

Prep *from A1*

Ferguson added that this was part of the reason the county was pleased with the city government of Cottage Grove.

“They were perfectly happy with us. We didn’t need anything from [them],” she said. “The more each jurisdiction can take care of their own, it frees up the capacity of that agency or whatever group

above them is.”

And, while independence can be a virtue unto itself, Ferguson stressed the need for community involvement as well.

“Self-sufficiency and interdependence,” she said.

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ZACH SILVA/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

A Cottage Grove resident makes his way through the Historic District during last February’s 100-year snowstorm, which put the region in a deep freeze for days.

“Interdependence rather than necessarily independence — insomuch as that I think it’s very important that you worry about you and your family’s preparedness, but then you need to ask, outside of that bubble, ‘How are your neighbors doing?’ And if we all reach out one hand in each direction, we create a loop.”

And for a city the size of Cottage Grove with strong rural ties, such lessons are not hard to learn.

“Cottage Grove is a cool

place,” said Meyers. “We’re not urban in the sense that we don’t know what to do and can’t take care of ourselves.”

For those wanting to learn more, the third annual Emergency Preparedness Fair will be held in Coiner Park this Saturday, Aug. 10, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event is free and will include more than two dozen booths staffed by emergency preparedness organizations and first responders. Those who visit every

booth will have a chance to win a family-size, 72-hour emergency preparedness kit in a raffle and the first 100 visitors will receive an emergency preparedness backpack.

(In Part II next week, *The Sentinel* looks at the groups, organizations and programs in place that are addressing emergency preparedness on individual, community and government levels.)

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