

Kennedy



ation that are going to be great contributors to our community," said Ketcher.

Back at the high school, the school garden has taken on a role in the classroom. The science and math classes regularly work in the garden and have worked to design garden beds, layout design and are learning about how things grow.

The other group that helps with the garden is the Green Team spark. The spark class, a class that focuses on finding out what sparks an individual, has had big plans for the garden. With great ambition, the team has at times been stymied by reality but they keep looking for new ways to

make things happen. Since the start of the year the goal has been to get compost bins that have worms in them to help break down waste. It was said by Ketcher, it was said by spark instructor Jessica Martinez and it was said by students. Worms were the goal.

Sketches were drawn up as it was worked out exactly what would work best for what they needed. Debates were had about buying or building the structure and about how this will best serve the school. But ultimately, it was deemed that keeping the worms would not be viable and that they should look for something else.

Now the students are locked

into designing a three-bin system for compost. Sitting in a group during SPARK, Chase, a senior, decided to take over the conversation. As he sketched out how to best have this set up that will be 12 feet long, three feet wide and four feet deep, he was set that this model

would be both easy to make and use.

"I've worked in construction, I've built houses," he told those sitting next to him as he diagramed how they would build this.

As the class gathered around the group to see how the design would work, they began to ask questions. Martinez specifically wondered about the lid and whether it would be made of plywood or metal and whether or not it would be too heavy to open.

"You've got some muscles, you'll be able to lift it," he said with a smile and a laugh.

While the Green Team has been working on designs, they have a number of other projects they have been working on. There's one that has drawn some buzz: bees.

"Kennedy used to have bees and all of this stuff but it wasn't sustainable. People would start a green team but then the teachers would leave... or they would lose the time in the way cohort schedules are arranged they would lose that time and then it all goes away," said Martinez.

Working with a local beekeeper, the school now has a couple of boxes of and bees and when the weather gets nicer students will have a firsthand experience with them.

The Green Team has also been working with schools across the county as a part of the Our Future Oregon. The group that includes schools such as South Eugene High School and Sheldon High School, work together to better the environment. At Ken-

neddy that has meant recycling, composting and getting students on board.

"It used to be like, 'Recycling? Yeah whatever,' and put it anywhere. But after a year, it's a habit now. And I would say a lot of that was the kids we had in here that first year were really adamant about, well they actually this goes here. And this is why we need to. And now it's part of the culture," said Martinez.

While Kennedy, a school of less than a 100, can get everybody on board and change the culture rather quickly, the bigger schools see Kennedy as an inspiration.

"A lot of the other schools are more into the social justice side. The environmental activism, I guess. Like going up to Salem and lobbying and doing all of this stuff, which is really cool, something I wish we did more of," said Martinez. "We do a lot more of that local culture change. And they do more of the

big, big time change. More of the like changing the school culture. And they're both really important."

The Kennedy students also see the bigger school as inspiration not just on how they work with laws but on other projects such as more efficient light bulbs.

"Right now we're kind of focusing on littler things like smaller things like plumbing. Water and that. So, we're working on doing an audit to see what we actually use to see if we can decrease the amount," said Blaize Shawbuck who has attended the meetings in Eugene.

Shawbuck, along with his classmates and students around the county, are just interested in that same thing that Kennedy has been focused on: sustainability. "We're focused on improving the schools."



Baby Boxes help new parents



Welcome Baby Box, pictured above, helps new parents develop community bonds. Photo courtesy 90 by 30.

By Caitlyn May
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Having a baby can be overwhelming. 90 by 30 is trying to make it a little easier.

The county-wide program is dedicated to preventing child abuse by 90 percent by 2030 and in the fall of last year, it rolled out the first tangible program aimed at achieving that goal.

The Baby Box program provides families residing in Lane County newborn essentials and, hopefully, a connection to the community.

"It's based on Finland's concept," said 90 by 30's Rachel Norquist. "It's surrounding the goal of a safe sleep system and preventing SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) but the box is a vehicle to create a connection with the community so new parents have a support system."

While new parents in Finland get an empty box for babies to sleep in, parents who receive a box from 90 by 30, get a bit more.

In every box, there are newborn essentials: a sleep sack, onesies, diapers, wipes and san-

itizer. But that's not all. Families are also gifted donated items handmade by organizations like Tummy Time Quilt and Click for Babies Cap. Both organizations create the products specifically for the baby boxes and try to include encouragement even when it's not immediately obvious.

"The caps for the babies have a lot of purple in them to represent the 'period of purple crying.' Just as a reminder to new parents," Norquist said.

The Period of PURPLE Crying is part of the National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome, a non-profit organization. The goal is to provide information to first-time parents on the misconceptions of "fussy" babies. According to the program, the period of PURPLE crying begins at approximately two weeks and runs until about four months old and is described as a developmental stage. The letters P-U-R-P-L-E stand for Peak of Crying, Unexpected, Resists Soothing, Pain-like Face, Long Lasting and Evening, a way to remind parents that the crying will pass.

"It's reassuring parents that sometimes babies cry and

you're not doing anything wrong," Norquist said.

The program's goal is to reduce frustration through education and decrease the cases of shaken baby syndrome. So, volunteers incorporate the color purple into their blankets and caps for the baby box.

