Est. 1889





PERSONAL | COMMERCIAL

Take a ride along the Row River Trail **B1**



For a complete sixday forecast please see page A5.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2018

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Sign of times, progress on Main St.

By Caitlyn May cmay@cgsentinel.com

Craig Compiano got a call one day about a property in Cottage Grove. A musician had been in town scouting locations for a venue that would house a summer series concert

when he stumbled upon 522 E.

Main Street. The building, part

of the city's downtown historic

district and formally known as

the Stewart and Porter building, was vacant and had been for more than a year.

Compiano, who said he enjoys renovating historic buildings, said the building will house eight one-bedroom downstairs space will be available for lease for a business.

While the grand opening is months away and the building is not currently taking applications for renters, one bit of activity has garnered attention: The old sign that used to hang on the building has been refurbished and was replaced earlier

Serving the communities of Cottage Grove, Creswell, Dorena, Drain, Elkton, Lorane and Yoncalla.

"The sign is the first step and apartments upstairs while the most visible step in the project," Compiano said, noting that the windows on the building's exterior have also been repaired. He expects that once the exterior is finished, the property management company can begin taking serious lease applications for the space downstairs.

"We want to retain the flavor of the building," Compiano said.

See **SIGN 9A**

Workers install the newly refurbished sign on the Stewart and Porter building on E. Main Street.



BUILD Grant draws both concern, support

By Caitlyn May cmay@cgsentinel.com

The Cottage Grove City Council heard more than 40 minutes of public comment during the June 9 meeting after city staff put an agenda item before the board requesting permission to apply for a \$10 million grant.

The meeting, which routinely draws single-digit audiences, saw a protest sign, passionate speeches and an extended public comment period; a first in at least two years.

The BUILD Grant (Better Utilization of Transportation to Leverage Development), and the question of whether or not Cottage Grove should apply for it, drew a line between those who felt the grant signified a possible change to down town Cottage Grove and those who believed the funds were needed for future projects that could be decided at a later date.

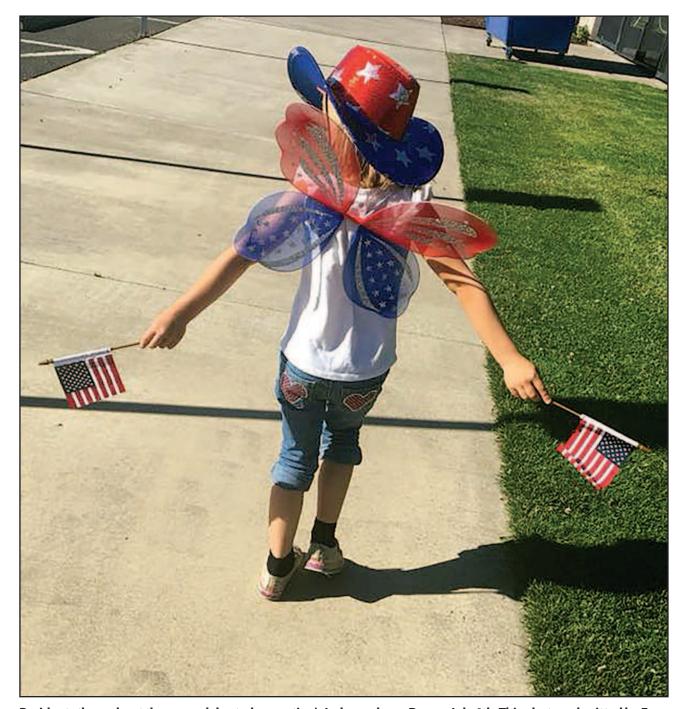
Both board members and city staff repeatedly reminded that audience that Monday night's vote was not an approval of the Main Street Refinement plan, but rather a vote that gave the city's staff permission to apply for the grant.

The refinement plan was approved two years ago and was conceptual, rather than detailed and lacked engineering specifics, according to City Manager Richard Meyers. The details, he said, would be ironed out by a committee made up of residents, city staff and the city council if Cottage Grove was selected as a grant recipient.

Currently the plan, located on the city's website, mentions the narrowing of

See GRANT 10A

Patriotic fly-by



Residents throughout the area celebrated our nation's Independence Day on July 4th. This photo, submitted by Enya McKinnon, is one of several submitted by readers of *The Sentinel* capturing the spirit of patriotism. See more photos on page A7.

City approves IGA with Creswell

By Caitlyn May cmay@cgsentinel.com

Cottage Grove is in the building inspection busi-

The result of a maze of mandates handed down by the state of Oregon and subsequently rescinded, the city formed an inspection department, sent employees to certification training and began making deals with neighboring cities to provide inspection

Monday night, the city council approved a slightly tweaked version of its intergovernmental agreement with Creswell, the first municipality to partner with Cottage Grove.

Earlier this year, the state argued that cities who contract building inspection services to a third party were violating the state's constitution.

According to the city manager's office, while the state and cities grappled over what exactly the decision meant, Cottage Grove opted to form its own inhouse building inspection department.

City Manager Richard Meyers previously told the Sentinel that the move has

See COUNCIL 9A

59th annual Bohemia Mining Days coming to town next week

By Caitlyn May

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For the 59th time, Coiner Park on Highway 99 will transform into Bohemia City in a three-day festival meant to honor Cottage Grove's history and serve as the city's largest tourism draw of the year.

on the festival that relies on spon- cil that was sorely divided. sors, carnival revenue and some

On Monday night, the Bohemia introduced several board members and re-enacting the feud that saw a

Mining Days (BMD) board came and gave a rundown of activities and very real fight break out in the 19th before the council to give an update events at this year's festival to a councentury that eventually split Cottage

While all of its members support- ti. help from the city to fund its \$52,000 ed BMD, lines were drawn between the residents of Slabtown and Lema- ern gear and chided each other over Festival coordinator Cindy Weel- ti. A long-held tradition, BMD sees dreyer, who has been involved in residents don buttons identifying the festival for more than 30 years, them as a resident of either town

Grove into two; Slabtown and Lema-

City councilors donned old-westthe state of their respectful cities in-between updates from Weeldryer

See BMD 11A

COMMUNITY

Message for drivers Local billboard reminds drivers not to text and drive



EVENT

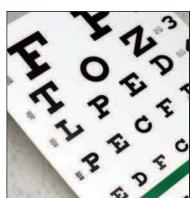
Final Pool Race Coach Bud Taylor will host a "last race" at the old pool



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