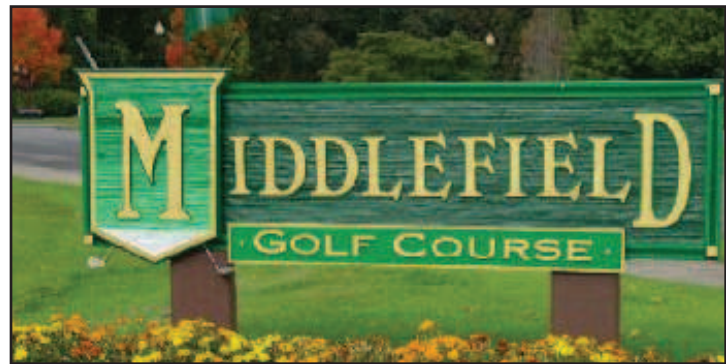


State fines city for contaminated water on golf course



By Caitlyn May
cmay@cgsentinel.com

Cottage Grove will pay the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) \$1,575 after a sample from Middlefield Golf Course tested dirty last May.

"We're just going to pay this one," Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers said. "Our reading was just above the allowed amount. If the permitted amount is 23, we tested at 24 or 25. The reading from

the river was 2,400."

The sample collected last May noted that bacteria from human waste was present in the golf course's irrigation water when the city's sewage plant is responsible for removing bacteria from the water is pumps from the river.

"The way they test it is they put water on a petri dish, go away, come back and count the spots," Meyers said. "It doesn't say whether the bacteria is good bacteria or bad bacteria, just how many spots were present. It wasn't raw sewage," he said.

This is the second time the city has been fined for exceeding allowed bacteria levels at the golf course. Last year, the DEQ levied a \$4,500 fine that was waived after the city agreed to plant trees and vegetation on the banks of the Coast Fork River.

Meyers said the city is currently in the design phase to improve the treatment process.

"It's why the fine was only \$1,500 this time because if it was water coming from the river it would have been much higher. We were just above the allowed amount."

State surveys teens' health

Sample sizes report on emotional, mental, physical help

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cgsentinel.com

High school juniors, seniors and eighth-graders in South Lane School District are skipping school, being bullied and thinking about suicide at a higher rate than their peers around the state. They also think at least one teacher cares about them more than their peers do and believe that if they try, they can do most things.

This, according to the results of the 2017 Oregon Student Wellness Survey.

The survey, released yearly, asks a group of students at every school in the state, a set of questions. The results are tallied and compared between schools and the state average overall.

At Cottage Grove High School, for example, 59 percent of students said they had never skipped school in the last year compared to the 60.9 percent statewide. When asked if they had ever seriously considered attempting suicide, CGHS edged out the state average by a hair coming in at 18.3 percent compared to 18.2 percent. That divide was a little bigger at Al Kennedy High School where 22.7 percent of students said they considered suicide compared to the state average. However, when asked if they

had attempted suicide within the last year, only five percent of Kennedy students said they had and CGHS reported 7.7 percent. Those numbers, while troubling, are down from the 2016 survey where 26.7 percent of students at CGHS asked the question answered that they had considered suicide. 25 percent of Kennedy kids presented with the same question indicated they had considered it as well.

"Suicide is one we watch," South Lane Superintendent Krista Parent said during the Jan. 8 CGHS board meeting. "Suicide and obviously this year we were interested in the marijuana question."

Recreational marijuana is currently legal in the state of Oregon. However, those numbers have fluctuated over the last year. In 2016, CGHS kids sampled said 10.8 percent of them had tried marijuana in the last 30 days. In 2017, that number increased to 16.8. Kennedy students, however, saw their number go down from 42.3 percent to 38.1 percent in 2017.

The numbers also changed for indications of home-use of marijuana. When asked if an adult used marijuana in their home, 27.4 percent of the CGHS sample said yes while 45.5 percent of the Kennedy sample said yes. In 2016, that question was not

asked.

While the survey touches on the stereotypical questions surrounding teenagers, including sex, drugs and violence, it also asks students about their physical and mental health.

When asked to give a response concerning the statement "I am in excellent mental health," 64.5 percent of the CGHS sample said they were while 47.7 percent of the Kennedy sample said they were in excellent mental health.

