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SPORTS

North Douglas' Nicki Derrick returns after injury. B1

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2018

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## Swinging Bridge in arm's reach of restoration

By Caitlyn May  
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The Swinging Bridge may have just swung over the last hurdle to its restoration.

On Tuesday, Oct. 16, City Manager Richard Meyers, Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart and City Planner Amanda Ferguson attended the Parks and Recreation Department's Recreation Trail grant committee meeting to make a case for the Cottage Grove landmark.

"This grant would be the final piece of the puzzle for funding the Swinging Bridge restoration," Meyers wrote in an update on city affairs.

The grant, issued by the state's parks and recreation department, would total \$150,000. Combined with the \$200,000 grant the bridge received earlier this year and the \$13,981.43 raised locally, construction on the bridge could begin in June of 2019.

"The committee was impressed by the large group supporting the application," Meyers said. "Two members of the committee bought Swinging Bridge T-shirts."

The Friends of the Cottage Grove Swinging Bridge, a grassroots community group that formed shortly after the bridge was deemed unsafe, has been steadily holding fundraisers for the bridge's repair and sent several members to the presentation including Dana Merryday.

Merryday has been a vocal supporter of the bridge, collecting letters from city residents citing their support of the bridge and their desire to see it repaired—letters that Meyers said often help committees gauge community support and ultimately, award funds.

The bridge was deemed unsafe by city engineers in 2016 after several deficiencies were found in

See BRIDGE 10A

## No place like Homecoming



PHOTOS C/O GARRETT BRIDGENS

Cottage Grove High School cheerleaders make their way down Main St. during last Thursday's Homecoming Parade. CGHS celebrated homecoming throughout the week with dress-up days, the announcing of the homecoming court at Friday's football game and the dance on Saturday. Seniors on the school's football team scored a victory in their last home game, beating out Junction City for a chance to play in for championship. The CGHS marching band (left) and football team (right) join in on the parade fun. For additional photos, see A8.

## Commission candidates talk housing, economics

By Caitlyn May  
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On Tuesday, Oct. 16, the Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce Legislative Committee hosted its second candidate forum of the year, hosting Gary Williams and Heather Buch as the pair race toward election day and a chair on the Lane County Commission.

The evening was scheduled to include questions pre-selected by the legislative committee as well as an audience questioned bookmarked by the candidates' opening and closing statements and was live streamed on

Facebook. Both Williams and Buch applied for the position of East Lane Commissioner when former commissioner Faye Stewart resigned his post prior to the finish of his term to take a job with the city of Cottage Grove has the head of its newly combined planning and development department. Williams was appointed to the seat to finish out Stewart's term.

Buch, a small business owner and military spouse, fielded the first question asking candidates what they thought of using tax incentives to increase economic development.

"I think there's a time and a place

for incentive programs depending on the issue," she said. "It's specific for me, issue by issue."

Williams, born and raised in Cottage Grove where he served as mayor for 12 years, said, "To create housing, to create jobs, to create economic development several things need to exist. One is we need to be able to partner with different people and businesses." He cited an instance of moving System Development Charges (SDC fees) to the back end of the construction process to help foster the building of

See CANDIDATES 9A

### A look at the city council ballot

Ballots for the Nov. 6 general election should be hitting mailboxes in Cottage Grove this week and in between races for statewide positions and ballot measures, voters will choose four city councilors and a mayor.

By Caitlyn May  
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The city's council is a seven-member board including the mayor. This year, the mayor and four of the council seats are up for re-election.

See BALLOT 7A

### EVENTS

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### COMMUNITY

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