the wreckage of his time in combat, Marc is working to bring a message to other vets: It's ok to talk.

He's not sure where it started. It could have been on the flight to Vietnam, where he turned 19 in the air. Or it could have been when he decided Marines do two things: play poker and smoke cigars. But the cigars tasted horrible and poker was boring. Until one night when his lackadaisical approach to the game paid off and he won a

Please see VET PG. A11

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MONDAY



COMMUNITY

Vietnam in photos

Veteran shares photos taken during the war with The Sentinel. PAGE A11/A12



EDUCATION

Yoncalla says no

Yoncalla votes down \$3.95 million school bond. PAGE A8

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Coffee with the Editor  
Every Tuesday 12 pm

@ Backstage Bakery

Come chat about the community!

