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State withholds marijuana tax totals

By Caitlyn May
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The city council's Aug. 27 agenda listed a tax report from the state of Oregon's Department of Revenue in regards to recreational marijuana, but failed to include the tax receipts for the city at the direction of the department of revenue.

In November of 2016, Cottage Grove residents voted to implement a three percent tax rate on recreational marijuana sold within the city's boundaries. This was in addition to the 17 percent tax issued by the state which would, in turn, distribute funds back to cities after collecting the entirety of the tax funds.

Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers noted that the state has been slow to release those funds as it continues to pay state agencies and rules surrounding marijuana continue to evolve.

However, he told the council that he believed the amount the city received this year would be indicative of what it would receive in the future if consumption stayed relatively even and cities that did not legalize recreational distributors within their boundaries did not attempt to enter the pool.

He did note that consumption may decrease as the "newness" of legalized marijuana wore off, and that the exact tax revenue was redacted by the department of revenue — essentially making it difficult to even know how much the city made this year.

The state of Oregon prohibits tax revenue information for cities with fewer than 10 dispensaries from being made public citing privacy for the retailers.

An individual retailer's profits could be

See **TAX 7A**

Helping hands



CAITLYN MAY/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

On Friday, Aug. 24, more than 300 community volunteers lined 10th Street to help the staff of Harrison Elementary School move an estimated 9,000 books to the new Harrison Elementary School library located a quarter of a mile up the road. Volunteers passed books down the line from the old library to the new library, managing about one quarter of the books in just over an hour. South Lane School District Communications Coordinator Garrett Bridgens said the books would most likely not be completely moved to the new school by the time the event ended near mid-day, but said he was impressed with the turnout and community support. The new Harrison Elementary School is scheduled to open in time for the 2019-20 school year and was built with the lion's share of the \$35 million bond passed in 2016. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the school will be held tomorrow, Aug. 30, beginning at 5 p.m.

Grove falls short of Toga record

By Caitlyn May
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The air, which had been tinged with excitement, went out of the room Monday night when Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Travis Palmer announced that the city had fallen short of taking back its world record for biggest toga party.

"Did we set the record? No," Palmer said to an audible collection of sighs and groans.

The announcement came during Monday night's city council meeting and Palmer's annual report to the council where he called the record attempt a "successful failure."

The city needed to herd more than 3,700 toga-wearing partiers into Bohemia Park to beat the current record held by a school in Australia.

Cottage Grove's attempt was waylaid by several factors, according to Palmer. He informed the council that 30 percent of the tickets sold online prior to the event were never scanned.

"We know those people showed up," he said. "You don't lose 30

See **RECORD 9A**

Election filings show crowded races for council seats

Voters will have a full docket of choices as field for council positions grows

By Caitlyn May
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When former councilor Amy Slay forfeited her council seat in February of this year, it left Cottage Grove without a single woman in local government. This November, three women will take a stab at filling the gap.

Jill Hermansen, Candace Lamb-Solsbee and Ashley Rigel have filed to run for seats on the Cottage Grove City Council with Hermansen and Lam-Solsbee challenging sitting councilor Garland Burback from Ward 3, and Rigel

running for the councilor-at-large seat currently held by councilor Mike Fleck.

Burback is also facing a challenge from Raymond Ackerman.

Mayor Jeff Gowing and councilor Jake Boone will run unopposed.

Also running unopposed is Greg Ervin, who was appointed to the seat formally held by Slay after her resignation.

According to election filings, Hermansen currently works as a speech therapist and obtained a master's degree from California State University, Fresno. She lists no previous governmental experience.

Solsbee, who has been active in the local chamber of commerce

See **ELECTION 7A**



CAITLYN MAY/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Council members listen to citizen input during Monday night's meeting.

COMMUNITY

Ice Cream Social
Community turns out for second-annual Ice Cream Social at the CG Armory



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

CG Theatre remodel
The Cottage Grove Theatre announces remodel plans, new season of shows

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