

# Local organizations compete for \$40k

By Caitlyn May  
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There's \$40,000 up for grabs and Cottage Grove has a 50 percent chance of grabbing it.

Emerald People's Utility District's annual Green Grant competition awards funds to schools and non-profits that submit a plan for a renewable energy project and manage to secure the vote of customers.

The competition, which started in 2004, is funded by EPUD customers who choose to be part of the Green program. As program members, they pay one cent more per used kilowatt and the difference is funneled into the Green Grant fund.

"What's clear is that our cus-

tomers choose to pay a little extra to fund this," said Patty Jo Angelini, public relations coordinator for the company.

Every organization that submits a plan is entered into the voting pool, according to Angelini, as long as it abides by the rules of the contest: entries must be renewable energy focused and organizations must be within EPUD's service area.

This year, two Cottage Grove groups have submitted projects along with organizations in Saginaw and Veneta.

Aprovecho—an education center focused on sustainability—has submitted plans for

a solar system with a battery backup. According to its application, Aprovecho says the project "will help reduce operational costs and increase the organization's effectiveness as a sustainability teaching and demonstration center."

Branch Rd. Farm School, an organic and biodynamic 73-acre farm in Cottage Grove that focuses on getting people involved in the process of growing food, also suggested a solar system that it says will provide "renewable energy generation, community education and demonstration and additional shelter for the school."

When the grant was founded in 2004, it focused on regional projects but according to Ange-

lini, in 2014, the scope was narrowed to more local projects but Cottage Grove has yet to take home the prize.

"In 2014 it was Community Food for Creswell, 2015 was in Dexter, in 2016 it was Pleasant Hill School District and in 2017 it was Midlane in Veneta," Angelini said. All four winning projects were focused on solar energy.

EPUD customers can vote online at epud.org or through the company's newsletter, for their favorite projects. The project with the most votes will receive funding. Voting is open through June 6. Winners are expected to be announced the following week.

## Betty Kaiser's Chatterbox

I was six years old when I was adopted into my "forever family." They quickly learned that I was a child who loved to talk and ask questions. They nicknamed me the Chatterbox. The 1940s were an era when children were supposed to be seen and not heard. So, I grew up with many unanswered questions about my new family and life in general.

My grandmother was probably my favorite person in the family. I had never known another grandmother and she became my anchor in every storm. She never raised her voice and always had time for me.

In stature, she was short (4'11" tall), round and cherubic looking. In the style of the era, she always wore a house dress, an apron, stockings and sturdy shoes. She was always working.

Grandma and Grandpa lived in a big Spanish style house where he grew a Victory Garden. My parents, sister, brother and I lived across the street. Our quiet neighborhood was high in the hills above Los Angeles before it became a mecca for the world. Sundays, we all went to church. Always. After Sunday supper, Grandpa and I went to evening services where I played the violin.

I often walked to grandma's house just to chat, eat a cookie warm from the oven, cry on her shoulder, feel her love and soak in her wisdom. If I was having a hard day at school she would smile, pat me on the back and say, "This, too, shall pass." I would go home happy.

Cora Mae was born in Missouri in 1894 and married J.D. Rush from Texas when she was only 14-years-old! Three years later their only child Portia Lavagnn was born. Their little family lived many places in the mid-west before moving to Mexico where grandpa was an oil field roustabout before set-

ting in California. It was a hard life.

Looking back, I realize that I thought my grandmother could do anything. An expert seamstress, I watched her create beautiful quilts, doll clothes, church and prom dresses. She canned fruits and vegetables, entertained large groups and cooked scrumptious meals topped off with hand cranked ice cream on homemade pies.

She had also lived through two world wars; experienced women being given the right to vote and endured the Great Depression. Technology advances made life easier. Things we take for granted: radio, electric refrigerators (formerly ice boxes), frozen food (remember Bird's Eye?) and television opened a whole new world. She never learned how to drive.

In March 1957, Grandpa was taken to the hospital and not expected to live. I spent that night with grandma. She made it clear that she didn't want to live without her husband. She was hospitalized and died quickly. Grandpa shortly after. I was 18 years old and it was the shock of my young life. But she trained me well. Life would go on.

