



Cottage Grove Sentinel

SOUTH LANE AND DOUGLAS COUNTY'S MOST AWARD-WINNING NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1889



SPORTS

Race track update.
B3



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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2017

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Don Williams: The busiest guy in Cottage Grove

At 81 years old, Williams rises with the sun and spends his day as the unofficial ombudsman for Cottage Grove. If there's a committee in town, he's either founded it or is on it and there isn't a charity within the Grove's borders that hasn't benefited from his experience. A look inside a day of the busiest guy in Cottage Grove.



City tests Armory

By Caitlyn May
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The City of Cottage Grove will spend approximately \$30,000 to renovate the steps of the armory after recent lead tests revealed an elevated level of the substance in the facility's drill hall.

The test, conducted earlier this year, focused on obtaining new lead readings for the city-owned facility as fundraising efforts are currently underway to revamp the building. It's the city's hope that the armory eventually serve as a community center and event hall.

Just under a dozen locations popped positive for lead in the baseline industrial hygiene assessment conducted by the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine in March of 2004. One of the highest readings was on the kitchen counter top that had been used as storage and a workspace according to Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers. That reading was 236. The latest reading for the same area was

Please see **ARMORY PG. A10**

Coastfork and kids

The program teaches 22 kids the nature basics

By Caitlyn May
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Earlier this year, 100 teenagers gathered in a field. For 15 minutes they shouted, gave direction, hauled mulch and competed to see which team could mulch the most trees—properly. Nine schools from four different districts battled for first place, including students from South Lane and in the end, Lincoln Middle School won second place and students walked away with much more than bragging rights.

Amanda Gilbert reported to the Cottage Grove City Council on Monday, June 26 on the Coast fork Willamette Watershed Council and its school campaign that allowed Lincoln Middle School students to compete, as well as learn about restoration and responsible environmental practices.

The competition Lincoln students participated in was the culmination of a course offered by Coast fork thanks to \$2,500 awarded to the organization by the city and additional sponsors and grants. In total, 22 students

Please see **COAST FORK PG. A11**



By Zach Silva
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Breakfast for Don Williams is a matter of routine. His place of choice is the Vintage Inn Restaurant where he is welcomed by name and does not need to look at the menu to know what he wants to order. He drinks his cup of coffee over the course of the meal. And then another cup and maybe a little more of the next refill he received. He has his to-go coffee cup filled with decaf on his way out and he will continue to sip on it even after it has cooled down. After waving to people across the restaurant and stopping and saying hi to a few on his way out, Williams, with his cowboy hat perched on the top of his head, is ready to begin

another full day. While he retired in 1991 from his job at Weyheuser where he worked for 37 years, by looking at his schedule you wouldn't know that Williams, who is 81, has slowed down. He is currently the President of Friends of the CG Carousel Committee and the co-chair of TEAM Cottage Grove in addition to being an active member of the tourism committee, the Covered Bridge Festival and the Rotary Club of Cottage Grove. And if he isn't on a project now, there is a good chance that he worked on it before handing it off to someone else. "I try to get things set up and then fade out into the background," said the ever-active Williams. And he wouldn't have it any other way. After getting transferred

at Weyheuser, he moved to Cottage Grove from Everett, Washington in 1975 and has enjoyed it ever since. Williams explained that since he was as young as eight years old his family would go on trips and when they were in small towns he would always read the local newspaper and look at the community events that were going on. "I would pick up the paper and was into local small town events," said Williams. "I just like small town America." But for him it is not just about the little things that make a small town great it is the relationships and the people he has met. Being active and involved in the community for over 40 years has made it so Williams knows what seems like the entire town. As he drives through residential

neighborhoods in town, he quickly identifies a house that someone of local prominence once lived in and rattles off their story. They used to be police chief, he recites. That person was on the school board in the '80s and that family has a lot of people in town. All around the community, from the fire station to Kimwood Corporation to the spay and neuter clinic, Williams can walk in and is embraced for just being him. He then is quick to tell a story about the owner of the place and ask them about their personal life. He flashes his bright smile and gives a hug and then is on his way. "I know the people and their buttons," said Williams. "I can play buttons in the community because I know the people."

COMMUNITY

New lunch spot

New fusion lunch cart is parked at the Brewstation.
PAGE A3



SPORTS

Goodbye Natives

The Warriors will have to lose their Native mascot.
PAGE B1

INDEX

Calendar	B11
Channel Guide	B5
Classifieds	B7
Obituaries	A2
Opinion	A4
Sports	B1

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Coffee with the Editor Every Tuesday 12 pm

@ Backstage Bakery

Come chat about the community!

