



# Cottage Grove Sentinel

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### WEATHER



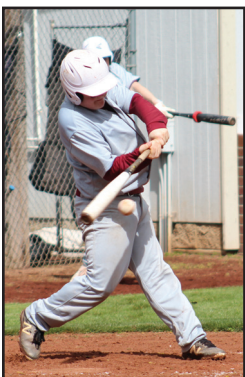
Clouds and scattered rain with a high of 59 and a low tonight of 47

### THEATER



"The Sound of Music" opens  
A3

### SPORTS — B



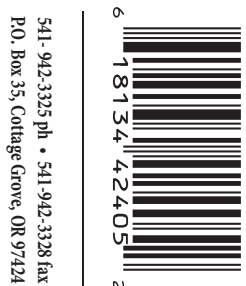
Brave holds off Warriors  
B1

- **RECORDS**  
Obituaries  
Police Logs  
Births  
A2
- **LORANE NEWS**  
A3
- **CLASSIFIEDS**  
Listings and public notices  
B8, B9

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## Recognizing the signs of at-risk students

*Suicide is the second-leading cause of death for individuals between ages 10 and 24.*

**Editor's note:** This is the first in a four-part special collaboration between the Cottage Grove Sentinel, The Creswell Chronicle, Siuslaw News and Newport News-Times focusing on the rising suicide rate in Oregon. Each Wednesday through April, the four newspapers in this collaboration will each be contributing a part to the series and will be publishing them together. The hope is that, by sharing our resources and readerships, we can begin establishing a dialogue within each of our communities about this important subject.

Special 4-part series

### Breaking the Silence:

Shining a light on Oregon's suicide crisis

A collaborative series between the Cottage Grove Sentinel, The Creswell Chronicle, Siuslaw News and Newport News-Times

BY ZACH SILVA  
ZSILVA@CGSENTINEL.COM

Cottage Grove High School principal Mike Ingman wants a lot from his students.

He wants them to be challenged academically; he wants them to be prepared for life after high school; he wants them to succeed — all the normal principal things. But ultimately, deep in his bones, what he wants most is for them to know that they matter.

See **SERIES 7A**



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Blue pinwheels and ribbons have been planted downtown as part of Child Abuse Prevention Month, an annual national observance dedicated to raising awareness about and preventing child abuse.

## Raising awareness one pinwheel at a time

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

Blue pinwheels and ribbons will flutter in the breezy downtown corridor of Main Street this month, indicating the return of Child Abuse Prevention Month, an annual observance held each April to raise awareness and promote community efforts toward reducing child abuse.

"I think the key is being aware that things are actually happening out there that aren't good for kids," said Pete Barrell, community services director for Cottage Grove. "And on the flip side that there are agencies and groups and people working together to try and make things better for kids and families."

The organization behind the blue-decked streets, 90by30, is a University of Oregon-based nonprofit dedicated to reducing child abuse 90 percent in Lane County by 2030. Decorating downtown is just its first step in bringing attention to the issue.

"We will also be engaging with the school district," said 90by30 South Lane Coordinator Rachel Nordquist.

On top of more pinwheel gardens and banners at all area schools, "We're working to engage the youth in our

According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, an estimated 674,000 children were victims of child abuse or neglect nationally in 2017, a 2.7 percent increase over the previous four years.

overall efforts," she said. "We want their voice at the table. ... Because they probably have ideas, thoughts and perspective that we haven't thought of."

90by30 is also participating in Earth Day and the Family Relief Nursery-headed Children's Health Fair this month, the latter serving as a hub for a variety of family and children relief services to the community.

"We have a really strong set of community partners here," Nordquist said.

Additionally, the nonprofit will be launching its "K(no)w More" media campaign this month with a flurry of television ads, radio spots and a social media presence emphasizing the potential impact of individuals' awareness about and censure of child abuse.

"It's very nicely laid out to engage

people and let them know specifically how they can get involved," said Nordquist.

Citing the campaign's tagline, "a connected child is a protected child," she added, "the more connected any child is and has adults and people looking out for them, the better off they will be in terms of well-being, mental health and long-term stability."

As well as raising awareness about the problem, 90by30 aims to foster a community of support and family services through prevention plans.

"The forefront of our prevention plan was the Welcome Baby Box," Nordquist said.

Implemented in 90by30's South Lane district in 2017, the Welcome Baby Box program has seen success with the distribution of dozens of boxes into the community since the program's inception.

Serving essentially as baby starter kits for new or expecting parents, the boxes include clothing, toys and even hand-knitted items made by members of the community. The box itself doubles as a crib.

"It's a gift from your community to welcome your family and your infant," said Nordquist, adding she hopes a

See **CHILD 8A**

## City submits updated damage assessment

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

As the city continues to pick up the pieces of late February's snow storm, a clearer picture of the disaster's financial impact on Cottage Grove has started to form.

To date, \$148,282 has been spent by the city on cleaning, repair or recovery of utilities, parks and the city's golf course, much of which occurred in the initial week following the storm. The extent of damage, however, is citywide and has kept recovery efforts a constant task. Volunteers at the city's golf course alone have logged around 294 hours of repair and cleanup.

In a recently updated initial damage assessment submitted to the Oregon Emergency Management by the City of Cottage Grove on March 26, the full index of damage and costs estimates a \$245,202 price tag by the time recovery efforts are completed at the end of May.

So far, the city is on track with its deadline.

"We're doing pretty well," said Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart. "But there are repairs to buildings that may stretch out past."

The city's initial damage assessment submission is a step forward in a process that could see federal reimbursement for the cost of the storm.

Through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance program, grants may be provided to public entities to help with the costs of emergency response and infrastructure

See **STORM 11A**



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