



Est. 1889

Cottage Grove Sentinel

Your Local News Delivered Your Way: In Print. Online. On the Go!

VOL. 131, NO. 39

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF COTTAGE GROVE, CRESWELL, DORENA, DRAIN, ELKTON, LORANE AND YONCALLA

PERSONAL | BUSINESS
BENEFIT PLANNING | SURETY

PayneWest
INSURANCE

(541) 942-0555

PayneWest.com/Cottage-Grove

WEATHER

Sunny skies with a high of 60 and a low tonight of 32.

Full forecast on A5

COMMUNITY

Walmart, Kiwanis gift 'Coats for Kids.'

A3

SPORTS — B

Aquatic Center re-opens at last.

B1

- **RECORDS**
Obituaries
Police Logs
County updates
A2
- **LORANE NEWS**
A5
- **CLASSIFIEDS**
Listings and public notices
B8-B9

FOLLOW US FOR THE LATEST NEWS:

/CGSENTINEL

@CGSENTINEL

CGSENTINEL.COM

541-942-3325 ph • 541-942-3328 fax
P.O. Box 35, Cottage Grove, OR 97424



From left: Resident Pat Patterson, Mayor Jeff Gowing, Commissioner Heather Buch, owner Doug Sproul, Executive Director Tara Blount and Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Travis Palmer celebrate Magnolia Gardens Senior Living community's groundbreaking on Oct. 2.

City celebrates groundbreaking at Magnolia Gardens

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

A groundbreaking ceremony was held Oct. 2 for the construction of 37 new apartments at Magnolia Gardens Senior Living community.

"As we have an aging community, the need for having more housing to keep our people in town when they can't stay in their residences that they had been in for so long — we know there is a great need for that," said Mayor Jeff Gowing at the ceremony, "and so I want to continue to see it happening and keep our residents that spent so many years here, still here."

Magnolia Gardens offers assisted living, memory care and active independent living, though the facility is often at capacity and maintains a long wait list.

The construction is intended to enhance the function and accessibility between the assisted living and memory care communities as well as provide new assisted and memory care options. The roughly \$6.5 million project was made possible by a loan from Oregon State Credit Union and will see 20

See **MAGNOLIA 6A**

Local recycling program unique to county

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

A new recycling program in Cottage Grove aims to massively expand plastic recycling options for the community and its surrounding areas.

The Recycling Take-Back program, run by local nonprofit EcoGeneration, accepts a wide variety of plastics every Thursday at the South Valley Farmers Market, addressing a notable need for plastic recycling in the area.

"A piece of plastic is not going to degrade in your lifetime or mine," said EcoGeneration's founder, 29-year-old David Gardiepy.

The group focuses on protecting biodiversity in the Pacific Northwest by decreasing organic and inorganic waste, increasing awareness of waste impact and educating the public

EcoGeneration founder David Gardiepy (right) filters through plastic recycling for a resident.

See **RECYCLE 9A**



New bonds will finance various city projects

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

Several city projects are set to begin after the completion of bond financing last month.

On Sept. 25, Cottage Grove municipal bonds were offered to the public. The total bond par amount was sold at \$6,765,000 with a yield (annualized interest cost for the city) at 1.8601 percent.

The 2019-20 city budget had already called for several projects to be financed. Specifically, a water treatment plant upgrade of \$1 million, wastewater effluent infrastructure projects at \$3.2 million and wastewater infrastructure improvements of \$1.4 million.

City councilors voted unanimously Sept. 23 to award a bid to contractor Pacific Excavation for the expansion of the Row River Water Treatment Plant.

The plant's expansion will increase capacity by two million gallons per day. Currently, two existing systems of membrane racks provide a total of four million gallons of water per day to the community.

"The city uses about three to three-and-a-half million gallons of water per day," said City Engineer Ron Bradsby at the council meeting. "If one goes down, we will not have enough racks to filter the water, so it's providing redundancy in the existing system and will help with growth."

See **BONDS 7A**

Historic Preservation Refinement Plan gets update

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

Cottage Grove has updated its Historic Preservation Refinement Plan, replacing its 2014 iteration as the city's guiding document for community engagement, grant writing and partnership projects regarding historic preservation over the next five years.

The city council voted Sept. 9 to amend the city's Comprehensive Plan in order to incorporate the updated Historic Preservation Refinement Plan. The 108-page document focuses on long-range management of Cottage Grove's cultural heritage by seeking to maintain the city's historic character.

"It's an overall guide for keeping preservation

See **UPDATE 8A**

PG-GARAGE

Freindly, Fast, Reliable
Electronics Repair & Sales

SALES SERVICE & REPAIR

711 E Main St, Cottage Grove, OR 97424

(541) 649-1073

AMERICAN MARKET

BEER ★ WINE
HOT DELI

KEYSTONE LIGHT

18 Pk. \$12.99
+ Dep. 16oz.

f'real

ICEE

911 E. Main • Cottage Grove • OPEN 24 HRS.