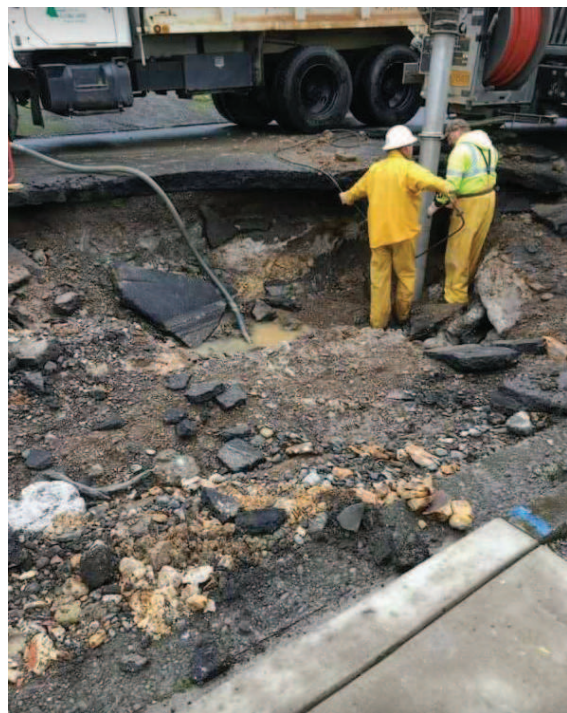


# WATERLINE Continued from A1



Crews work to contain the water from a line break which flowed onto streets and into yards at a rate of 10,712 gallons per minute. Photo by Katie Hayes.

Katie Hayes also saw damage to her property and addressed the council on Monday, praising Stewart for his action on Oct. 22 but questioning the city's actions since that day. "Faye did the right thing," she said. "Since that day, Faye has done the right thing, fixing the

entrance to our driveway so that we can use it and hand shoveling the debris. Since that day though, it's been a nightmare," Hayes told the council that her homeowners' insurance would not cover the damage. According to Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers, neither

will the city. Meyers told the council that the city is not liable for the damage if there was no negligence on the part of the city. And according to City/County Insurance Services (CIS) there was no negligence. "As a board you can say you want to pay for this," Meyers said. "But once you start down that road, there's no backing off of it. You will be setting precedent." Meyers warned councilors that if they offered to pay for the damages on S. 14th St. they would opening themselves up to a legal can of worms and the city could end up on the hook for damages caused by other 'no-fault' accidents or disasters.

According to Stewart, the time it took for the city to shut the water off is directly related to redundancies within the city's system. Meyers supported Stewart's assessment by noting that, "When you turn these valves you're turning them 32 times to get them to move an inch." He also informed the council that turning the water off for the entire city was not an option on Oct. 22.

Six crew men and Stewart were able to get the system back online a little after 9 p.m. the same day. "CIS performed an investigation of the waterline break/repair and found the city not to be at fault or liable for the incident," Stewart wrote in a report to the council. "Since CIS is a pool owned by cities and counties, the Board of Trustees set a policy to compensate homeowners for reasonable expenses incurred to remove the water and dry out the flooded buildings provided the owner signs a release to conclude the claim." Hunter said it took 10 days of high powered fans and heaters to dry out her home while Hayes said the money offered by the city's insurance was "pittance" to what it cost to repair her home. "It was informative to hear how long it took to turn the water off but that doesn't mitigate my damages," she told the council. "Most of us don't have thousands of dollars in the bank to pay for this. Our only recourse is to take the city to court which is more money we don't have."

Councilor Jake Boone spent his time during council member comments to question Meyers and the city attorney on what the board could do to help homeowners affected by the incident. "This sucks," he said after Meyers informed him that the city could not obtain better insurance without tripling water bills and that any move by the board to cover the costs would be seen as precedent for future incidents which could lead to the city's bankruptcy in the event of a natural disaster.

The county would have also seen the installation of a county manager who would oversee the day-to-day operations of the local government, in much the same way city managers work with city councils to handle the business of the city. However, just over 23 percent of the vote saw a 'yes' on the ballot to create a home rule charter in Douglas. 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. The issue, like many others this election cycle, found a footing on social media with both sides of the vote casting stones before setting out to cast ballots. Back-and-forth between the groups included talk over monetary contributions, arguments against status-quo and the enormity of the change to adopting a home rule charter.

## No home rule Douglas voters say no

By Caitlyn May  
cmay@cgsentinel.com

Douglas County will continue to operate under state rule after 76.33 percent of the vote to move towards home rule came back as a resounding, 'no.'

Voters were tasked with deciding whether or not to implement a local constitution that would come with a slew of changes for Douglas County government. The first and most distinguishable from the current system was the potential change to county government.

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.

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## Oregon gets \$2.6 million in road repair

Today, the Ranking Democrat on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Peter DeFazio (D-OR) announced that the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) has awarded \$2.6 million in emergency relief grants to rebuild and repair roads in Oregon.

"Two weeks ago, I urged the Secretary of Transportation to immediately

sign critical Emergency Relief grants that have been inexplicably stuck in the DOT bureaucracy for months. These non-controversial grants will help states and federal land management agencies rebuild roads impacted by severe storms, flooding, and wildfires. I am happy to announce that these grants have finally been signed." For complete story head to cgsentinel.com.

## Dutch Bros. raises money for cancer research

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, all Dutch Bros locations partnered with their communities to raise \$220,000 for the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute and Albie Aware in support of the advancement of breast cancer research and services for patients.

"We're stoked to be able to contribute to the continued research and services that these wonderful organizations provide," said Travis Boersma, Co-founder Dutch Bros Coffee.

During the entire month of October, Dutch Bros locations donated \$5 from the sale of each specialty "Be Aware" travel mug to raise funds. The sales were in conjunction with Breast Cancer Awareness month, and each purchase provided an opportunity to increase awareness of this disease and its impact on those fighting it.

"We'd like to thank Dutch Bros and the Dutch Bros community for their continued support of our effort to fight breast cancer," said Arpana Naik, M.D., associate professor for surgery in the OHSU School of Medicine and breast surgical oncologist for the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute. "Raising over \$200,000 in just one month is an impressive feat, and those dollars will support the research and treatment underway here to make a difference for our patients across the state affected by this disease."

Dutch Bros locations across seven states raised \$203,800 for the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute. The funds donated will support their research into treatment and preventative methods for breast cancer detection. They take an individual, personalized approach with each patient's care, utilizing cutting-edge technologies, including DNA specific drugs and radiation therapies.

Dutch Bros locations in Sacramento raised \$16,200 for Albie Aware, a local non-profit organization that works to bring awareness, while also focusing on support services for breast cancer patients. Funds raised will directly benefit Albie Aware as they provide life-saving education, testing, patient advocacy and compassionate care for individuals facing or fighting breast cancer.



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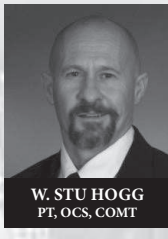
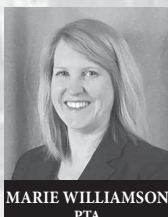
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