"You should see their faces when they get this box," Norquist said. "Some of our low-income families say they finally have a space for their baby."

Since its conception last October, the program has handed out 26 baby boxes with only a staff of volunteers and one paid employee. "I come from corporate America and when we launched this box I said, 'Guys, we just launched a product,'" Norquist said. "We launched a product with volunteers when it would have taken 30 people and a budget of a million dollars."

Baby box applications are simple. South Lane County residents must fill out an invitation—which is less than a page long—or contact Norquist. There are no other requirements for receiving a baby box.

"It's a self-referral program. We get people who their friends refer them but mostly it's a self-referral and all they need is to reside in South Lane County," Norquist said.

Currently, the program has 65 registrants and on Thursday, March 15, Norquist was off to deliver another box to a family and its newborn.

To register for a baby box or for more information, visit 90by30.com or contact (541) 870-0689.

Worship Directory

- DRAIN:**
HOPE U.M.C.
131 W "A" St. Drain, OR
541-315-1617
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen
Fellowship & Song: 11:30am
Potluck Lunch: 12:00pm
Worship: 12:30pm
- COTTAGE GROVE:**
6th & Gibbs Church of Christ
195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822
Pastor: Aaron Earlywine
Youth & Families Pastor:
Seth Bailey
Service times: 9am & 10:30am
Sunday School: 9am for all ages
Christian Education
Nursery for pre-k - 3rd Grade
www.6thandgibbs.com
- Calvary Baptist Church**
77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290
Pastor: Riley Hendricks
Sunday School: 9:45am
Worship: 11:00am
The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm
Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm
- Calvary Chapel Cottage Grove**
1447 Hwy 99 (Village Plaza)
541-942-6842
Pastor: Jeff Smith
Two Services on Sun:
9am & 10:45am
Youth Group Bible Study
Child Care 10:45am Service Only
www.cgcalvary.org
- Center for Spiritual Living**
Cottage Grove
700 Gibbs Ave.
(Community Center)
Rev. Bobby Lee
Meets Sunday 3:00 p.m.
cslcottagegrove@gmail.com
- Church of Christ**
420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565
Sunday Service: 10:30am
- Cottage Grove Bible Church**
1200 East Quincy Avenue
541-942-4771
Pastor: Bob Singer
Worship 11am
Sunday School: 9:45am
AWANA age 3-8th Grade,
Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm
www.cgbible.org
- Cottage Grove Faith Center**
33761 Row River Rd.
541-942-4851
Lead Pastor: Kevin Prueett
www.cg4.tv
Full Children's Ministry available
Service: 10:00am
- Delight Valley**
Church of Christ
33087 Saginaw Rd. East
541-942-7711
Pastor: Bob Friend
Two Services:
9am - Classic in the Chapel
10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium
- First Presbyterian Church**
3rd and Adams St
541-942-4479
Pastor: Karen Hill
Worship: 10:00am
Sunday School: 10:00am
www.cgpresbynews.com
- Hope In The Grove**
700 E. Gibbs • 401-855-5668
Pastor: Wayne Husk
Sunday services:
Worship: 9am
Coffee Fellowship: 10:15am
Bible Study: 10:30am
- Hope Fellowship**
United Pentecostal Church
100 S. Gateway Blvd.
541-942-2061
Pastor: Dave Bragg
Worship: 11:00am Sunday
Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday
www.hopefellowshippupc.com
"FINDING HOPE IN YOUR LIFE"
- Living Faith Assembly**
467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612
Worship Services Sundays: 9a & 11a
Youth Worship Sundays: 11a (all ages welcome)
Mondays: 5:30p (6th-12th grades)
- Non-Denominational Church of Christ**
1041 Pennoyer Ave
541-942-8928
Preacher: Tony Martin
Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am
Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm
www.pennyoyaravecoc.com
- Old Time Gospel Fellowship**
103 S. 5th St. • 541-942-4999
Pastor: Jim Edwards
Sunday Service: 10:00am
Join in Traditional Christian Worship
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi**
Catholic Churches
1025 N. 19th St.
541-942-3420
Father: Joseph Hung Nguyen
Holy Mass:
Tue-Thu: 8:30am; Sat: 5:30pm
Sun: 10:30am
Confession: After daily mass,
Sat. 4-5pm or by appointment
St. Philip Benizi, Creswell
552 Holbrock Lane
541-895-8686, Sunday: 8:30am
- St. Andrews Episcopal Church**
1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050
Rev. Lawrence Crumb
"Church with the flags."
Worship: Sunday 10:30am
All Welcome
- Seventh-day Adventist Church**
820 South 10th Street
541-942-5213
Pastor: Kevin Miller
Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am
Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40
Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00
- Trinity Lutheran Church**
6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373
Pastor: James L. Markus
Sunday School & Adult Education 9:15am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thu 5:00pm TLC Groups
tlccg.com
- United Methodist Church**
334 Washington • 541-942-3033
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen
Worship: 10:30am
Comm. Dinner (Adults \$5, Kids Free)
1st & 3rd Monday 5-6:00pm
umcgrove.org
- "VICTORY" Country Church**
913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913
Pastor: Barbara Dockery
Worship Service: 10:00am
Message: "WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES"

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