

Drain looking to build a dog park



The people and dogs of Drain are hoping that a dog park becomes a reality.

Residents hoping to make hope a reality with dog park

By Caitlyn May
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Residents of Drain, both furry and not, may have a new place to play.

What began as rumblings on social media soon grew into action after several members of the community commented on the possibility of a dog park within city limits.

Resident Travis Jones opened the conversation on a community page for Drain and now he's attempting to bring it before the city for consideration.

"We came up with the idea for the dog park from just having walked around town with our dogs and seeing the vast open area in the park," Jones said. "We have the type of dogs that can't really be trusted off leash and there really isn't a secure area in town or nearby that allows us to have them run free."

It was Jones and his wife Jennifer's quest to find an open, safe area for their three dogs Odin, Arkyn and Sydney that led Jones to post to the

community board. The reaction, he said was overwhelming and largely in favor of the idea.

However, that's currently all it is: an idea. According to Drain City Administrator Steve Dahl, the project hasn't even begun to hover off the ground. It currently has not been considered by the city council and no city funds are associated with the project.

Jones said he would be presenting his idea to the city council in the coming weeks.

"Some of the challenges that would exist in bringing a dog park would be finding a location in Drain that people would use," Dahl said. He went on to note that the design of the park would also be something to consider as well as whether or not the park would be free range or provide amenities for its furry guests.

"If the city uses public property and pays for it then the city would own it but if we had someone come forward with property and the city helped then the city would not own it, it would be managed by whoever was running the dog park," Dahl said.

Chocolate Continued A1

being made that's organic and clean. A driving factor for being organic is Caven's son's various food allergies. Caven said he wishes to create an environment similar to that of a coffee shop or tea house.

"That's probably the biggest drive. Space to make things that kids like my own can enjoy without risk from the additional ingredients," Caven said.

His business has become a family affair: His wife Sarah wraps the chocolate and designed the logo and packaging. After having an abundance of chocolate laying around the house, it was her idea to start selling it.

"This wasn't her hobby, this wasn't her baby, but she's been a good sport about picking up a lot of the slack, Caven said.

The name Sanity Chocolate and the character on the business's logo comes from a stick figure first drawn with chalk on the sidewalk by his son at age three. Sanity is depicted running around with his hair on fire. Caven and his wife thought it would be a good fit for the business and helped inspire the shop's slogan "Sanity Chocolate: For when you've lost yours."

Caven's son, now age seven, is excited to be a part of the family business. But his son has said some of his father's chocolate is too good to sell, claiming that it's a secret family recipe.

"He's really excited to get to be a part of the family chocolate business," Caven said. "Today while we were marking up the floor he told me that he was going to be ready to take over the family business when my back was too sore to lift the bags anymore."

Caven's co-workers at the fire station are surprised he has the time to run a chocolate business, but he isn't the only firefighter in the area to own a business.

"Firefighters have a long history of having side jobs. It's not uncommon. In our organization, we have a chocolate maker, a coffee roaster and a brewer," Caven said.

Caven has collaborated with the brewer who owns Old 99 Brewing Co. in Roseburg to create a chocolate coconut milk stout. He has also worked with the coffee roaster at Playhouse Coffee Roasting in Eugene on such creations as the cracked coffee and latte chocolate bars.

"That's probably the fun part about it, you can experiment with left overs and different products. And generally, your experiment is pretty tasty, you can almost never go wrong," Caven said.

Cottage Grove residents can experience Caven's chocolate for yourselves when Sanity Chocolate, located at 1280 E Main St., opens this August.

"We are excited to share chocolate with Cottage Grove," Caven said.

South Lane Mental Health fundraiser

The works of area artists will find a unique setting on Friday, July 28 for Warehouse Walk, a gallery exhibit and musical celebration that supports adolescent mental health services in southern Lane County. Typically the home of much of its community's farm and feed supplies, the warehouse at Coast Fork Feed Store will be transformed to showcase the works of many clients and staff members of South Lane Mental Health, a non-profit that provides mental health services to over 1500 adults and children in the Cottage Grove area. Many of these artworks will also be available for purchase, and funds raised will help provide mental health support for area young people that might otherwise have difficulty accessing such vital services.

"The services we're able to provide for youth in schools really help the family," said Valeria Clarke, SLMH Assistant Director. "They make it easier for young people to access these services by placing them in a place where kids al-

ready spend much of their day. We try to identify and bring down barriers to accessing these services wherever we can."

Outside the warehouse, guests at the Brewstation will be treated to the "folk-fueled fungrass" tunes of Eugene-based Gumbo Groove, followed by the indie rock of Cottage Grove's own Flies with Honey in a patio setting that will allow all to enjoy the bright summer sunshine. Warehouse Walk will take place as part of Cottage Grove's Downtown Art Walk, which draws community members and visitors for exhibitions, music and snacks the last Friday of each summer month. The Brewstation will also donate \$1 toward every pint purchased to South Lane Mental Health during Warehouse Walk.

Warehouse Walk is a free event, and those under age 21 are welcome at the Brewstation until 8:30 p.m. More information about South Lane Mental Health can be found at www.slmh.org.

Yoncalla Elementary Prepares for Earthquake

Work is underway at Yoncalla Elementary School to ensure that the building is more stable in the event of an earthquake. A \$1.5 million seismic retrofit began on the school in early July.

The Ausland Group out of Medford received the bid to do the work on the building in collaboration with ZCS Engineering whose main office is located in Klamath Falls.

The \$1.5 million grant is the first in a round of three large monetary awards received by the Yoncalla School District from the Oregon Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program. The other two grants, a \$1.5 million retrofit for the main building at the high school and a \$1.35 million upgrade for the high school gym, will begin work in June of 2018.

The work at Yoncalla Elementary School will focus on stabilizing the building which includes work on the walls, windows, ceiling and roof. Because of the work needed to secure the roof, the seismic grant will pay for a new roof, siding and improvements in classrooms.

Superintendent Brian Berry stated, "Thanks to the forward thinking of our school board, we were able to invest a little money in terms of getting our buildings evaluated and getting the information needed by the State of Oregon to qualify for the grants."

As a result, we are being rewarded with a net profit of approximately \$4.35 million to help improve the safety of our students and staff." In addition to the roof being replaced, the windows will be upgraded to double-pane along with some new lighting fixtures. Even with the late start, the expectation is to have the school up and running before classes begin this fall.

Peace Health Wins Award

Last week, PeaceHealth Cottage Grove Community Medical Center announced its recognition by Becker's Hospital Review as one of the 2017 62 Critical Access Hospitals to Know.

"Here in Cottage Grove, our Mission guides us to serve our local community with safe, compassionate care," said Tim Herrmann, chief administrative officer of Cottage Grove Community Medical Center. "It's a testament to the dedicated work of our caregivers and the outstanding support of our community that we have once again been recognized nationally for the quality of care we provide."

There are over 1,300 critical access hospitals in the United States. The critical access hospitals featured on this list have a reputation for superior service and care. All hospitals have 25

or fewer inpatient beds and an annual average length of stay no more than 96 hours for acute care. These institutions also offer emergency care and are located at least 35 miles away from any other hospital.

To develop this list, the Becker's Healthcare editorial team examined the rankings and awards from organizations such as iVantage Health Analytics, Healthgrades, the National Rural Health Association, Truven Health Analytics, Women's Choice Award and Leapfrog Group. The team also considered the hospital's community impact and reputation for innova-

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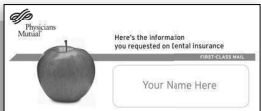
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