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## WEATHER



Sunny skies with a high of 81 and a low tonight of 55.

Full forecast on A5

## COMMUNITY



CG Carousel project holds final concert  
A3

## SPORTS — B



Fall sports get underway  
B1

• RECORDS  
Obituaries  
Official  
announcements  
A2

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A5

• CLASSIFIEDS  
Listings and public  
notices  
B6-B7

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## Rural-aimed grant spurs NAMI outreach in Cottage Grove

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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In many rural towns, finding adequate mental health services can be a challenge. Though Cottage Grove has its own share of resources, it may soon be adding more to that list.

As a result of a recent \$230,000

grant commitment by Pacific-Source Foundation for Health Improvement, six nonprofit organizations based in Oregon, Montana and Idaho, were chosen to receive funds. Lane County's branch of National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) has received \$20,000 as part of that grant to expand its peer-led programs in rural areas.

"We have already started to do more outreach within Cottage Grove," said Jennifer MacLean, executive director of NAMI Lane County.

It won't be the nonprofit's first activity in Cottage Grove, however.

"It's ebbed and flowed over our whole history of being NAMI in

Lane County," MacLean said. "At one time we had multiple support groups happening on a weekly basis in Cottage Grove. Currently we have zero and we've been trying to reinvigorate that."

That reinvigoration involves outreach efforts that have seen

See NAMI 11A

## Beetle threat prompts local tree survey

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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Tree surveys performed by the Coast Fork Youth Conservation Corps (CFYCC) this summer are giving youths a chance to gain real-world environmental work experience — but they're also gathering information for an impending invasion.

"It's something the Midwest and the East Coast have been struggling with for a number of years, since the early 2000s," said Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council Projects Coordinator Reilly Newman, "and now we're understanding that it's actually coming west and we have an opportunity to prepare for its eventual arrival."

The emerald ash borer, an invasive insect species sweeping across North America, has prompted the City of Cottage Grove and environmental organizations to take index of their trees, a project which had been sluggish to gather momentum until this year.

With indexing having started in June, Newman said it may take "multiple years" to get a comprehensive inventory of all the trees in Cottage Grove's city limits. Meanwhile, cities and states across the country have developed preparedness plans for the insect.

The Oregon Department of Forestry calls the emerald ash borer "the world's costliest forest pest," estimating the bug had done \$3.5 billion in damage to U.S. forests as of 2017. Over the next 10 years, costs to municipalities could exceed \$12 billion by some estimates.

The green, wood-boring beetle comes from Asia and is thought to have been introduced to North America in the 1990s by being carried over on shipping pallets and packing materials.

Since first being discovered in 2002 in Michigan, the

See BEETLES 7A



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Coast Fork Youth Conservation Corps members gather around what is thought to be the oldest tree within Cottage Grove city limits.

## Safe Routes project schedule temporarily delayed

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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Construction plans on streets leading to Cottage Grove schools as part of the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program are taking a slight detour.

"Between the surveying and design changes, it's thrown the project off," said Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart. "The project was actually scheduled in the application to be done in February. It looks like the project's going to be about six months longer to complete provided we can get it out to bid toward the

middle to end of September."

SRTS is a nationwide effort to assist communities in identifying and reducing barriers and hazards to children walking or bicycling to and from school through infrastructure improvements and safety education.

At an estimated cost of almost \$1.7 million, the project will address key safety concerns on five routes to Cottage Grove schools. For most of these routes, safe sidewalks are an issue.

A \$1,272,143 grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)

See SAFE 9A

## Local difference-makers in CG recognized by Vision Keepers

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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Cottage Grove's Vision Keepers committee presented an annual progress report and honored local difference-makers at a City Council meeting Aug. 26.

The committee, which is charged with tracking the progress of community goals, reported great success in implementing some 78 identified accomplishments across 20 Vision Keepers strategies.

"What was kind of amazing was to look through and see how much has been accomplished in the last year," said the city's Community Coordinator Teresa Cowan.

Cowan highlighted activities

such as producing a new local resource guide, the Cottage Village Tiny House project, the Business Challenge and improved school district shop classes with the help of local wood manufacturing company Weyerhaeuser as examples of recent successes.

Next, Vision Keepers Co-chair Holly Turpin and Chair Travis Palmer presented awards to individuals and organizations which had provided exceptional service toward meeting the goals of the community.

The Expanding and Integrating Community Networks Award went to game store Delight for its various activities available to youth.

"They provide a safe and

See VISION 6A

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