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WEATHER


 Sunny skies with a
 high of 88 and a low
 tonight of 58.

Full forecast on A5

COMMUNITY


 Fire damages
 Cottage Grove home
A3

SPORTS — B


 CG skatepark after
 15 years
B1

Opal program teaches kids art of theater

 BY SOPHIA EDELBLUTE
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Over the course of the last three weeks, kids have had the opportunity to learn the ins and outs of the theater at Opal Center for Arts and Education. The inaugural year of the Opal Young Performers theater camp saw 16 kids for the “littles” camp and

six for the older kids’ camp.

The kids worked with CJ Cramer, who ran the camp for the younger actors; Carmen Dowell, who taught the older campers stage management; Hal Holbrook, who taught playwriting and stage presence; and Michele Rose, Opal executive director who taught movement and posture. Dowell, Holbrook and Rose

also co-directed the Opal Young Performers camp.

“We’ve had different variations of summer camp at Opal but we’ve never tried to do a full theater camp,” said Rose. “This camp came out of discussions ... that we needed to offer more theater-type things for kids.”

See **OPAL 6A**

Harrison on road to new housing

 BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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With the city’s recent approval of the South Lane School District’s rezoning of the old Harrison School property, some pieces of Cottage Grove’s housing puzzle seem to be moving into position.

Though the property’s rezoning and eventual purchase by a developer will undoubtedly have impact on the city’s long-term plans for housing, some in the community wonder what these developments mean for their neighborhood.

“On their list of priorities, I don’t know that they checked in with the community,” said Molly Patterson, who resides in the old school’s neighborhood.

While concerns about Harrison’s rezoning have only recently been raised in public hearings, the school district’s current step in the process is just one among many.

When South Lane School District’s measure 20-240 passed in 2016, the nearly \$36 million list of proposed bond projects included \$513,455 for the old Harrison property’s reuse by salvaging the gym and field space for community recreational use.

Last fall, the board began looking at the costs associated with the 6.84-acre property more deeply. As bond projects were implemented and price estimates shifted, the district found it had three options in front of it regarding the fate of Harrison’s property.

The first option

Veterans helping veterans



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Vietnam veteran Jan McHenry speaks to a room of about 20 people at the Community Center during his workshop titled, “Operation: Veteran Freedom.” Though the workshop is geared toward veterans and their family members, McHenry addressed a range of points of trauma, empowering people through workshop experiences to take control of the narratives they tell themselves. “We don’t make them relive their trauma,” he said. The workshop returns Oct. 25 and 26.

Rain can’t dampen spirits at Drain event

 BY SOPHIA EDELBLUTE
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Knick knacks, crafts, antiques, clothing, books and much more were on sale this weekend in Drain. Despite occasional rain this past Saturday, people who attended had amiable conversations with vendors and there was a sense of community in the atmosphere.

This year was the 26th year of the annual Citywide Yard Sale and Emily Reed, the new volleyball coach for North Douglas, helped organize it. The process involved contacting sellers from previous years to see if they were interested in having a spot in the upcoming sale. Anyone wishing to sell was then required to fill out a waiver and registration. New vendors were allowed to sign up for a

spot as well — with profit from vending spots sold going towards North Douglas school sports programs. The price was \$10 for a space in the park and \$15 for a spot under the pavilion. The community-wide sale is also great for local businesses and gas stations, according to Reed.

“I feel like it’s something

See **DRAIN 7A**See **HOUSING 8A**

‘Are We Ready?’ Part II — Plans of action in The Grove

In recent months, residents have contended with a 100-year snowstorm, flooding and fires. What do they tell us about our area’s readiness in the event of a major disaster?

 BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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Editor’s Note: This is Part II of a three-part series, which began Aug. 7, to look at the state of emergency preparedness in the Cottage Grove area, identify possible future threats and examine solutions.



Understandably shaken by this year’s “wake-up call” of a snowstorm, flooding and a fire, area residents and officials alike are keen on developing readiness strategies and learning more about

how to be prepared.

Online, preparedness tips abound.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) pro-

vides an encyclopedic index of checklists and toolkits. The American Red Cross preaches the three golden rules of obtaining a kit, making a plan and becoming informed. Lane County has compiled a comprehensive “two-weeks ready” list and thorough table of contents for its recommendations on emergency management.

With so many resources to choose from, looking local is not a bad place to start and Cottage Grove is home to plenty of its own

options.

CERT

Among readiness programs, perhaps none is as ubiquitous as Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, a FEMA-based program sponsored and administered by many local government agencies. The program provides community members with standardized testing, training and an operational framework for emergencies within

See **PLANS 9A**

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