

Damien Sherwood/Cottage Grove Sentinel

**While services are currently exclusive to Harrison Elementary, the plan is to expand the program to Bohemia Elementary in January.**

**YMCA from 1B**

passion for working with children. If the YMCA can reach its goal of three staff members, up to around 40 children may be enrolled in the program. Brown is hopeful the program will find the staffing it needs. "I love seeing the kids engaged in hands-on activities after school," said Brown. "I think so often young people fill their time with screen time." The addition of the program to Cottage Grove serves a commonly-voiced need in the community as well. "There's been a huge void to fill - that need for afterschool care for our working parents," said Brown. "Especially if they work in Eugene."

While the YMCA's presence in Cottage Grove will do its part to fill a need for afterschool care, some in the community are eager to see a more organized approach to the issue. Many of Cottage Grove's youth programs are run as insular operations. "I think what's needed is a very consistent information stream and consistent participation" said Samantha Duncan, owner of local business Health Hub. "In a small community, it's almost more important than anywhere else for people who want a service to really commit to utilizing it once it's in place." Health Hub won the Vision Keepers' Community Health Award this year for creating fitness opportunities for people of all ages. Duncan has included several youth-oriented classes in her business model.

"Little Movers," an obstacle course, tumbling and motor skills class lets little ones aged up to four years old practice social integration, balance and muscle memory. Family Capoeira serves ages four and up with Afro-Brazilian movements which combine elements of dance, music and acrobatics. For ages three to five, "Ants and Fireflies" teaches basic motor skills and balance with rolling, cartwheel and handstand lessons. Lastly, ages four and up may also participate in a tumbling and gymnastics class for beginning to intermediate levels, which includes lessons on beam and bar mounts as well as rolls and hand-springs. Prices for kids start at \$35 per month for the youngest age groups and go up to \$55. "I'd love to expand it, but my

space is limited," Duncan said. Other programs for youth in the community do exist, such as gaming store Delight's own afterschool enrichment program, Rogers Family ATA Martial Arts programs for beginners and South Valley Athletics many sports options. However, the relative obscurity of some of these programs has been a barrier to some and Brown confirmed requests for such afterschool care are all too common. Some more respite may be on the horizon, though, as the YMCA's program in Cottage Grove does not end with Harrison. Current plans are to expand to Bohemia Elementary School in January as well as long as staffing can be secured. Jackson anticipates the expansion to find favor in the community considering recent respons-

es. "The support the community has shown us has been phenomenal," Jackson said. "The administration, the school staff, the kids and families - even the folks from Dutch Bros. They're so excited that we're out in Cottage Grove, so it's just such an amazing feeling for us." Brown was also optimistic that YMCA programs could make lateral movements across the community. "I hope that this is just the beginning of our partnership with YMCA," she said. "I'd love to see some summer camps in Cottage Grove that YMCA could run. I know that they do some preschool options. "We're not quite there yet, but I know that that is a big need in our community."

# October Students of the Month

## YONCALLA HIGH SCHOOL



Gino has been nominated for SOTM due to his positive attitude, hard work in the classroom and all around fun demeanor. During homecoming competition Gino displayed tremendous teamwork and sportsmanship putting on full display the core values we practice here at Yoncalla HS. Hobbies: Sports, video games, Brisk tea, chillin with the boys. Future Goals: Maintain a good GPA through high school, try new sports and opportunities in high school, give college a try, own Brisk beverage company. Parent, Aaron Carlson-Gray

GINO MARTINEZ-GRAY

**North Douglas Fire & Rescue**  
531 South Cedar St.  
Drain, OR 97435

## BOHEMIA ELEMENTARY



Jemma Toedtemeier is a first grade student in Mrs. McClean's classroom. She is an all-around great student! She is a good listener, a hard worker, always does her best work, and is a great help to her teacher in the class! Mrs. McClean is super proud of her!

JEMMA TOEDTEMEIER

**Brad's Chevy**  
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## NORTH DOUGLAS ELEMENTARY



like to nominate Kindergarten student Victor Johnson for Student of the Month. Victor does a wonderful job working independently and staying on task. He is a joy to have in class! Victor is kind and helpful to his peers and staff. He aspires to do great adventurous things with his life including being a monster truck driver.

VICTOR JOHNSON  
The North Douglas Elementary School would

**Ray's FOOD PLACE.**

## ACE

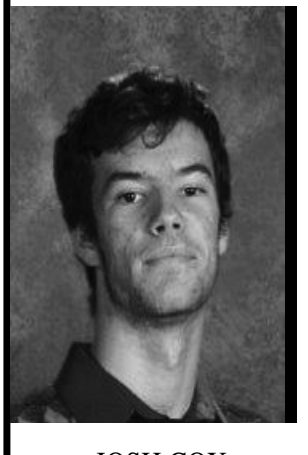


Congratulations, Chloe Hinkle of The Academy for Character Education in being nominated Student of the Month! Chloe begins her Junior year at ACE keeping up with a full academic load, serving others students well at school, all while playing guitar in a local band and being tremendously involved in the local 4H community as a Lane County 4H Ambassador. Recently, Chloe was nominated by the OSU Extension office to represent 4H of Lane County in Washington, DC., at the National 4H Conference. This is just one more civic engagement where Chloe will shine and we wish her the best of luck!

CHLOE HINKLE

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## KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL



Josh has integrated himself fully into our school as a leader and an advocate. He is working hard toward reaching his educational goals of catching up on credits so he can graduate on time.

JOSH COX

**Sherry Duerst-Higgins**  
Remax Advantage Plus  
541-953-6689  
SHERRY@DUERST.HIGGINS.COM

## ELKTON HIGH SCHOOL



She has worked extremely hard this year and goes the extra mile to make sure her work is completed well. She shows extraordinary diligence and responsibility towards her academics.

REBEKAH MARTINEZ

**Cottage Grove Sentinel**  
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