



Cottage Grove Sentinel

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



SPORTS

The Lions make it to the state championships B1

PERSONAL | COMMERCIAL
BENEFITS | SURETY

PayneWest
INSURANCE

(541) 942-0555

PayneWest.com/Cottage-Grove



WED
62°/54°

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2017

FACEBOOK.COM/CGSENTINEL • TWITTER.COM/CGSENTINEL

CGSENTINEL.COM

Giving Back



PHOTO BY CAITLYN MAY/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Cottage Grove High School leaders Jackson Perkins (R) and Cooper Ladd (L), supported by staffer Carmen Adler, hand over a \$550 check to Community Sharing's executive director Mike Fleck on Monday, Nov. 20. The high school held a food drive, garnering piles of canned goods as well as monetary donations for the community food pantry. Fleck thanked the students, noting it had been a difficult year and the pantry has suffered from food shortages.

Cottage Grove fails to reach 10,000 Population won't trigger city changes

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cg sentinel.com

The sign greeting visitors to Cottage Grove just off Interstate 5 declares that this is a city of less than 10,000. There's been debate and speculation over the last year but according to Portland State University (PSU)--the only agency that matters in such distinctions--Cottage Grove will remain a city of less than 10,000 people. For now.

According to PSU, there are 9,920 residents in the city. "Recently reported the US Census 2016 Estimate puts the City of Cottage Grove's population at 10,109. The US Census methodology uses less community specific information and is a rougher estimate of the population. PSU uses the same data but also pulls in specific information such school enrollments, building permits, housing demolitions and other community or county specific data to attempt to generate a much more accurate estimate," Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers wrote of the estimate.

Meyers and other city officials wait with baited breath for the population estimates because once Cottage Grove hits 10,000 residents, a slew of changes must go into affect.

The city will need to add an additional garbage service which will coincide with the current confusion of recycling. Plastics are no longer accepted at the landfill and state regulations approved by the state legislature during its last session will essentially require that the city create "garbage police" to monitor what items are being recycled.

According to Meyers, when the city does hit 10,000, it will likely opt for a weekly yard debris services that will either be billed separately or increase the cost of the current garbage bill.

The estimate released last week is preliminary and is made public each year around Nov. 15. The number will be certified in December.

Do no harm: New substance program at work in CG



PHOTO BY CAITLYN MAY/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

South Lane Mental Health is venturing into substance treatment with a harm reduction program aimed at allowing patients to choose their level of treatment.

Holly Serrano detoxed for four days in a Native American sweat lodge. It was because, she said, the experience of recovery has to be equal to or greater than the addiction. Now, armed with a master's degree, she is helping guide other people through the process as part of the new substance use recovery program at South Lane Mental Health.

Serrano works with a team of mental health professionals and peer supporters at the center, located on 5th St. in Cottage Grove. Since its grand opening in May of this year, it has served nearly 100 individuals. But the journey to get here has been two years in the making.

"South Lane Mental Health made the decision two years ago to expand treatment to include substance use treatment," Serrano said. "We wanted to treat

substance use in the context of mental health."

Grants helped the program get on its feet after Serrano joined four other individuals in crafting the content. "When they said they wanted to do this we asked, 'Can we come at it from a harm reduction standpoint?'" she said.

While traditional 30, 60 or 90-day programs focus on sobriety, the substance use program at

South Lane Mental Health utilizes harm reduction—a concept that allows individuals to choose whether or not to kick a substance completely.

"Maybe their goal is employment," Serrano said. "They need to cut their drinking down enough to maintain employment or maybe they want to moderate their substance use so their relationship with their significant other is better." The goal, according to Serrano, is to reduce the use of substances to allow individuals to function in a productive manner.

To do that, the program can service people for as long as they're willing to receive treatment, rather than the traditional 90-days covered by insurance at traditional addiction programs. South Lane Mental Health's program is also covered by Medicaid but also offers payment options for the \$175 a month price tag.

"It's less than their substance of choice," Serrano said.

The price covers the entirety of treatment which consists of an approach built around a team system. It's an approach Jody

Please see SOUTH LANE PG. A6

Cannabis facility up in flames



By Caitlyn May
cmay@cg sentinel.com

In December of last year, Miguel Tena applied for a conditional use permit from the city of Cottage Grove to begin processing cannabis oil at an existing marijuana facility on Lane St. in downtown Cottage Grove. He told city officials that the building would be equipped with explosion-proof fans, ventilation, a six-foot fence and that it wouldn't emit any odors associated with the production of 50 to 100 pounds of product a week.

On November 16, the air in downtown Cottage Grove had a distinct twinge of marijuana. The facility was on fire.

At approximately 4 p.m., South Lane County Fire and Rescue as well as Cottage Grove Police gathered at the scene where, reportedly, a piece of equipment was left on. One person was taken to the hospital in Eugene.

Arson investigators were on the scene Friday but have yet to release information concerning the investigation. Local fire authorities said on Monday that all information has been turned over to the CGPD, Oregon State Police and the DEA.

COMMUNITY Baseball legend

A local resident remembers his friend. PAGE B1



MYSTERY Box of memories

A resident's hunt for the owner of a box of memories. PAGE A8

INDEX

Calendar	B11
Channel Guide	B5
Classifieds	B7
Obituaries	A2
Opinion	A4
Sports	B1

cgnews@cg sentinel.com
(541) 942-3325 ph • (541) 942-3328 fax
P.O. Box 35, Cottage Grove, OR 97424
Corner of Sixth and Whiteaker, Cottage Grove

VOLUME 129 • NUMBER 70



6 18134 42405 2

Coffee with the Editor Every Tuesday 12 pm

@ Backstage Bakery

Come chat about the community!

