

Local group seeks help

Parent Partnership funds run dangerously low

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cgsentinel.com

When it started, it was in the closet off of the side of the state at the high school. A place where students who had children could leave them knowing they were safe and cared for while they continued their class work and eventually, hopefully, graduated high school. That was in 1989 and since then, Parent Partnership has grown to continue its goal of allowing girls to finish their education through collaboration with other community organizations. It has moved out of the closet by the stage, to a space at the new high school when it was built years ago, now to Delight Valley with Kennedy High School. However, as executive director Karol Kuhn-Simons prepares to step down, she may be taking Parent Partnership with her.

It's not Kuhn-Simons' choice. When she started as executive director a handful of years ago, it was as a volunteer, giving her time to the organization and the cause she believed in. However, in the search for an executive director to take her place, the organization has found a need.

"We're holding on. Barely," Kuhn-Simons said. While she has donated her time, she said the group must pay the next executive director, something she's not sure the group has the funds to do while sustaining its other services.

Currently, Parent Partnership receives its funds from the state for its child care program but it also earns funds from school district employees who utilize the daycare. "It made sense to include district employees because we're on the same schedule," Kuhn-Simons said, "We're open during the school year and closed during the summer."

The group also receives funds through donations and grants but the system is a bit of a catch 22.

"The more donations we get, the more grants we can apply for," she said. "The less donations we get, the fewer grants we can apply for."

Parent Partnership has a yearly budget of \$160,000. However, it's not currently using that much money because it's not paying Kuhn-Simons and still, the financial picture is bleak.

"There's been a few times it was going to go under but we held on and we're hanging on now," Kuhn-Simons said.

In addition to the child care services for high schoolers who hope to complete their education, Parent Partnership also runs Teen Connection for at risk youth and works with the McKinney Vento program, which helped just over 160 children that the McKinney Vento act describes as homeless during the last school year.

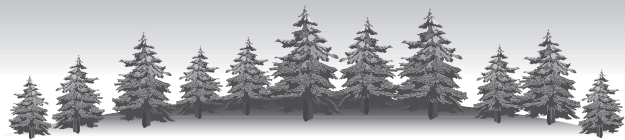
The group has planned several fundraisers including Sunday Funday at the Brewstation where Parent Partnership earns profits from patrons as well as a coming event at Saginaw Vineyards later this year.

"We don't have any reserve funds," Kuhn-Simons said.

The search for a new executive director is still ongoing but Kuhn-Simons says services are the focus of the organization for now and notes that she hopes the community comes forward.

Interested residents can contact Parent Partnership at (541) 942-2104 or, Kuhn Simons says donors can contribute by sending checks or money orders to Parent Partnership at P.O.Box 1529 Cottage Grove Oregon, 97424.

Now Open!



Northwest Reflections memory care services

there's no place like home

5292 Harvard Avenue, Florence OR 97439

Tours Daily

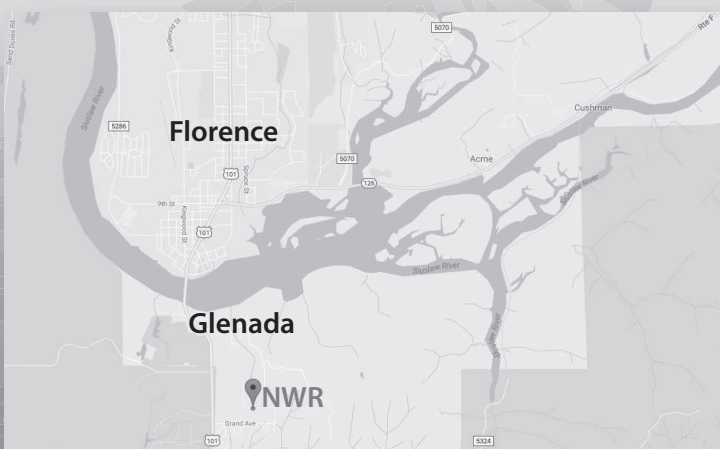
For more information call:
541.997.5002

Or email:
melinda@nwreflections.com

Nurse Practitioner
Owned and operated

Secured Environment

**Resident Centered
Medical Care**



Health, Happiness & Wellness

A guide to local businesses committed to helping
our community thrive

Counseling & Mental Health

South Lane Mental Health

Serving Cottage Grove Since 1988

- Outpatient Counseling for Children, Adults & Couples
- Psychiatric Medication Management
- Crisis Assistance

541-942-2850 • 541-942-3939 • www.slmh.org

Dental Health

Delaying going to the Dentist?

Sedation Dentistry is a Dream come True... find out if its for You!

BIRCH AVENUE DENTAL



- Comprehensive General Dentistry
- Advanced Cosmetic Techniques
- Implants

1325 Birch Avenue, Cottage Grove

541.942.2471

Park W. McClung, DDS & Tammy L. McClung, DDS

See Dr. Bitner D.D.S., P.C.

350 Washington Ave • Cottage Grove

(behind International Fitness)

Lumineers 541-942-7934

The Most Natural Veneer

Douglas G. Maddess, DMD

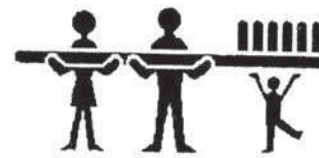


Preventive and
Cosmetic
Family Dentistry

New Patients Welcome

914 South 4th St. • Cottage Grove • 942-1559

Jonathan E. Backer, D.D.S.

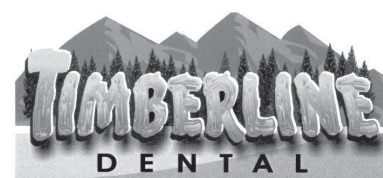


Preventive and Cosmetic
Family Dentistry

New Patients
Welcome

942-8437

1551 E. Main St.



Dr. Shane Parsons

605 Jefferson Ave.
Cottage Grove

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm

Emergency appts. available daily

New patients welcome

2 Hygienists available • Same friendly and caring staff

Please call for an appointment at 541-942-9171



Benjamin R. Thornton, D.D.S., M.S.

www.thornton-ortho.com

541.686.1732

Pharmacies

BI-MART Pharmacy

OPEN at 9am Mon. - Sat. • Convenient Walk-Up Window
100 Gateway Blvd. • 942-9107

Personal Fitness



CG Body Studio

Tanning • Pole Fitness • Yoga • MMA
Hypnosis • Childbirth Education • Gear
• Kid's Classes • Bariatrics • Supplements
28 S. 6th Street • 541-371-5511
yelp: cgbodystudio.com f



To list your business
call us

541-942-3325