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SPORTS

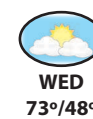
Adults get their kicks with soccer program B1

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WED
73°/48°

For a complete six-day forecast please see page A5.

TUESDAY, JULY 3, 2018

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Can you work and live in Cottage Grove?



A report by the National Low Income Housing Coalition shows most Oregonians can't afford a one-bedroom apartment.

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cgsentinel.com

The Great Recession, triggered in December of 2007 by the housing crisis, officially ended almost two years later in June of 2009. And while a revised estimate from the U.S. Commerce Department released June 28 showed the country's gross domestic product (an estimated value of goods and services produced within the country) falling from an initial report of 2.2 percent growth to 2 percent in the first quarter of the year, an increase in GDP was recorded.

However, headlines around the country detail a different story of residents being unable to afford the cost of living in cities and communities nationwide.

"My family and I struggle a lot even though I have a job with the state," said Kristin Vreeland, who moved to Cottage Grove eight years ago. And while she and her husband were approved for a home loan, she said it was difficult to find a house.

"We could not find a house that would pass inspection in our price range," she said. "The

See **LIVE A10**

CG City Council adopts budget for 2018-19

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cgsentinel.com

Cottage Grove will spend just over \$38 million to run the city for the 2018-2019 budget cycle and including a proposal to reorganize the Community Service Department by separating the library and community center.

Expenditures for all funds total \$38,313,175 which represents an increase of more than \$5 million when compared to last year's budget.

"If you pull those loans out, this year's budget is less than last year's. We're borrowing \$6 million dollars," City Manager Richard Meyers said, citing the city's upgrades to existing water infrastructure.

The updates to the city's water and sewer infrastructure was highlighted during the June 25 meeting where the budget was approved with councilor Mike Fleck noting that there have been

See **BUDGET A11**

Good Ambassador



CAITLYN MAY/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

On Monday, June 25, Don Strahan was given the Travel Lane County Tourism Ambassador Award during the regularly-scheduled city council meeting for his volunteer work throughout the city. City Manager Richard Meyers detailed Strahan's work on the Row River Trail and the Graffiti Rapid Removal Team. Natalie Inouye of Travel Lane County made a special trip to Cottage Grove to present the award, citing her admiration for Strahan by noting that he was "the equivalent of an entire volunteer workforce." Strahan was described as leading by example and always being the first to volunteer.

By Zach Silva
zsilva@cgsentinel.com

The end is now in sight for the current iteration of the Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center.

A staple in the community since 1955, the pool, that is owned by the South Lane School District (SLSD), will be closed for renovations starting on August 17. At that time SLSD will then bring on a contractor to begin construction.

"The construction process is supposed to start end of September, early

October and we're shooting 11 months for construction," said SLSD Communications Coordinator Garrett Bridgens.

The upgrades for the pool will include a new tank that will, unlike the current iteration, be regulation sized which will allow CGHS to host swim

See **POOL A11**

The current Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center (right) will close in August for renovations. The pool may be closed for at least 11 months.



ZACH SILVA/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Residents can expect utilities to 'take a hike'

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cgsentinel.com

On Monday, June 25, the city council approved a resolution amending the city's comprehensive fee schedule that included adjustments to the current utility system rate. The resolution, passed unanimously, will raise utility rates across the board with monthly water rates, including the base, consumption and improvement rates, by 1.80 percent. Monthly wastewater rates will increase by 3 percent and storm drainage rates will see a 7.9 percent increase.

The increases are part of the city's five-year financial plan.

Cottage Grove's water bill consists of water, wastewater and sewer services, something City Manager Richard Meyers says his office routinely tries to clarify for the community.

"They'll call somewhere else and ask what the water bill is and then come back and say that our water bill is higher," he said. "That's because we're not just water. They'll call Eugene and ask and Eugene is just water."

The base rate for water service, meaning the water service is turned on and able to come out of the tap and go down the drain but no water is actually used by the resident, is \$84. The average residential household in Cottage Grove will use 5,000 gallons a month and, according to the city, see an average bill of \$113 under the new increase. Previously, the average bill was \$110.

"It's an increase, on residential meters, of \$3.21, total," Meyers said.

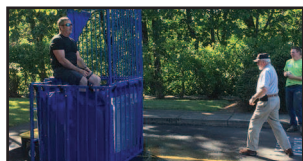
The increase is split with some of the funds needed

See **UTILITIES A10**

Coming soon: pool renovations

COMMUNITY

Kickin' It with the Cops
Community turns out for a day of fun with local law enforcement



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BMD Melodrama
Bohemia Mining Days brings back live theater

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cgnews@cgsentinel.com
(541) 942-3325 ph • (541) 942-3328 fax
P.O. Box 35, Cottage Grove, OR 97424
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