

# Local VFW in search of coffee cart

By Caitlyn May  
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When the local VFW gives out free coffee at the rest stop on Interstate 5, they usually get a donation from every customer; the spare change in their pockets or a few dollar bills.

"But we had one lady, once, she asked us what our biggest donation had ever been and I told her it was probably \$20 or \$25 dollars," said VFW post commander Dennis Twite. "Well she went to her car and came back with a check she wrote out for \$100."

The donations the post garners on its weekends at the rest stop on I-5 go toward scholarship programs and other charitable

outreach programs it puts on but now, it's asking for help to continue collecting that spare change, those crumpled bills and maybe, a few more checks.

"We're looking for something that, it can't be too big. Maybe 15 or 16 feet," Twite said, describing the trailer the post needs. The trailer the group uses now is a few decades old and was re-designed and fixed up by the men at the post but according to Twite, it's showing its age.

New travel RVs or trailers can cost thousands of dollars, money the post doesn't have but it does have a budget for a used trailer it can renovate by taking out the dinette set, adding shelves and making a few other adjustments.

The VFW post volunteers at least one weekend a month to hand out coffee for donations so that it can fund scholarships for local high schoolers and awards for teacher of the year. Without the trailer, the group can still raise funds by serving coffee but it doesn't yield the same profit.

"On the southbound side they put in a construction trailer, I call it, it has two rooms in it, one is an office and one is for the coffee cart," Twite said. "We've tried that a couple times in there but it sits back quite a ways so I don't know if people see it but we don't get too many people."

To donate funds or a trailer for the VFW's coffee cart, please contact Twite at (541) 942-7099.

## Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council invites public to weekend events in June

The CFWWC and Willamette Water Ouzels invite the community to join the annual clean up float of the Row and Coast Fork Willamette Rivers on Saturday, June 2.

Participants can collect trash, view wildlife and enjoy the river landscape while helping to improve river conditions locally and downstream.

This year will be the 12th year of the Water Ouzel Clean Up Float. The float covers six river miles starting at the Row River boat launch and ending at Lynx Hollow State Park. Last year, approximately 300 pounds of trash was collected from the rivers. Residents with a boat, paddling skills and all the

required gear, are also welcomed to participate.

The event is free and open to the public. Participants must provide their own boat, gear, safety equipment, water and food. Meet at the Row River Nature Park boat launch, located at 33301 Row River Rd., Cottage Grove, at 8 a.m. Shuttle arrangements to Lynx Hollow State Park will be available if needed. Lynx Hollow State Park is located at 80998 Davisson Rd., Creswell (Saginaw).

Please note that Lynx Hollow State Park vehicle access will only be available for the morning car shuttle and at approximately 4 p.m. when the Clean Up Float is complete. All non-motorized

watercraft greater than 10 feet in length is required by the State of Oregon to have an invasive species permit. For questions and to RSVP, please contact Doug Garletts at 541-315-1604 or fluvialmonkey@yahoo.com and leave your name, phone number, number of people in your party, gear status and age of any children coming along. Event information is also available on CFWWC's Facebook Page.

Also on the schedule, CFWWC will conduct red-eared slider (and potentially snapping turtle) trapping in Cottage Grove at Row River Nature Park with CFWWC Projects Coordinator, Reilly

Newman. We will remove the non-native red-eared sliders and snapping turtles from the ponds, and collect scientific data from the native Western pond turtles before release. We are looking for reliable volunteers who can accurately collect scientific data in the field, handle live turtles and who can commit to at least 3-5 days of trapping. The trapping will occur every day from May 21 - June 8 including weekends. We anticipate the time involved each day will be about 2.5 hours. For more information or to sign up, please call the CFWWC office 541-767-9717 or email Reilly reillcoastfork.org.

## Art Walk this Friday



LUCAS DAVEY/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

**ART WALK-A couple takes in sights during April's Art Walk.**

The Art Walk returns this Friday, May 25.

Downtown businesses including The Crafty Mercantile, Imagine it Framed, Delight, Five Flying Monkeys and Ambrose Collectibles among others, will remain open between 6 and 8 p.m. so visitors and residents can enjoy local artists and buskers.

The self-guided tour of downtown Cottage Grove is held the last Friday of every month. This month, a special performance from the local branch of the international group DanceAbility, will be featured at the Opal Center. The group, which focuses on including all dancers, including those with physical disabilities, will be performing some of its latest pieces.

