



Cottage Grove Sentinel

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SPORTS

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Officials attend League of Cities



PHOTO COURTESY COUNCILMAN KENNETH ROBERTS

Councilman Kenneth Roberts shakes hands with Governor Kate Brown during the Oregon League of Cities Conference. Roberts said Brown enjoyed her trip to Cottage Grove earlier in the year and complimented the area's school system.

Councilors and city officials meet with state representatives and talk Cottage Grove at League of Cities conference

By Caitlyn May
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Cottage Grove officials attended the 92nd annual League of Oregon Cities conference on September 28 through the 30 in Portland.

Councilors Kenneth Roberts and Jake Boone attended with Mayor Jeff Gowing, Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers and members of the city's Youth Advisory Council.

"It was great," Roberts said upon his return.

The conference offers lectures and work-

shops on a multitude of issues facing cities and Roberts spent the majority of his time in sessions surrounding homelessness.

"A lot of the programs, I thought, were throwing money at the problem," he said. "But there was a program out of Tillamook that has a 93 percent success rate. I'm going to bring those people to the city council and try to bring a positive answer to the community on this."

Meyers reported back on the conference noting that several cities requested information on Cottage Grove's youth advisory council and road ordinance.

"Nearly 500 city officials from around the state were there," he said, noting that Cottage Grove took part in several breakout sessions and took part in presentations surrounding historic preservation and youth involvement in the community.

"It went really, really well," he said.

Boone, who had been seated on the League of Cities board, was elected treasurer during the conference.

"That's next in line for vice president and then the following year, president," Meyers said.

LINCOLN CALLS FOR HELP

Middle school asking for landscaping volunteers

By Caitlyn May
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At night, Pat Ware weeds a courtyard that faces the bus lane. Students take on projects year-round. Members of the local Lions Club may lend a hand as well. But still, Emily Wren has a new passion project.

Wren serves at the vice principal for Lincoln Middle School and she's asking for the community's help to spruce the place

up.

"We have an amazing maintenance staff but for how many campuses they have to serve and how many of them are on staff, it's hard for them to do things to the capacity they want," Wren said. "We just have some really ugly looking landscaping this year and I was looking outside the box for the community to help clean things up."

It led Wren to social media, where she posted a call for help

asking for anyone with a green thumb to help clean-up the campus.

"We have second-generation students who will say, 'When I came here it looked so nice and now it looks like this.'" Wren said. "We would love consistent, predictable help."

She has several ideas on how the community can help including adopting a courtyard and reaching out to Al Kennedy High School students.

"It's important," Wren said. "We have middle schoolers who, we recognize this is a difficult time in their lives. We're telling them they're worthy but the campus sends a mixed message. It's like saying we value you but we don't value the space you're in."

Anyone interested in helping spruce up Lincoln Middle School can contact Wren by emailing emily.wren@slane.k12.or.us.

Pool price keeps climbing

By Zach Silva
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Monday night at the school board meeting there was one thing that Superintendent Krista Parent especially wanted to focus on: the new pool.

"To me, this is the biggest thing on the agenda tonight," said Parent when it was time to discuss how to spend the money for this project.

South Lane School District has \$5.1 million allotted for this project-- after voters passed a \$35.9 million bond in May of this year -- and Parent was insistent that the district cannot spend "a penny more."

"All we know is what we really want, we don't have enough money for," Parent said. "And that we have \$5.1 million and that we're going to buy whatever \$5.1 million will buy us. And we are going to have to, with this committee, prioritize what's the number one priority." She noted that replacing the pool's tank without replacing the pipes or electrical was not an option. "That pool is not going to do you any good as soon as those other things fail because they are close now," she said.

Twenty-four residents were invited to join the pool committee, made up of individuals recommended by the board or pool community, to help shape the plans for reconstruction.

Last December when the cost estimate was made by the consultants it was determined that the price of the pool would be \$8.1 million and now that price has risen to \$9.8 million.

It is now the job of the school board, the group of community members that make up the pool committee and the pool consultants to find a way to upgrade the facilities at this price.

Part of the money will be going to upgrading the locker room facilities, the pool deck and the current water line. There are also different lights that will be added along with windows. Then there is the pool itself that will be redone.

Because of the dimensions of the current pool, it cannot hold district, state or national meets and this is a consideration for the new pool. There are three different options for the shape the pool will take but the dollar amount of the decisions has not yet been provided to the school board but will be in the next few weeks.

To keep up with the timeline that has been set, the goal is to

Please see **POOL PG. A8**

Youth Advisory Council gearing up

By Caitlyn May
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The city of Cottage Grove is looking for a few good students. The city's Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is gearing up for the new school year and after several of its members graduated at the end of last year, its ranks could use a few more civic-minded youths.

"Any middle and high school aged youth in the community who are interested in serving on the Youth Advisory Council are invited to participate," Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers announced in the Friday Update--a recap of the week released by the city every Friday on its website.

YAC has been a part of the city's program for over a decade with students invited to take part in city council meetings and meet on a regular basis with the city manager.

At the Monday, September 25 meeting of the city council, the board agreed to operate on a rotating basis and meet with the YAC during their meetings.

Last year's cohort made headlines when it worked with a local resident, city manager and state representative Cedric Hayden to create legislation aimed at limiting the retail of nitrous oxide canisters. The group testified before the state legislature and earned praise from Governor Kate Brown during a visit to Cottage Grove.

Most recently, YAC members MJ Raade and Ian Dukes attended the League of Oregon Cities Conference with Meyers to speak on youth engagement in local government and the success of Cottage Grove's YAC program.

Interested students can apply for YAC online by visiting Cottagegrove.org. Applications can be submitted at the YAC's October 23 meeting beginning at 6:15 p.m. in city hall.

EDUCATION

Books, books, books

Harrison chosen for national book award. **PAGE A9**



CRIME

CG business robbed

CG Body Studio reports as victim of burglary. **PAGE A3**

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

