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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 2018

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City council sets legislative goals for 2019 session

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cg sentinel.com

Support of mental health programs will be an important focus for council.

On Monday, July 9, Cottage Grove City Council members outlined their top legislative priorities ranging from broadband infrastructure to an investment in mental health services.

The action item was sparked by a request from

the Oregon League of Cities for municipalities to rank issues in an effort to efficiently utilize lobbying efforts.

"... The league does not have the resources to pursue all objectives," City Manager Richard Meyers wrote in material given to the council. "To help prioritize the objectives and be effective during the 2019 Legislative Session, the league is asking for assistance from its member cities."

Council members were asked to submit their top four objectives as well their bottom four choices from a list of 29.

The objectives that appeared most often on the councilors' lists were selected.

"... The league is asking for assistance from its member cities."

— Richard Meyers, City Manager

As top priorities, the city council chose legislation that seeks additional state support and funding for broadband infrastructure in rural areas.

The council also selected mental health investment as one of its top choices with background

information on the topic noting that, "the league will seek to protect and enhance the investments made to Oregon's treatment of the mentally ill."

An increase in mental health awareness has been making headlines across the state and in 2015, the state funded housing assistance programs for those dealing with a mental illness. However, information presented to the city council noted that in light of an anticipated budgetary shortfall in 2019, the General Government Committee was requesting that the League of Cities works to retain those 2015 programs.

See GOALS 11A



Concept rendering from Main Street, looking west.

An artist's depiction of Main Street with improvements to improve public safety and incorporate amenities (below) as part of the refinement plan.

Deadly force used to stop armed man

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cg sentinel.com

Joey Loop, 40, died after engaging in gunfire with Lane County deputies in the early morning of July 12.

Loop, an employee at the marijuana facility, One Gro, was shot after deputies arrived at the 78600 block of Cedar Park Rd. just before midnight.

According to a press release from the agency, deputies attempted to locate Loop and were unsuccessful. Shortly before 1 a.m., a special response team was called in for assistance.

"Deputies searched the area and used a loud speaker to call into the building on the property where it was believed that the suspect was located," the release stated.

See SHOOTING 7A

A look at the Main Street Refinement Plan

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cg sentinel.com

The July 16 city council meeting saw an unusually large crowd and the majority of public speakers addressed an agenda item mentioning the Main Street Refinement Plan. The council's agenda called for the board to consider giving city staff permission to apply for a \$10 million grant to help fund the plan — not approve the plan itself.

The Main Street Refinement Plan was approved in 2016 with an estimated price tag that hovered around \$9 million. Speakers at last Monday's council meeting took issue with several aspects of the plan including sidewalk widths, trees and signage and urged the council not to apply for the grant, fearing it would lock the city into the approved plan.

However, city planner Amanda Fer-

guson told *The Sentinel*, "We are not required to meet the letter of or install every element of the Main Street Refinement Plan. It forms the nexus for our application for the BUILD grant, but is only our starting point."

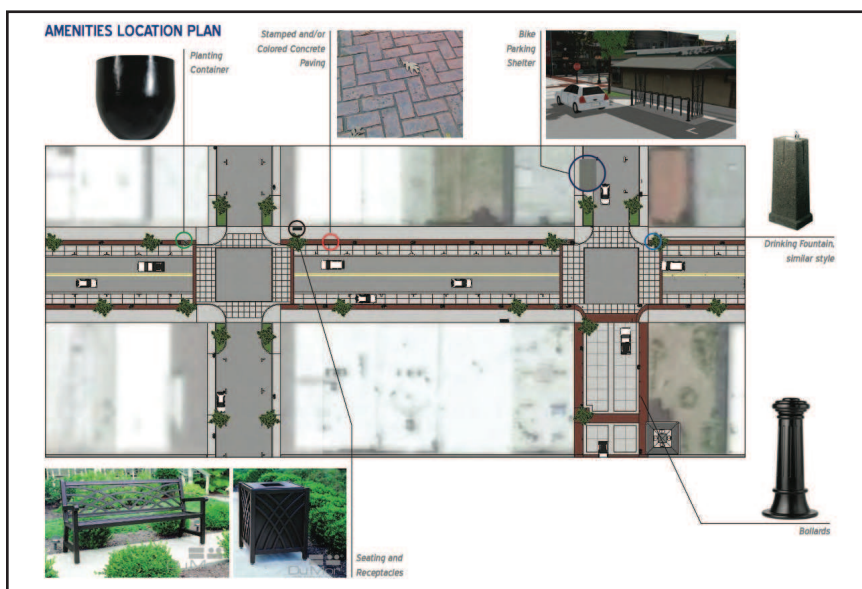
What's in the plan:

The Main Street Refinement Plan is broken into four parts: planning and concept development, preferred streetscape concept, other opportunity areas and funding and implementation.

How the plan was formed:

Several community organizations took part in meetings throughout the planning process which also included a set community committee dubbed the Plan Advisory Committee. Members included the city engineer, members of the historic landmark commission, Ruth Linoz of South Lane Wheels, Paul Tocco of Buster's Café, an EBID representative and city councilor Jake Boone.

Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Travis



Palmer was also on the committee and spoke out during the July 16 meeting asking residents to separate the plan from the vote to allow city staff to apply for the funds.

Changes to streets:

The issue that garnered the most

attention during public comment was the plan's outline of possible changes to the streets in downtown. Currently, the streets are not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act

See MAIN 8A

High temps here to stay

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cg sentinel.com

No heat records were broken last week in Cottage Grove but if you ask residents, it was a hot one.

According to the National Weather Service, temperatures reached 98 degrees on Thursday, failing short of a record set in 1961 that saw a sizzling 105 degrees. However, it still managed to climb well above the average temperature for last Wednesday of 82 degrees.

Forecasts show temperatures in the 90s through today when the heat will drop

See TEMPS 7A

COMMUNITY

CGPD kennels
Program gives lost or abandoned pets a second chance PAGE A5



FIRE INVESTIGATION

Zombie House fire
Still no arrest in house fire PAGE A7

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cgnews@cg sentinel.com
(541) 942-3325 ph • (541) 942-3328 fax
P.O. Box 35, Cottage Grove, OR 97424
Corner of Sixth and Whiteaker, Cottage Grove

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