

Cottage Grove Sentinel

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SPORTS

Top ranked Lions stay undefeated in league play. **B1**

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WED
67°/44°

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

CG High School readies for report card

By Caitlyn May
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ODOE will soon release its annual school report

Cottage Grove High School's class schedule has usually incorporated unconventional things like Lion Pride breaks to allow students the opportunity to grab a second breakfast, making the school day original. This year, it's instituting the remix.

"Gary Roberts is handling the Wednesday remake and I'm not saying it's going to go off without a hitch, but it's an interesting, new way to approach

See **CGHS 8A**

Lane County releases first suicide study

More than 1,000 individuals died by suicide since 2000

By Caitlyn May
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Lane County Public Health reported earlier this month that between 2000 and 2016, 1,079 people died of suicide in Lane County — a rate 50 percent higher than the national average. It was only one of several grave statistics included in the organizations first comprehensive suicide report aimed at providing insight and recommendations to help stem suicide in the community.

"I think that we definitely know that we have a higher unemployment rate, we

See **SUICIDES 10A**

Planning for an uncertain future

By Caitlyn May
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What happens when a child with disabilities outlives their parents? These families are asking themselves the same question

Grant was born in Cottage Grove when babies were still born in Cottage Grove. He came a few months early, in one of the city's two birthing houses and has watched houses go up and trees come down; he remembers when they built

the Dairy Queen on Highway 99 and can name the year every neighbor on his block moved in. He's lived in the same house his entire life — he's just worked out a deal to have the exterior painted again, the first time since his mother commis-

sioned the same work just prior to her passing 30 years ago. Thirty years is what Grant, now 70, figures he may have left.

"My uncle, who they say I'm built like, he lived just short of his 100th birthday," Grant said, his inherited build standing well short of six-feet and easily tucked into the same size clothes he wore as a teenager when he graduated from Cottage Grove High School. The wiry tuft of his beard lays flat against his chin and billows out before settling just above his neckline and his eyes,

See **FUTURE 9A**



CAITLYN MAY/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Grant has lived in his house in Cottage Grove for 70 years and hopes to continue doing so despite outliving his parents' plans for his care.

"Shrek" takes the stage



COURTESY PHOTO

Princess Fiona (Melissa Miller), Donkey (Matt Arcscott) and Shrek (Mark VanBeever) will hit the stage this weekend for Cottage Theatre's rendition of "Shrek, the Musical." Tickets are on sale now. For more information, visit cottagetheatre.org.

Cottage Grove community members come together to help 'Miss Kitty'

By Caitlyn May
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Before Cottage Grove had the internet, it had Kitty Slack.

From her counter at Cottage Grove Answering Service on Adams Avenue, Slack did much more than answer the phone.

"You could call Kitty and say, 'I

need some gravel spread,' and she would get you in touch with the right person."

Steve Nisewander outsourced his answering service for two of his businesses to Slack for over 20 years — along with 78 other local businesses who relied on her to answer their phones in a fashion more familiar to movie-going audiences

than modern day cell phone users.

"She had the old fashion punch board and she'd be able to be on the phone with, say ... a doctor's office ... and someone else would call and she could go to them and be able to return to the first call and keep it all straight. It was amazing," said Gail Hoelzle, a local Main Street business owner who utilized Slack's ser-

vices and retained her friendship.

Once, when Hoelzle's daughter was traveling and they hadn't heard from her, Slack was able to tell them why.

"I called her and said, 'yeah, United has some delays' and I have no idea how but she just knew," she said.

Slack, knew everything.

If sirens were ringing through the streets, residents called Slack to find out why; always receiving a traffic report of a local accident or a detour in case of a house fire in the process.

When calls came in for local physicians' offices, Slack knew the

See **KITTY 11A**

COMMUNITY

Having a ball

Third annual Mayor's Ball to be hosted at Armory
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CITY

Forum

Candidates speak during election forum
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