

Cottage Grove Sentinel

Est. 1889

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



SPORTS

Cottage Grove volleyball off to red-hot start B1

PERSONAL | COMMERCIAL
BENEFITS | SURETY

PayneWest
INSURANCE

(541) 942-0555

PayneWest.com/Cottage-Grove



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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

FACEBOOK.COM/CGSENTINEL • TWITTER.COM/CGSENTINEL

CGSENTINEL.COM

Local group hits stage with 'Creative Chaos'

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cgsentinel.com

Local residents with disabilities come together to bring their love of theater to the community

It started with a lion tamer, unicorn trainer and the world's heaviest man. Everything else, came later.

"I asked them, if you can be any character in the circus, what would you be?" said Carmen Dowell, a local special Olympics advocate and organizer Creative Chaos, an annual play centered around a cast made up of community members who live with disabilities.

This will be the second year Dowell has taken on the project, one she started when her best friend had a dream.

"The idea behind it actually came about when my best friend, Monica Venice wanted to be on stage," Dowell said. Monica, who has Down Syndrome, had watched Dowell take part in local plays at Cottage Theatre and expressed an interest in acting. "So, I took her to an audition and the director pulls me aside and asks why I brought



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of 'Creative Chaos' will present the final showings of their special production this weekend at the Opal Center.

her and why I was making them go through this," Dowell said. "It was the first time I had experienced discrimination and it was my mission to get her on stage."

Venice eventually landed a part in "Gypsy" and then again in "Willy Wonka." As stage manager, Dowell was able to bring her Special Olympics athletes to a dress rehearsal to

see Venice in action.

"They started asking me when I was going to get them on stage so I saw there was a real desire and a real need," Dowell said.

She had the idea, she had the cast, all Dowell needed was a stage and she found one in partnership with the Opal Center.

See **CREATIVE 8A**

Fires break out in C. Grove, Dorena

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cgsentinel.com

Three structures and several outbuildings were destroyed in Dorena, with no reports of injuries

Last Wednesday evening, South Lane County Fire and Rescue (SLCFR), in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Forestry, responded to a wildland fire in Dorena.

According to a statement released by SLCFR, the fire was contained to 12 acres and the cause is still under investigation.

"SLCFR response included resources from North Douglas Fire EMS and Goshen-Pleasant Hill Fire... The Dorena area is not protected by a structural agency," the statement read.

As part of an agreement with the South Lane School District,

SLCFR provided structural protection to Dorena School, which is scheduled to have its first day of school — a half day for first-graders — today.

Dorena Principal Linda Folkman said classes were still scheduled and praised the efforts of the emergency response teams.

"I can't speak enough about the fire departments, all of them," she said. "It was a really great coordinated effort and we were really lucky the wind changed a little and Weyerhaeuser got to throw water between us and the fire. Everyone was awesome and I want to give a special shout-out to the community, to parents whose kids don't even go to school here."

"They came with hoses and prayers. One member of the community with a hose said, 'This is the most important building in town and we want to make sure nothing happens to it.'"

See **FIRES 7A**

ACLU prompts repeal of C. Grove ordinance

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cgsentinel.com

The Cottage Grove City Council voted to repeal section 9.20.020 of the city's municipal code regarding panhandling Monday night after receiving a letter from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) calling the ordinance "deeply problematic."

Cottage Grove was one of 61 Oregon cities identified as having a panhandling ordinance on the books though City Manager Richard Meyers said there had not been a citation issued under the ordinance

in decades.

"Harassing, ticketing and/or arresting people who ask for help in a time of need is inhumane and counterproductive," a letter sent to the city, and signed by the legal director, policy director and senior attorney for the ACLU, read. "People who are experiencing poverty are forced to ask for help because they are simply trying to survive and have no other reasonable way to get the help they need."

The issue with Cottage Grove's existing code, according to Meyers, is the phrase, "for the purpose of soliciting alms." Meyers

said the phrase was a possible violation of free speech.

According to the ACLU, every panhandling ordinance that has been challenged in federal court since 2015 has been found to be constitutionally deficient.

"When governments adopt a model of criminalization, they also expose themselves to liability on the taxpayer's dime," the ACLU's letter read. "With no other options, individuals facing constitutional violations will be forced to assert their rights by bringing claims against cities that

See **ACLU 9A**

Daugherty Aquatic Center project moves forward — for now

By Zach Silva
zsilva@cgsentinel.com

The modernization project of the Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center is about to enter its next step: contract bids.

Tomorrow, Sept. 13, bids will open up at which point the South Lane School District will work to recommend a contractor to the school board for the Oct. 1 meeting.

The funding for the pool project came from a 2016 bond that provided \$36 million to also fund the new

Harrison Elementary School in addition to safety and security upgrades around the district.

At Monday night's school board meeting, SLSD business supervisor Phil Scrima gave a presentation documenting the money spent and estimates of how much is remaining.

With interest earnings, the money SLSD had access to grew to just over \$39 million.

The report noted that as of Aug. 31, \$30.8 million had

See **POOL 9A**



ZACH SILVA/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

SLSD business supervisor Phil Scrima gives a presentation on how funds from the bond have been spent.

SPORTS

Voice of the Beavers
Former Cottage Grove resident's lifelong journey in broadcasting



PAGE B1

COMMUNITY

Food Insecurity Rates
A lack of food is becoming more common for area students.

PAGE A6

INDEX

Calendar	B9
Channel Guide	B5
Classifieds	B7
Obituaries	A2
Opinion	A4
Sports	B1

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

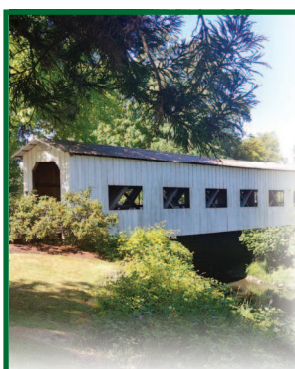


VOLUME 130 • NUMBER 47

Rain Country Realty Inc.

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

RainCountryRealty.com • raincountryrealty@gmail.com
1320 Hwy 99 • 541-942-7246



MICHELE MONROE, LCSW Counseling Services

541-255-8822 • 1450 Birch Ave • Cottage Grove, OR 97424

- Individual and Family Counseling
- Insurance and Sliding Scale
- Accepting New Clients
- Weekend and Weekday Appointments Available