

# Cottage Grove Retrospective

A look back at Sentinel stories from 30 and 60 years ago

## New city manager plays devil's advocate: '88

By Pete Malliris  
Sentinel staff of 1988

Bill Bixby didn't ride into town wearing a black hat over a furrowed brow and a six-shooter at his hip when he took over as Cottage Grove's city manager last January. But if the current situation at city hall were a movie, Bixby would be the natural, albeit reluctant, villain.

The horns and trident of the devil's advocate might be a more appropriate costume for the Massachusetts native. Regardless of how you look at him, Bixby's new job has made him the bearer of some bad news.

While surveying the city's finances, Bixby found that its

1988-1989 budget is about \$350,000 shy of what it needs to maintain current services.

The deficit may require substantial personnel cuts in city staff, Bixby told the city council at its last regular meeting.

All indications say Lance Holmstrom's position as the city's one-man economic development department, although strongly supported by many community circles, can't escape the inevitable budget axe.

Bixby identified other possible reductions in funds for the parks, library and engineering. He suggested the possibility of cutting two police positions as well.

Some public criticism is un-

avoidable, no matter where the cuts are made. But Bixby said it's important for the city to show taxpayers it can live within its means.

"If a government can't manage its budget, then it loses credibility with its constituents," Bixby said.

He realizes his recommendations might be criticized when the time comes to make the cuts.

"It's the responsibility of the city manager sometimes to perhaps take unpopular positions. It gives the public somewhere to focus the discussion on," Bixby said.

Citizens will get a chance to make its position regarding the budget known Monday, March

14 at the city council's regular meeting during a scheduled public hearing.

Bixby never enjoyed a honeymoon when he moved to Cottage Grove from the Arizona desert where he was the manager of Mohave County.

Amid the turmoil of impending budget cuts and questions from the public regarding the city's finances, Bixby has burned the midnight oil to prepare himself. He is a familiar figure at city hall on evenings and weekends, examining the budget.

"People ask very detailed questions and they expect an answer. We need to have answers," Bixby explained.



## News from the state and around the nation

### From around the state

- Oregon lawmakers are taking on net neutrality this week by debating a bill that would stop the state from working with internet companies that do not comply to the open internet rules that were in place prior to the Trump Administration's reversal of net neutrality. The FCC announced in December that it would no longer enforce net neutrality—an idea that all online traffic and websites would be managed equally by providers.
- A confirmed case of dog flu has been reported in Grants Pass. The illness is highly contagious and is akin to the virus that affects humans. Symptoms include lethargy, nasal discharge and coughing.
- A Springfield man who was arrested on charges of making threats against President Donald Trump, will undergo a psychiatric exam. Thomas Murphy, 36, was arrested on Feb. 16 for making four threats via his social media against the president. Murphy reportedly has a history of mental illness.

- The Southern Poverty Law Center—an organization that tracks hate groups around the country—released its yearly report, noting an uptick in white supremacy groups. The U.S. reportedly now has 954 active hate groups, four percent more than 2016. Oregon and Washington have a combined 14 active hate groups including two KKK groups and the National Socialist Movement.

- According to the Oregon Department of Transportation, 97 percent of the sidewalks adjacent to the state's highways are not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The law requires that public spaces provide equal access to individuals with disabilities. In an audit of the nearly 30,000 curb ramps along state highways, 97 percent did not meet ADA standards.

### From around the nation

- The armed officer on site at the high school in Parkland, Florida did not enter the building on Feb. 14 as a former student shot and killed 17 people. Scot Peterson released a statement through his attorney contending that he was being falsely labeled as a 'coward' and that his "actions were appropriate."
- The United States Supreme Court has declined to hear the challenge to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) brought by the Department of Justice. The move protects DACA—a program that allows individuals brought to America illegally as children to work toward citizenship—through March 5.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics announced on Monday that it recommends all children 12 years and over be examined for depression once a year through an online questionnaire.
- President Trump announced this week that he would ban a gun accessory meant to simulate an automatic firearm with or without congressional support. The "bump stock" ban would need congressional approval according to the Department of Justice.

## POLICE BLOTTER

Cottage Grove Police Department 24-Hour Anonymous Tip Line: 767-0504

### February 18

Three 10-year-olds reportedly started a small campfire under a play structure at Harrison Park. The juveniles were contacted and transported to their parents.

Staff members at the Dollar Tree found a bag of syringes inside the men's restroom at 10:22 a.m.

A coffee shop employee reported a male customer loitering in the seating area after being verbally aggressive towards staff and other customers. The individual was been asked to leave.

### February 19

A woman reported that her soon-to-be ex-husband has been sending sexual pictures of her to third parties.

A woman on Hwy. 99 reported that she chased off two subjects who were in a space that was supposed to be vacant and locked up but she was hearing noises that sounded like someone is trying to break in again.

### February 20

An individual making a delivery to Kennedy High School at 4:03 a.m. reported a suspicious condition when the alarm system was engaged.

A man on K St. reported that an unknown subject threw a rock through their sliding glass door.

Disorderly subject was reported on Main St. when a man was seen yelling in the middle of the road and threw an object at a nearby building.

A suspicious condition was reported on 13th St. when an individual saw two men exit a BMW and walk around a house with flashlights. The individual was unsure if the home was occupied.

### February 21

Two cars were seen driving recklessly on River Rd. around 1 a.m. The cars had left a bar in Creswell and one, that was possibly stolen, struck a parked vehicle and left the scene and was then chased by the other.

A possible DUI was seen on Taylor St. after an individual sat at a green traffic signal for five minutes and then proceeded to drive "all over" the road.

A man on E. Madison St. was seen ransacking a utility trailer. The complainant reported that the man appeared to be tweaking.

A male subject was seen passed out on the bike path area near the I-5 overpass.

A woman came to the police station to report finding information on Facebook that claimed a student was going to take a gun to Cottage Grove High School.

### February 22

An individual was brought into custody after being in possession of "multiple different drugs" in addition to needles.

During a search incident, CGPD found an individual had a meth pipe.

An individual requested assistance to check a tool shed that someone had been living in and potentially storing drugs inside of.

### February 23

A disorderly subject was reported when an employee on Gateway Blvd. confronted an individual for digging through trash cans.

### February 24

A woman on Main St. reported that juvenile females were pelting her residence with soda cans and paper cups. The woman reported that she had detained the juveniles and that they are trying to physically fight with her.



THURSDAY March 1

43° | 28°



Snow

FRIDAY March 2

44° | 26°



Showers

SATURDAY March 3

45° | 30°



Showers

SUNDAY March 4

49° | 30°



Sunny

MONDAY March 5

49° | 30°



Sunny

TUESDAY March 6

53° | 34°



Sunny

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## State Representatives

### Oregon state representation

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