# Unemployment up again

In September, Oregon's nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 3,800 jobs, following a revised loss of 7,000 in August. These job losses followed rapid gains during February through July, when a total of 42,600 jobs were added in just six months.

Recent forest fires did not have a noticeable impact on the September jobs report. Although many individuals and businesses were impacted in September by forest fires that raged in many locations within Oregon, the industry employment totals did not appear to be impacted significantly. A job is counted in this report when a worker is employed for any part of the business's pay period that includes the 12th of the month. Workers able to return to work during the September pay period are counted in the jobs report.

In September, four industries cut more than 1,000 jobs, while two added more than 1,000. Leisure and hospitality (-3,700 jobs) cut the most as this industry returned to the long-term trend line after a spike upward in June and July. With vacancy surveys indicating that many firms are having trouble attracting workers, part of the weakness in hiring is likely due to the tight labor market.

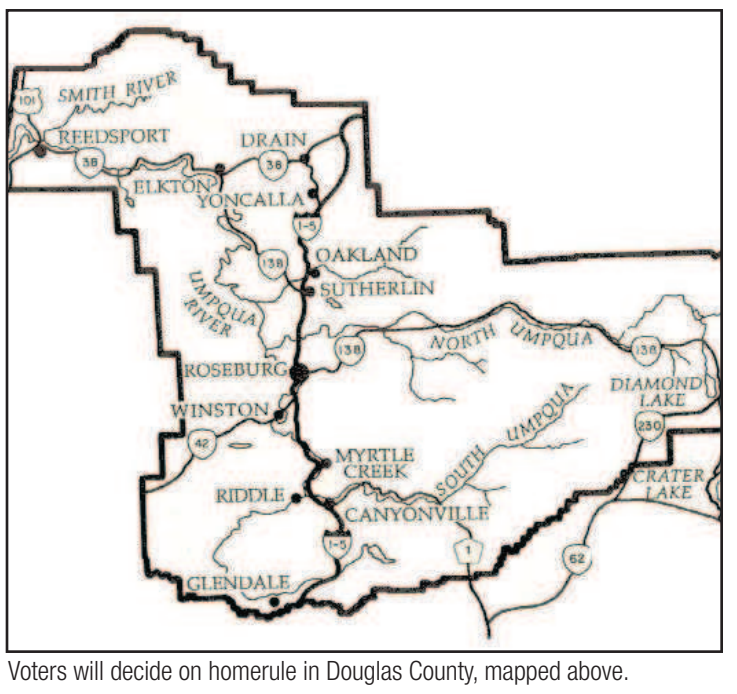
Professional and business services (-3,100 jobs) cut back at a time of year when a flat trend is typical for the industry. The industry appears to have stalled from its upward trajectory over the past eight years. Each of its published component industries cut jobs since September 2016: employment services (-1,400 jobs), business support services (-400), and services to buildings and dwellings ( 1,500). The two other industries that cut substantially in September were private educational services ( 1,400 jobs) and other services (-1,200).

All was not lost in September, as construction added 2,900 jobs and government added 1,400.

The September jobs report indicates that Oregon's over-the-year job growth, while moderate, has slowed. Between September 2016 and September 2017, payroll employment expanded by 37,400 jobs, or 2.0 percent. This is a re-

Please see **UNEMPLOYMENT PG. A3**

# Douglas County "home rule"




Voters will decide on homerule in Douglas County, mapped above.

**By Caitlyn May**
*cmay@cgsentinel.com*

The fourth time's a charm?

That might be true for residents of Douglas County who are hoping to pass a ballot measure that would see "home rule" be put into affect for the county.

The November 7 ballot will include a home rule charter for voters to vote down or pass. This will be the fourth time the county will vote on the issue in the last 20 years.

Home rule, essentially is a constitution for an area to set up its own government. While all counties in the state of Oregon must follow the guidelines and provisions in the state's constitution, home rule allows for a more local approach and allows counties to take actions as long as they do not violate state statute. Counties without homerule are considered General Law counties are are restricted to the statutes found in state law.

The home rule charter on the November 7 ballot would change the county's government from its current form.

The board of county commissioners would go from a three-member board to a five-member board. Those five members would no longer be "at-large" commissioners but districts would be formed and each commissioner would represent a certain district. Commissioners would also give up their salaries in exchange for a monthly payment--reported at $500--that would be dependent on their attendance at public meetings. They would also be considered part-time rather than full-time.

Currently, Douglas County is run by the county commission. and while that won't necessarily change under home rule, the ins and outs and details to running the shop will fall to a county manager.

Douglas County does not currently have a county manager and opposition to the home rule charter site the common government structure as a way to take responsibility away from elected officials and give them to an unelected--but hired--manager.

The charter, which is available to view on the county's website, notes that the manager cannot have previously held the office of a county commissioner for Douglas County or an employee of the county. The manager would be hired for an undefined term and serve at the pleasure of the board of county commissioners.

