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SPORTS
UO Women take home the historic Triple Crown. **PAGE B1**

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For a complete six-day forecast please see page A5.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2017

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HERE COME THE GRADUATES: CLASS OF 2017



By Caitlyn May
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The Cottage Grove High School Class of 2017 left their high school experience behind on Saturday, June 10 as they officially graduated.

The ceremony was moved indoors in the days leading up to the big day when weather reports called for thunder and lightning storms. However, the weather did not dampen the mood of the approximately 1,500 students and residents who packed into the high school's gymnasium to watch the class of 2017 cross the stage.

It was an afternoon of reminiscing with three student speakers calling on their classmates to remember the time spent in the halls of Cottage Grove High School and

to take with them the lessons they learned there.

Star student and athlete Hannah Albrecht reminded her class of the story of a \$20 bill relayed to them their freshman year. "If our time here was that \$20, I got every cent out of it," she said. Valedictorian Jessica Ray urged those in attendance to choose good and not sin while salutatorian Madisen Howland reminded her classmates to stay in touch and wished them hope.

The students of the graduating class, in their last moments as students, donated 80 cans of food to Community Sharing, a nonprofit in Cottage Grove that provides low-income individuals with necessities including food, hygiene products and housing assistance.

500

BEDS Oregon faces shortage of addiction treatment beds

The state of Oregon currently has approximately 500 residential beds for the treatment of addiction. This, according to Serenity Lane's Dr. Eric Geisler who serves as the facility's director of medical services.

The number was first mentioned in Cottage Grove at a Rotary meeting last month.

"That number comes from a report that was done for the state of Oregon in 2012," said Monique Danziger, director of marketing and communications for Serenity Lane. "But the state no longer requires that report so it hasn't been updated." She noted that the facility can estimate based on the companies and facilities they work with and refer patients to.

Please see **500 BEDS PG A8**

SLSD

releases statement on Parent

Investigation yields no wrongdoing

By Caitlyn May
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The South Lane School District has released a statement concerning the investigation into a complaint filed by local residents regarding matters of superintendent Krista Parent's personal life.

"The South Lane School District Board of Directors received the results of our legal team's investigation regarding the complaints filed against Superintendent Parent. The investigation found that Superintendent Parent has not violated district policy, Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC)

Please see **STATEMENT PG A8**

Community Sharing low on food donations

By Caitlyn May
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Food supplies at Community Sharing are low. This according to executive director Mike Fleck who says it's not unusual for the program to be running short on supplies this time of year but a combination of factors have lead to an unusually short, shortage.

"For the first time in many years, we're much shorter than we typically have been," he said.

The shortage could be attributed to multiple factors. According to Fleck, the annual postal workers food drive turned in fewer pounds of food than in years past.

"We get local food from the three grocery stores when they have dated items," Fleck said. "It's possible they've been doing a better job of managing their inventory so we get fewer items. It's not any one thing, it's a combination of a whole bunch of things."

Pantry manager Bill SamMiguel said the number of those in need have increased while donations are down.

"A lot more people come in. We serve 800 families coming a month, which is maybe 1,900 to 2,000 people," he said. "We're not out of food. Every shelf is filled, it's not that we're out of food, we're just low on food."

Community Sharing is a non-profit established in 1982 with the aim to create a safety net in Lane County for low-income individuals providing housing assistance, food, hygiene items and a host

of other services. Currently, Community Sharing garners food and donations from several resources. The local grocery stores in Cottage Grove donate their nearly expired food while the largest contributor is Food for Lane County through the USDA. The program offers several offshoot deliveries including a produce delivery on Thursdays.

"It could be potatoes, strawberries. Usually they're on the verge of going bad so we try to get those out before the weekend. We have agreements with pig farms in the area for what we don't utilize," Fleck said.

Community Sharing also receives donations from the local community. However, due to short staffing levels, Fleck said local programs are in need of volunteers to help better organize and execute them. "We would love to have someone who has a passion for feeding people, to come in and volunteer to help with that program," he said.

Over the weekend, Community Sharing ran a local donation drive that garnered approximately 1,400 pounds of food. However, according to SamMiguel, the number falls short of what the program needs.

"We usually give away 25,000 pounds. 800 families is a lot of people," he said.

To donate resources or time to Community Sharing, or for more information, please call (541) 942-2176.

Popular donation page in need of space

By Caitlyn May
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When Jenifer Neil noticed that residents posting on social media asking for help were not receiving any comments, she went to her mother.

"She said, 'Mom, we should start something,'" said Mindy Beer, the president of Pay it Forward--a non-profit working to answer the calls for help throughout Cottage Grove.

The group, a registered 501(c)(3), works by collecting items from around the community and posting them on its Facebook page. From there, residents can claim dibs on the items and every two weeks, the gate at Beer's residence opens up and people are welcome to pick up the items they claimed. The page has 6,000 members.

"In December it will be four years that we're doing this and we probably serve about 500 people a week," Beer said.

Now, the group is looking for more room.

"We do this in my spare lot. We went from a one car garage to a two car garage to a 30-foot building with several additional buildings," Beer said. The group has a medical storage space for walkers and wheelchairs for people without health insurance who can't afford the equipment. There's a space for electronics and clothes. City Councilman Bob Ehler has given away nearly 1,000 bicycles and repairs all of the donated bikes that come through Pay it Forward. The group also makes weighted therapy blankets for children with autism. "We've given away hundreds of those," Beer said.

But space is running out and because they are in a residential neighborhood, Beer said it's not fair to her neighbors to keep a rapidly growing operation in her backyard. "Most people are respectful but we are growing more every day. So ideally, with all of the space in town, maybe we can have space donated."

There's a monetary benefit to moving into town as well, according to Beer. "We're registered but because we're where we are,

Please see **SPACE PG A9**

COMMUNITY Carousel



Students complete their restorations of carousel animals. **PAGE A3**

ENTERTAINMENT Earnest

A Q&A with the cast and crew of The Importance of Being Earnest. **PAGE A11**

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Come chat about the community!



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