For more information on the Art Walk, call Michele at 541-514-0704.

## Dinner mystery at the library Saturday

Friends of the Cottage Grove Library is presenting Dinner Mystery Theatre, a play revolving around a funny madcap trip to Mynute, Alaska for Mother Mabel's Pie Baking Competition. This play has ample servings of motive, and all the right ingredients for murder with big laughs, outrageous characters, and audience participation. Dinner is chicken marsala or roasted vegetable lasagna with a complimentary glass of wine and a real pie auction at the end of the play. Murder at the Pie Auction is Saturday, May 26 at 7 p.m. in the Community Center. Tickets are available at the Bookmine.

## Lorane News

Crow HS Honor Society is hosting a blood drive at the school this Wednesday, May 23 from 10 a.m. 2 p.m.

The Mariachi Band will play at the high school at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, May 23.

This is Memorial Day weekend with no school on Monday, May 28. Please be safe and remember those we honor and have lost.

### Events ending the school year:

Tuesday, May 29 - all school awards 9:15 to 11 a.m. Parents and family may attend.

Wednesday, May 30 - Senior Recognition night at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Thursday, May 31 - Spring Band/Choir concert at Crow Grange-7 p.m.

Sunday, June 3, Baccalaureate at Crow/Applegate Nazarene Church at 6 p.m.

Mark your calendars for Crow High Graduation, Friday, June 8 at 7 p.m. Again, all are welcome to share the seniors big day and cheer them on.

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## Cottage Grove Retrospective

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

# The war against drugs



Oregon Sen. Bill Frye was among the audience at Friday's Drug Awareness Week rally in Coiner Park page 18.

By Pete Mallris  
1988 Sentinel Staff

Messages warning youngsters about the dangers involved with drugs and alcohol normally carry an aura of gloom and doom about them.

Those who have seen the effects of drugs on abusers often have a difficult time describing the situation any other way.

Activities surround the Cottage Grove's Drug Awareness Week sponsored by the Drug Action Council found upbeat, fun ways of getting a serious message across.

The message was clear: don't use drugs. That message was delivered in a variety of ways.

Some messages were as subtle as green ribbons distributed to area businesses by local service organizations. The ribbons signified their support of Drug Awareness Week.

Wednesday was designated as Wellness Day. Students participated in a host of activities including a nature hike, a 3-on-3 basketball tournament, wind-surfing and sidewalk mural painting.

Former professional basketball player Les Harrison spoke to captive audiences at Cottage Grove High School and younger students during the week. He demonstrated several unusual exercises with a basketball and did his best to teach volunteers how to perform them.

Harrison kept the mood light and cheerful while still urging kids to avoid drugs. He told a group at the high school that he visits friends back home in mental institutions, prison and cemeteries because of drugs.

Law enforcement officials and local students participated in panel discussions regarding the problems of drugs and alcohol. Athletes from the University of Oregon sat on the similar panels to discuss goal setting.

The week concluded with a rally at Coiner Park where a raffle was held. State Sen. Bill Frye was on hand to present a check to contribute to the cause.

Mayor Jim Gilroy also participated in the rally. He got the week-long activity rolling Saturday, May 14 during opening ceremonies at McDonald's.

Drug Action Council Vice President Bill Thompson called the event a success although he admitted crowds at many of the activities were relatively small. "They key is that somebody realizes there is hope, that something is being done," Thompson said.

Thompson said Drug Awareness Week will help people realize help is available for the hose who find themselves in trouble because of drugs or alcohol.

"If here's such a thing as prevention, it comes in K through six (kindergarten through sixth grade)," Thompson commented. "You've got to give them a reason not to use."

Thompson said the community's youth holds the key to positive changes in the area.

Community support for the event encouraged Thompson. "The neat thing about it was the community got behind it," Thompson said. He pointed to service clubs and other community members who manned the council headquarters in Gateway Plaza. "It was a well backed community project," Thompson said.



## 6-day weather forecast

THURSDAY May 24

74° | 54°



Showers

FRIDAY May 25

63° | 49°



Showers

SATURDAY May 26

67° | 47°



Mostly cloudy

SUNDAY May 27

72° | 48°



Partly sunny

MONDAY May 28

73° | 49°



Sunny

TUESDAY May 29

76° | 50°



Sunny

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