



Cottage Grove Sentinel

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



SPORTS

Lions take on Sisters and finally defeat longtime foe. **B1**

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2017

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COMMUNITY

Neighbors on the lookout in new observation team

Community Observation Team submits plans to Cottage Grove PD, gears up to find members, train teams and keep a lookout in area neighborhoods.

By Caitlyn May
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On September 18, the Cottage Grove Police Department (CGPD) received a report of a suspicious subject. The subject was reportedly riding a skateboard and looking into the windows of vehicles parked on 8th St. It mirrored dozens of others found weekly in the police logs; individuals riding a bike while pulling another alongside it, a car parked in a vacationing neighbor's yard, a sound that was too loud coming from a yard that's usually silent.

CGPD says it encourages residents to report suspicious behavior in their neighborhoods and it's happy for the help. It's about to get a little more.

Dylan Mann and Shiloh Glaspell met with Cottage Grove Police Chief Scott Lewis to put the finishing touches on outreach materials aimed at informing the community about a new group in town: The Community Observation Team. Not to be mistaken for a Neighborhood Watch, which has strict requirements and financial obligations, the Community Observation Team, or COT, is hoping to have operations up and running in the coming weeks and will rely on residents working in sync with the local police department to report a variety of issues within the community.

"While crime prevention is part of COT, the goal of COT is for members to observe and report any kind of safety issue that may be hazardous to the community," Mann said. "This could be crime but also flooding, downed powerlines, road hazards or power outages during extreme hot or cold conditions."

COT is the first in a string of projects from Mann and Glaspell under what they call the Synergy Village Project. "The Synergy Village Project is working to build a stronger community through cooperation and participation of community members," Mann said. Future programs may include disaster response teams and emergency relief.

"The premise, I think, is sound," Shepherd said of COT. He met with Mann and Glaspell to ensure the accuracy of the data in information the pair will soon be handing out to community members to educate them on COT and recruit members. He noted that he



PHOTO BY ZACH SILVA/OTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Dylan Mann and Shiloh Glaspell are working with Cottage Grove Police on efforts to bring a community watch-type organization to the city and encourage residents to take part by reporting safety issues to the local police department.

Please see **COT PG. A9**

DOUGLAS COUNTY



Drain board approves special district request

By Caitlyn May
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The Drain City Council approved a resolution supporting a library district in the city on Monday, September 11 during a regularly scheduled meeting.

The request came from the Friends of the Mildred Whipple Library Group which has begun an effort to fund the city's

library.

The library was closed after the Douglas County Commission made the decision to cease operations at all libraries within the county due to budget concerns. Diminished timber funds and other factors played a part in the commission's decision after the library funds were spent in the first half of the year. The second half of the fiscal year

was expected to be funded by a ballot measure that asked for 44 cents per \$1,000 assessed value. It would have to fund the libraries at the county level but was voted down by residents in November.

However, that measure passed in Drain and the Friends of the Library group are hoping to tap into the same electorate.

"We're asking for the same

Please see **DRAIN PG. A9**

EDUCATION

State tests results show work to be done

South Lane's performance tested "average"

By Zach Silva
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Last Thursday the Oregon Department of Education released test results for the 2016-17 school year in English, math and science. The scores come from the Smarter Balance state tests and are used to gauge what level of proficiency students are at.

In the South Lane School District, students as a whole performed right at average in all three tests. The state average in English was 53.6 percent and SLSD was at 52.3; in math the state average is 40.8 and SLSD was at 37; and in science the state average was at 61.4 and SLSD came in at 71.1.

"It's a conversation starter," said Garrett Bridgens the SLSD Communications Coordinator of the results. "It's a way to look and analyze one data point of what kids are doing. Other data points we are looking at are obviously attendance, kids participating in extra curricular activities, that's also really important. It's one data point that we are looking at to kind of move the conversation forward with our teachers and with our students."

As a whole, the state of Oregon had lower scores than last year which seemed to go with the missed school days from snow and an increase of students joining the opt-out testing movement.

Individually, the school that performed especially well was Cottage Grove High School. The school was above the average in each category and 30 percentage points ahead of the English proficiency state average. With that information, Bridgens noted that the conversation has to then continue to high school graduation rates.

"If you look at the graduation rate for us...in Lane County we were the highest of any comprehensive high school so you have to ask the question if the test scores are a little bit lower then how are we getting that graduation rate? What are the things we are doing if a kid is not meeting the standard at a high school level," said Bridgens.

English Proficiency Numbers:

Bohemia	43.2
Dorena	26.7
Harrison	47.3
Latham	52.7
Lincoln	53.3
London	48.1
Cottage Grove	83.8
Kenedy	46.2
SLSD Average	52.3
State Averages:	
All Grades	53.6
High School	69.4

Math Proficiency Numbers:

Bohemia	37.7
Dorena	22.2
Harrison	41.5
Latham	46.4
Lincoln	34.7
London	37.3
Kennedy	< 5.0%
Cottage Grove High School	43.5

SLSD Average: 37

State Averages

All Grades	40.8
High School	33.9
Middle School	40.9
Elementary School	42.7

Science Proficiency Numbers:

Bohemia	82.2
Dorena (Grade 5)	63.6
Harrison (Grade 5)	85.1
Latham (Grade 5)	70

Please see **TESTS PG. A10**

CRIME

Trooper recovering

Oregon State Trooper who was shot during traffic stop recovering. **PAGE A9**



COMMUNITY

One year as chief

CGPD's Scott Shepherd reflects on his first year as chief. **PAGE A8**

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Coffee with the Editor
Last Thursday of the month
12 pm
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Come chat about the community!