

# Cottage Grove projects among those to receive Housing Improvement Grant

The Lane County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to award a total of \$2 million in Housing Improvement Program (HIP) grant funding to five projects that will increase the stock of permanent, supportive and affordable housing in our area.

“Increasing supportive and affordable housing across Lane County is one of our top priorities,” said Lane County Administrator Steve Mokrohisky. “These projects represent the kind of public-private partnerships we need to increase the supply, affordability and diversity of housing options in Lane County.”

Permanent supportive housing combines low-barrier affordable housing, health care and supportive services to help individuals and families lead more stable lives.

Supportive housing is most helpful to people who are homeless or otherwise unstably housed, experience multiple barriers to housing (such as mental illness, substance abuse or chronic health issues), and are unable to maintain housing stability without supportive services.

This model has been shown to result in cost savings to various public service systems, including health care.

Six grant applications were received. Applications were reviewed and scored according to criteria outlined in the grant application packet.

Funded projects within Cottage Grove will include:

- *Legion Cottages Project by Homes for Good* (\$250,000)
- *Cottage Village Project by SquareOne Villages* (\$500,000)

A joint project among the American Legion, City of Cottage Grove and Homes for Good. The project will develop four tiny homes to serve homeless veterans referred and case managed by the St. Vincent de Paul Vet LIFT program — a program that serves homeless veterans dually diagnosed with substance abuse and mental health issues.

Construction is slated to begin fall of 2019.

Thirteen tiny houses that will provide affordable housing for singles, couples and small families with low incomes (under 50 percent of median income) or very low incomes (under 30 percent of median income) who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The community will operate as a limited-equity housing cooperative. Construction is slated to begin January of 2019.

The grants funds were set aside by the county administrator in his 2018–2019 budget proposal and are one-time Secure Rural Schools funding (\$1.5 million) and Health & Human Services LaneCare funding (\$500,000).

## Cottage Grove Safeway receives bonus check from Oregon Lottery

Ann Mingis of Springfield recently won the largest Mega Millions prize in Oregon since the game came to the state in 2010.

She purchased her winning \$3 million ticket at the Lottery-to-Go machine inside the Cottage Grove Safeway. When she saw press reports of someone winning the \$3 million, she checked her tickets and realized it was her.

Yesterday afternoon, Oregon Lottery officials presented a \$30,000 selling bonus check to representatives of Safeway, at 1500 E Main St., for selling a winning \$3 million Mega Millions ticket.

Lottery officials also handed out a limited number of free promotional Scratch-it tickets at the event.

During the 2015-17 biennium, more than \$50.8 million lottery dollars were directed to Lane County’s state parks, school districts, watershed enhancement projects and economic development.

Since the Oregon Lottery began selling tickets on April 25, 1985, it has earned nearly \$12 billion for economic development, public education, state parks and watershed enhancements.

For more information on the Oregon Lottery visit [www.oregonlottery.org](http://www.oregonlottery.org).

## 2018 CGHS graduation rate remains among highest in county

Cottage Grove High School’s graduation rate continues to remain high and well above the state average according to the Oregon Department of Education’s annual report of statewide graduation and drop out rates released last week.

CGHS’s four-year graduation rate was 90.91 percent and it’s five-year graduation rate was 97.11 percent.

The four-year state average was 78.68 percent and 80.04 percent for the five-year average. Both rates are among the highest rates of comprehensive high schools in Lane County.

CGHS’s drop out also remained low and well below the state average, with a 2018 drop out rate of .27 percent versus the state average of 3.55 percent.

CGHS’s drop out rate continues to be the lowest among other area comprehensive high schools.

percent increase from the previous school year and a nearly 10 percent increase from three years ago.


Similar to the graduation rate, but includes students who earned other completion credentials, such as extended and adult high school diplomas, GED’s and modified diplomas.

SLSD School Board Chair Alan Baas praised the work happening in South Lane.

“While I am very proud of that very near perfect graduation rate, I am extremely happy to see how many kids we have deciding to return to finish their schooling in their fifth year or with alternatives such as GED’s,” said Baas. “All of this is happening because we have some of the top people in the county teaching for us who are dedicated to helping all kids succeed.”