In total, nine counties around the state of Oregon have passed a home rule charter in the form of a ballot measure. Nearly 20 other Oregon counties have voted the issue down.

If approved, the charter notes that it would go into effect 60 days after being approved by voters of Douglas County.

It will appear on ballots as Measure 10-159

# *Mini barrel gardens a hit*

This year there are a few more folk than usual putting their gardens to bed this fall.

These gardens are actually half barrels that were prepared and delivered by Dorena Grange members back in June. The lucky recipients were able to transplant and care for their own lettuce, radishes, tomatoes, herbs, and beneficial flowers, in their yards or patios, thanks to seedling donations from Log House Nursery and Gayle at The Bookmine.

Sustainable Cottage Grove purchased twenty used 55-gallon food grade barrels from Glory Bee and the potting soil at a 50% (donated) discount from Boyce & Sons. Because of initial grant funding from Regence Medical through Oregon Food Bank, this is the second year in a row that these fine establishments have generously made mini gardens possible. Some have never had the opportunity to work in their own garden because they live in apartments, have limitations that prevent them from working in the ground, or their soil is contaminated, these gardens are helping to feed families.

Kids and adults alike celebrated as they worked in the soil with Bill Anthony and Steve Barnes, while Carolin Pettit, Susan Carver, Jimmy Shaper, and Beth Pool—all Dorena Grange members—organized the mini garden distribution ranging from Creswell through Cottage Grove and into Drain. This effort could not have happened without support from institutions like London Elementary School, South Lane Mental Health, Family Relief Nursery, and food security activists Crystal Fawn Johnson, and Gayle Kahane, and Johanna Nowak.

One person helping another strengthens our community ties and enriches all our lives.

Dorena Grange, located at MP 4 on Row River Road, invites you to their social potlucks on second Tuesdays at 6:00 and to their fourth Tuesday's business meetings at 7:00. Farming is not a pre-requisite to serving our community through the granges. There is more information on the Dorena Grange facebook page.

You can learn more about securing our local food system in the South Willamette Valley by visiting Sustainable Cottage Grove's website at SustainableCottageGrove.org or calling (541) 942.2360. Their next Quarterly Gathering is January 27, 2018.

Contact either organization if you would like to grow your own mini barrel garden next summer.

# GARDEN CLUB MEETING

On Tuesday, November 7, Cottage Grove Garden Club will host Ashley Chesser of The Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP). We'll learn more about why we should reduce our pesticide footprint and get some basic tips for managing weeds and pests in our gardens and homes without pesticides.

Ashley is the Communications and Membership Director for the Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides. Before joining NCAP, she worked as a crew leader for the Montana Conservation Corps and in graphic design/marketing for the outdoor gear industry. She holds a degree in graphic design from Portland State University and in her free time enjoys running, biking, rock climbing, backpacking, and gardening.

The Garden Club's informational meeting begins at 6pm and Ashley's talk on Pesticides and Alternatives begins at 7. We meet at the First Presbyterian Church, 216 South 3rd Street (the corner of 3rd and Adams).

**HUMANE SOCIETY OF COTTAGE GROVE**

*Thanks our sponsors for sponsoring our successful Jamboree that was held in Creswell on October 21st.*

KNND Radio

Cottage Grove Sentinel

Creswell Chronicle

Banner Bank of Cottage Grove

Northwest Community Credit Union

Marvin Smith Auto

Dirt Cheap Copies

Wall to Wall Carpet Cleaning

Cascade Home Center

HUMANE SOCIETY OF COTTAGE GROVE

# *In Honor of All Veterans*

The Cottage Grove Sentinel is preparing to publish its "Salute to Vets" a special section devoted to all military veterans who are Cottage Grove-area residents or have a connection to this area.

If you are interested in sharing your military story in the annual Veterans Day publication, or in updating information that we have published previously, please complete the form below and submit it to the Cottage Grove Sentinel. Service photographs are also welcome.

Submit forms and photos (preferably) by e-mail to cgnews@cgsentinel.com; or by mail to Cottage Grove Sentinel, Attn: Caitlyn May, PO Box 35, Cottage Grove, OR 97424; or drop forms off at the Cottage Grove Sentinel, 116 N. 6th Street, Cottage Grove.

Please be sure that all materials are carefully labeled with your name and phone number. **ALL FORMS AND PHOTOGRAPHS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY OCTOBER 31, 2017.**

Thank you for participating in this project to remember and honor our veterans.

Name: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Branch of Service: _____

Rank Achieved (optional): _____

Dates Served: _____

Where did you serve? _____

_____

Special Information (E.G., POW): _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Has your veterans information been published previously in the Cottage Grove Sentinel Veterans Publication?
YES NO
Do we have your military photo(s) on file? YES NO
*(Note: If you have submitted photos in the past, we will still have them on file.)*