

# EARTH DAY CLEAN-UP A SUCCESS



Cottage Grove Councilor Ken Roberts stands between Cottage Grove High School Principal Mike Ingman (right) and athletic director Gary Roberts (left) during Saturday's downtown clean up that was part of the city's Earth Day festivities. Roberts said he was pleased with the turn-out and hopes to see more people join the effort next year.



PHOTOS BY KEN ROBERTS



## Unemployment report shows job growth in March

Oregon's unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in February and March. For 15 consecutive months, the rate has been close to 4.1 percent, its lowest level since comparable records began in 1976. The U.S. unemployment rate was also 4.1 percent in both February and March. The economy continues to expand as reflected by record highs in Oregon's civilian labor force (2,132,000 individuals) and total employment (2,043,000 individuals).

In March, Oregon's nonfarm payroll employment grew by 4,200 jobs, following a revised gain of 700 jobs in February. Recent growth was somewhat stronger than during much of 2016 and 2017 when growth averaged 3,700 jobs per month.

In March, retail trade added 2,400 jobs, due to stronger hiring patterns than normal during the first three months of the year. These gains followed somewhat lackluster holiday hiring in retail at the end of 2017. In the past 12 months, the retail components adding the most jobs were motor vehicle and parts dealers (+1,000 jobs) and food and beverage stores (+1,000 jobs).

Manufacturing rebounded in March, adding 1,200 jobs, following a loss of 900 in February. Oregon's manufacturing sector is growing, adding 4,200 jobs over the past 12 months. Durable goods manufacturing picked up the pace of hiring in recent months. Its growth was led by computer and electronic product manufacturing, which added 2,100 jobs over the past 12 months.

Professional and business services was the only other major industry with a notable over-the-month job change in March. It added 800 jobs, putting this large industry back on a track of modest expansion. Within the past 12 months it added 2,800 jobs, or 1.2 percent.

Total nonfarm payroll employment grew by 41,000 jobs, or 2.2 percent, since March 2017. Oregon is adding jobs faster than the U.S. rate of 1.5 percent.

### Notes:

All numbers in the above narrative are seasonally adjusted except for the component industries within retail trade and manufacturing.

The Oregon Employment Department and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) work cooperatively to develop and publish monthly Oregon payroll employment and labor force data. The estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. The estimates of unemployment are based on a survey of households and other sources.

\*Effective with the January 2018 data, employment of Oregon's approximately 17,000 home care workers are counted in private health care and social assistance instead of state government. The change was due to legislative action clarifying that for purposes of workforce and labor market information, home care workers are not employees of state government. The reclassification affects private sector and government monthly change figures for January 2018 and will affect over-the-year change figures through December 2018. It does not affect total payroll employment levels.

The pdf version of the news release, including tables and graphs, can be found at [www.QualityInfo.org/press-release](http://www.QualityInfo.org/press-release). To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit [www.QualityInfo.org](http://www.QualityInfo.org), then within the top banner, select Economic Data, then choose LAUS or CES. To request the press release as a Word document, contact the person shown at the top of this press release.

For help finding jobs and training resources, visit one of the state's WorkSource Oregon centers or go to: [www.WorkSourceOregon.org](http://www.WorkSourceOregon.org).

Equal Opportunity program — auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Contact: (503) 947-1794. For the Deaf and Hard of Hearing population, call 711 Telecommunications Relay Services.

## Lorane County News

Submitted by Lil Thompson

Tomorrow, Thursday April 26, is Kindergarten Roundup for the Crow Applegate Lorane School District. If you have a child who will be five (5) by September 1, 2018, come to Applegate Elementary at 3:15 pm meet your teacher and see your classroom for the upcoming school year. Bring your child's birthday certificate and immunization records.

Come out on Saturday, April 28 and enjoy a delicious Bake sale and wonderful Craft Faire at Lorane Grange. The Lorane Christian Church Ladies are hosting this event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Later that evening, come to the Lorane Grange's Dessert and Bingo starting at 6 p.m. Progressive blackout has still not been won and chances to win are growing. Bring your friends and neighbors for a fun day in Lorane.

The Easy Acres Neighborhood Watch Group invites everyone to a Wild-fire Prevention Presentation at Lorane Grange, Sunday, April 29th from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The program will be given by Alex Rahmlow, the Oregon Department of Forestry, District of Western Lane, Fire Planning Coordinator. All of us can benefit from this presentation. For more information, call John H. Eckles-541-517-5798. If you are definitely going you may RSVP to him or to the Lorane site. Plan to attend.

Eighth Grade Recognition parent meeting is tonight, April 25 at CMHS Library at 6:30 pm. Contact Mary Houle - 541-935-2227 for further information.

## CITY COUNCIL: IN BRIEF



By Caitlyn May  
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The Cottage Grove City Council met briefly for a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, April 23.

Planning and community development director Faye Stewart filled in for absent city manager Richard Meyers.

**Bikes, bikes, bikes:**  
Cottage Grove Mayor Jeff Gowing proclaimed May to be Bike Month in Cottage Grove. The mayor noted the city's bike paths and the sect of tourism that relies on them. This June, the city will welcome the Gran Fondo on June 2 and on June 16, Gowing will lead his second Mayor's Bike Ride, inviting community members to ride the trail with him.

**Dog park:**  
The city accepted the donation of LuLu's Dog Park as part of its consent agenda on Monday night. The deal includes land valued at approximately \$271,242, benches, fences, a sprinkler system, gates, dog waste stations and a bulletin board. In exchange for the donation, the city has agreed to keep the name Lulu's and the land will remain a dog park for a minimum of five years.

**Budget committee:**  
Two members of the community were appointed to the budget advisory committee. Four people applied for the positions—one left vacated by new city councilor Greg Ervin—including Dana Merryday, Miriam Udosenata, Tom Mun-

roe and Donn Rust. Merryday withdrew his application and Udosenata was not available for an interview as she was out of town running the Boston Marathon. Rust and Munroe were appointed to three-year terms.

**Swinging Bridge:**  
Amy Merryday gave an update on behalf of her husband Dana, on the effort of the community group, Friends of the Cottage Grove Swinging Bridge to fund the structure's repair. During the Earth Day celebration in Coiner Park on Saturday, the group hosted a rummage sale and earned a little over \$1,100. The city fund--funded by donations--now has \$10,176.88. The latest estimations provided by the city for the cost of repair are approximately \$1 million.

**Agenda sessions:**  
The board voted to hold agenda sessions on the Fridays before Monday council meetings for councilors to ask questions of staff. The meetings will begin at 8:30 a.m. and are open to the public but no decisions will be made and no public comment will be held.



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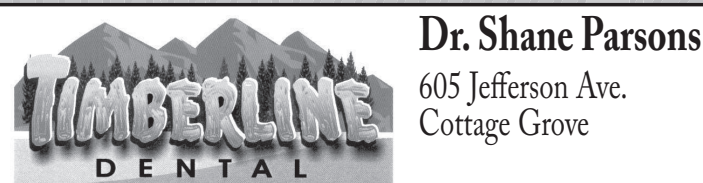
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