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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2018

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Council approves IGA with Veneta

By Caitlyn May
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The Cottage Grove City Council has voted unanimously to continue on with its plan to do business with Veneta despite a change in a rule handed down by the building codes division that initiated the need for the partnership before subsequently eliminating it again.

Planning and community development director Faye Stewart addressed the council Monday night concerning an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with Veneta that would see Cottage Grove provide a building inspection service for the community.

In December of 2017, Cottage Grove's City Council approved the creation of an in-house inspection program after authorities at the state level indicated it violated the state's constitution for a municipality to contract the service out to a third party. At the time, the city approached Creswell, which expressed interest in forming a partnership and partaking in the

See IGA A11

No cause found for mill fire

By Zach Silva
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The Whitsell Mill fire that occurred in Saginaw on May 27 has been ruled accidental, according to a press release from South Lane County Fire and Rescue. However, the investigation that was completed with assistance from the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office, Oregon State Police and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives did not find the cause.

"While the exact cause of the fire remains undetermined and may likely never be known, fire investigators located an area inside the mill where they believe the fire began," the press release read.

The fire, which destroyed the entirety of the more than 180,000 square-foot area of the mill along with some surrounding area that continue

See FIRE A7

Cottage Grove celebrates its graduates

By Caitlyn May
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More than 100 CGHS students turned their tassels after graduating on Saturday.

It was a remarkable day for remarkable students at a remarkable school.

Cottage Grove High School Principal Mike Ingman reminded the family and friends who gathered in the school's gymnasium on Saturday of that fact just prior to watching the class of 2018 walk across the stage.

The graduation ceremony, which was moved indoors after an increasingly wet weather forecast, was Ingman's first as principal at Cottage Grove High School. He was appointed



CAITLYN MAY/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Cottage Grove High School students throw their hats into the air in celebration after they were officially acknowledged as graduates by principal Mike Ingman on Saturday.

as interim principal after former principal Iton Udosenata announced he would be taking a position in North Eugene.

At the time, Ingman served

as principal of South Lane's Kennedy High School. Kennedy's GED specialist Halie Ketcher was moved into Ingman's position and Ingman

moved to the high school, both Ketcher and Ingman having the 'interim' designation in their titles removed earlier this year.

"Jacob Woods struggled as a freshman," Ingman told the crowd. He relayed how the senior had failed to qualify academically for track before eventually raising his grades and going on to win two state titles — a first for the high school since 1991. "Jacob Woods is a remarkable student at a remarkable school," Ingman said.

The list went on. Ingman congratulated students who had encountered deaths in the family, illness and homelessness to reach graduation.

Just over 100 students turned their tassels on Saturday including four valedictorians: Faryn Dahlen, Spencer Falk, Kate Kyle and Cooper Ladd and salutatorian Jordan Hage-wood.

"Today marks the day we're not only handed a diploma, but we're handed the world," Ladd

See CGHS A11



ZACH SILVA/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Zach Chee receives his high school diploma during a graduation ceremony held at Kennedy High School on Saturday, June 9.

Editor's Note: This is the final installment of an ongoing series that began after a conversation with staff members at Al Kennedy High School in early September. The Sentinel had approached the district about chronicling the teachers and students at Kennedy to tell the story of alternative education through the lens of those on the ground. District administrators thought it was a great idea; Kennedy staff had questions. Eight educators sat in a room with a newspaper editor. At the end, they'd come to an understanding: The truth is the truth and the kids come first. Over the course of the 2017-2018 school year, The Sentinel has been telling the story of the educators and their students as they've navigated a location change, funding gaps and the honest narrative that, sometimes, working hard isn't enough — and an education doesn't fix everything. The stories have been of triumph, tragedy and truth as the tribe at Kennedy continued its efforts to slingshot students up and over the barriers to progress through understanding, commitment and engagement... all the while acknowledging the unfortunate reality that some kids won't make it.

By Caitlyn May
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There's nothing like a Kennedy High School graduation.

It's not unlike Kennedy itself; fiercely intimate, resting its attention on the accomplishment rather than the adversity and serving as a platform for its

students to gain equal footing as they step into the world. It casts aside the generic in favor of engagement and is unapologetically its own entity that operates through the lens of reality rather than from the podium of intention and is supported by a band of educators who relentlessly advocate for the most equitable approach to a, sometimes, unconventional circumstance.

"I shouldn't have said anything about the nice weather. That's ok, this is so Kennedy. It's how we roll," Principal Halie Ketcher told the crowd gathered on Saturday, June 9 to watch 42 Kennedy High School students graduate as sheets of rain threatened the outdoor ceremony.

See KENNEDY A7

COMMUNITY

Swinging Bridge
An event Saturday is aimed at raise money for the Swinging Bridge project



CRIME

Vandalism on Main St.
Vandals break windows of Wolfclan shop

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