I loved my grandparents but I poured out my heart to grandma. Selfishly, our relationship in life was all about me. What I was feeling. How I was doing. What I wanted to do with my life. Now, I look back and wonder why I didn't ask more questions about her life. I wonder what her hopes, aspirations and frustrations were. What events had shaped her life to be a perfect grandmother?

As this Mother's Day approaches, I would encourage you to remember that life is short. If your grandmother or mother are still alive you are blessed. Don't miss any opportunity to get to know them better. They are special. Ask them about their lives as children and young adults. Find out what shaped them to become the people they are today. They will be thrilled that you care enough to ask and you will have memories to pass on to the next generation.

In retrospect, here is a short list of questions that I would ask Cora Mae, my wonderful grandmother:

1. What were your parents like?
2. Growing up what did you do for fun?
3. Where did you go to school?
4. Did you graduate from high school?
5. Did you have any special dreams for your life?
6. Where did you meet grandpa?
7. Why did you get married so young?
8. Did you have a wedding?
9. Who was your best friend?
10. What was it like living in Mexico?
11. What was the worst time of life?
11. What was your favorite time of life?
12. If you could have one wish granted what would it be?
13. What is your greatest joy?
14. Would you do anything over again?
15. Was I your favorite grandchild? (Please say 'yes'!)

Contact Betty Kaiser's Chatterbox at 942-1317 or bchaty@cgsentinel.com

## Lane County reports Whooping Cough outbreak

Lane County Health and Human Services officials are reporting 12 cases of Pertussis (whooping cough) at Sheldon High School.

"Given the high reproductive rate for Pertussis (one case can cause up to 16 new cases), this

many cases in this short of time is especially troublesome," said Dr. Patrick Luedtke, Chief Health Officer for Lane County Public Health. "Fortunately, we have had great team effort with the school, now it's time to ask our community members for help by

getting vaccinated."

Whooping cough is highly contagious and symptoms include a runny nose, sneezing and cough. The cough can worsen over the course of a few days and be accompanied by vomiting and spasms. Infants commonly display more severe symptoms.

The duration of the infection can be up to two weeks with a debilitating cough for up to 90 days. Individuals exhibiting these symptoms are encouraged to refrain from contact with children, stay home from work or school for up to 21 days and seek medical attention. If a doctor prescribes antibiotics, this exclusion from work and school can be reduced to as little as five days.

Pertussis is particularly dangerous for children younger than one year of age. Most deaths occur in unvaccinated children or in children too young to be vaccinated who contract the disease from a family member. These family members may be unvaccinated or unaware that immunity from initial childhood vaccinations wanes after five-10 years and thus have not received their booster.

As a result, it is critical that infants begin the DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis) immunization series on schedule and all family members receive the Tdap booster (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis). The first three shots for infants are given at two, four, and six months of age. The fourth shot is given between 15 and 18 months of age, and a fifth shot is given before a child enters school, at four to six years of age. DTaP and Tdap are covered by most health insurance plans and are readily available through a number of facilities including pharmacies. Individuals interested in receiving the vaccine or booster should contact their preferred health care provider.

Since the bacteria are typically spread by coughing or sneezing, it is also important that everyone practices proper respiratory hygiene. This includes covering your cough or sneeze, properly disposing of used tissue and frequently washing hands, even if you do not display symptoms.

For additional information on Pertussis, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/index.html>

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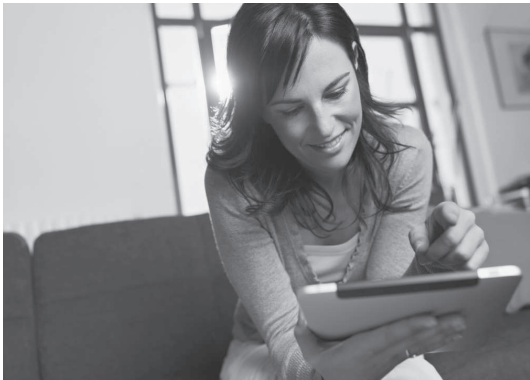
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