Eighth graders at Lincoln Middle School were included in this year's survey as well. 81 percent said they were in good physical health, 77.2 percent thought at least one teacher at school cared about them, 17.8 percent had considered suicide, 21.7 percent had been bullied in the last 30 days and 7.1 percent had tried marijuana in the same time frame.

A small group of students from each school were selected to participate in the survey meaning that percentages are based on populations of the group and not the school. For example, Kennedy currently has 94 students. Only a small portion of those students were selected to answer the questions leading to totals of five percent for some questions which could indicate a single student.

In good mental health:
CGHS: 64.5% Kennedy: 47.7% LMS: 63.4%

Ever eat less because there wasn't enough money to buy food?
CGHS: 22.8% Kennedy: 26.1% LMS: 19.5%

Never tried marijuana:
CGHS: 57% Kennedy: 33.3% LMS: 86.7%

Sort of or very easy to get marijuana:
CGHS: 77.7% Kennedy: 77.3% LMS: 28.8%

Been to the dentist in the past 24 months:
CGHS: 92.3% Kennedy: 78.3% LMS: 80.5%

Have you ever had sex? I can do most things if I try:
CGHS: 87.2% Kennedy: 76.2% LMS: 84.2%

Identifies as "not straight":
CGHS: 23.3% Kennedy: 36.4% LMS: 27.1%

In good physical health:
CGHS: 83.9% Kennedy: 36.4% LMS: 81.1%

Bullied in the last 30 days by someone using social media:
CGHS: 12.2% Kennedy: 18.2% LMS: 21.7%

Parent

Continued from A1

and a school district employee. The investigation determined that the school board did not have a policy in place to prohibit the relationship.

In August, an anonymous, handwritten letter on the subject was given to each board member citing Parent's standing in the community and suggested a resident engaged in "libel" and slander against the superintendent.

A handwriting analysis funded by a resident determined that it was possible Parent wrote the letter.

"SLEA takes the allegation of the anonymous letter given to the school board in August very seriously," the SLEA statement read. "The letter slanders and harasses a school district employee, and if it is indeed from our superintendent, then this would become a very serious legal matter."

Diane Hicks signed the letter in her capacity as SLEA President but is not the author of the document.

According to Hicks, the letter was written by a group of individuals and placed on a web-based survey platform Survey Monkey, available to all 153 SLEA members. 115 responses were recorded with 110 in favor of sending the letter to the school board.

"Our priority" Baas wrote in his statement, "has been, and will continue to be, the students and staff of South Lane School District."

The issue was not discussed at the Jan. 8 school board meeting. However, board member Jerry Settelmeyer requested the board hold an executive session. The session was scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 16. The meeting fell outside of the Sentinel's Monday evening print deadline. Any and all information presented during an executive session is not for print unless otherwise stated by the governing board, per Oregon state law.

For updates on this story throughout the week, please visit cgsentinel.com.

LORANE NEWS

Lorane Grange meets this Thursday, January 18 at their regular time, 7 p.m. Their dinner and bingo evenings return to the fourth Saturday of the month, January 27 at 5:30 p.m. for dinner, 6:30 p.m. for bingo.

CAL School Board meeting is also Thursday, January 18 at Applegate Elementary, 7 p.m.

Half day school this Friday, January 19. Half day art will be with Marty Byers on acting.

Just a reminder that CAL School District is a great place for children to learn in a small class setting and get a quality education.

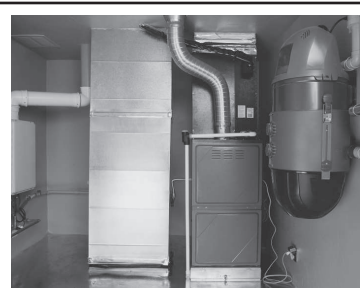
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COTTAGE GROVE



CAROUSEL

**Restoration St. Valentine's
Dinner/Dance Benefit**

Saturday, February 10, 2018
CGHS Cafetorium 6pm-9pm
Doors open at 5:30pm

**Tickets are \$30/person
or table of 8 for \$240**

Tickets are available at
the Bookmine & Cottage Grove Sentinel

Former KVAL news anchor
Shelley Jack (Kurtz) will be MC for the evening

For more information, contact
Alice Nowicki @ 541-228-8451

All proceeds go to restoration of the 1929 Allan Hershell Carousel & Band Organ