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— Alan Baas, SLSD School Board Chair

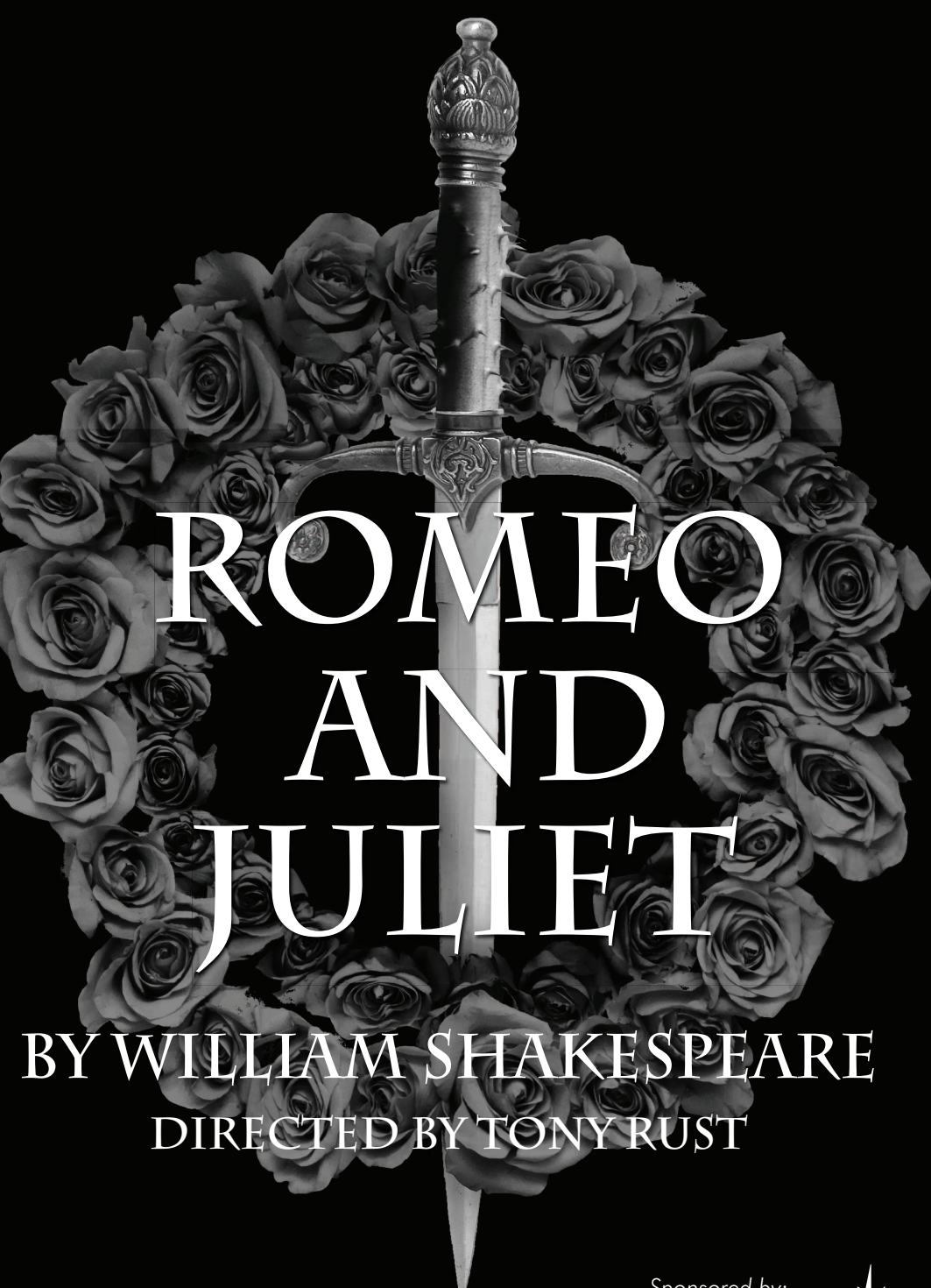


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