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# Cottage Grove Sentinel

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## WEATHER



Sunny skies with a  
high of 75 and a low  
tonight of 49.

Full forecast on A5

## COMMUNITY



Travis Palmer speaks  
at Florence Chamber  
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## SPORTS — B



Lions wrap suc-  
cessful equestrian  
season  
B1

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## Plans for Territorial improvement get traction

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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Territorial Highway is getting a long-overdue upgrade.

Lane County improvement plans for a 5.7-mile stretch between Gillespie Corners and Lorane will include widening shoulders for biking, realigning sharp corners, replacing deficient culverts, raising and widening bridges, and stabilizing a landslide at Stony Point.

The design plan reflects community input gathered in a 2014 process.

“It’s been a long process and we’re at the point we feel confident we can build what the community wanted us to build and we finally have the funding to construct it,” said Lane County’s senior transportation planner Becky Taylor.

The highway is a popular corridor for cyclists and sees an estimated 1,700 vehicle trips per day, 10 percent of which Taylor estimates is freight traffic. Farmers taxiing their tractors field to field are also a common sight.

The rural roadway also features some infamously sharp corners with minimal shoulder space.

“The entire highway is in terrible condition,” said Taylor. “If you’ve driven the entire highway, you’ll experience lots of potholes and no shoulders.”

According to county data, there were 24 crashes along the corridor between 2011 and 2017, resulting in a variety of injuries.

For years, the county has been working with the community to improve the safety of the corridor, but it was funding provided by the Oregon Legislature in 2017 for a jurisdictional transfer to county control that really got the ball rolling.

The prospect of shovel finally meeting ground is an emotional moment for some.

“It’s really an opportunity to celebrate because I think for a lot of people this project was just a dream,” said Taylor.

Besides the general dangers posed by the highway’s design, a significant catalyst for the project was the tragic

See **HIGHWAY 6A**

DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

YAC leaders Fernando Soto-Cruz (left) and MJ Raade set the format for the audience and panelists at City Hall during the youth town hall event held June 5.

## Local students share thoughts, perspectives at youth town hall

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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(Editor’s Note: In the interest of full disclosure, the reporter for this story performed the role of facilitator for the meeting.)

Cottage Grove youth gathered in City Hall June 5 for a town hall to discuss local issues and pose questions to adults from various sectors of the community.

The town hall, spearheaded by the Youth Advisory Council (YAC), saw the attendance of around 20 young people in the audience and a panel of nine adult representatives who offered their insights and solutions to problems affecting area youth.

Panelists included Chamber of Commerce Board President Danny Solesbee, School Resource Officer with the Cottage Grove Police Department Chris Joyce, South Lane School District Board Chair Alan Baas, Lane County Commissioner

Heather Buch, Program Supervisor for Looking Glass Community Services Amanda Hampton, Mayor Jeff Gowing, Executive Director at the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council Amanda Gilbert, South Lane Mental Health Counselor Alison Canino and Lane County Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Promotion Coordinator Roger Brubaker.

YAC, which serves as a local

See **YAC 8A**

## Habitat celebrates 150th ‘month-aversary’ milestone

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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When word was circulating that a new venue called Axe & Fiddle was opening in 2006, local musician Roger Kahane was in the right place at the right time.

Seeing an opportunity to blend his love for music and inclination to help the Cottage Grove Habitat for

Humanity, Kahane floated the idea of accepting donations at open mic nights in the new establishment. By the time doors opened in December, Kahane was already on the schedule.

“We were here with the first open mic a week and a half later and we’ve been doing it ever since,” he said. “Always on the second Tuesday of the month.”

On June 11, Kahane and a handful of musicians celebrated 150 months of music and charity at the Axe & Fiddle with a diverse mix of musical styles such as a flute solo, ukulele cover songs and a duet.

Though the show is meant in part to put local talent on display, its core function is as a fundraising tool for Habitat, which has since merged

See **HABITAT 8A**

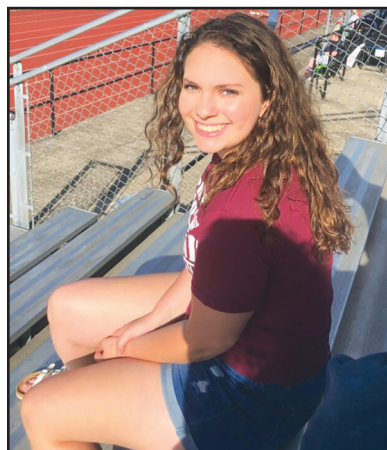
## CG student selected for national honors program

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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Around the country, 1,500 students were selected this year as delegates to attend the honors-only program Congress of Future Medical Leaders in Lowell, Mass.

One of Cottage’s Grove own is among them.

Kassity Hanks-Cave, a sophomore at Cottage Grove High School, was chosen in April to attend the event, which will take place from



**CGHS Sophomore Kassity Hanks-Cave was one of 1,500 delegates selected from around the country to attend the Congress of Future Medical Leaders in Lowell, Mass. (courtesy photo)**

June 23 to 25.

“I’m so nervous, yet so excited,” said Kassity. “It’s only my second plane ride.”

The conference, offered by New

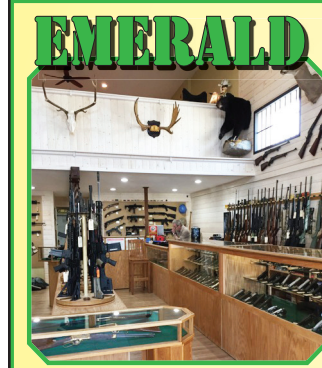
See **HONORS 9A**

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