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WEATHER



Partly cloudy today with a high of 82 and a low tonight of 58.
Full forecast on A5

COMMUNITY



Turin Shroud replica in The Grove — B1

RETIREMENT



Ray Pardee retiring after 30 years with City — A3

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DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL
As a national debate regarding law enforcement reform rages on, the Cottage Grove Police Department prides itself on effective local policy.

CGPD offers perspective on changing law enforcement landscape

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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(Editor's note: This is part one of a two-part look at how the national conversation over law enforcement reform is being discussed by members of the Cottage Grove Police Department, and how each community is addressing the unique challenges they may face.)

While the nation is reeling from political division, a public health crisis and widespread protests, a growing call to “defund the police” has entered the public conversation, challenging the models of law enforcement departments throughout the country.

This demand for defunding has ranged in messaging from diverting police funding to community projects to the full abolition or dismantling of police departments in an effort to curtail police violence. Meanwhile, others in the movement have focused energies on less radical change such as reforming police departments through policy changes or establishing crisis response teams to ease officers' burdens. As the populace gropes through this somewhat undiscovered territory for answers, the diversity of the law enforcement landscape is making one thing clear: any calls for change cannot be fashioned as a one-size-fits-all approach.

See CGPD 9A



Banner day for local grads

High school graduates from Cottage Grove High School (above) and Al Kennedy High School (below right) picked up their congratulatory banners at City Hall on Monday, where they were also gifted with photos and “golden ticket” prizes.



PHOTOS BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

City adopts 2020-21 budget plan

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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The Cottage Grove City Council adopted the city's 2020-21 budget in the sum of \$40,221,120 on June 22.

Due to the timing of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent responses, much of the budget relied on more guesswork than usual, according to an introduction to the proposed budget written by City Manager Richard Meyers.

“We have scrambled trying to find accurate estimates of what the impacts the economic shut downs have caused and are continuing to do to our revenues,” he said.

Revenue loss estimates ranged from 12 percent to more than 40 percent and the duration of economic losses were estimated to range between six months and the year 2022.

In creating a flexible budget, protection of “police, water, sewer, street operations and the service functions that make sure those services can be provided” was taken into consideration

See CITY 8A

SLCFR Fire Chief reinstated, board VP resigns

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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A majority of South Lane County Fire and Rescue board members voted to return Fire Chief John Wooten to full duty without disciplinary action last Thursday (June 18.)

Following more than an hour of executive session discussion regarding the matter, board mem-

bers Tom Monroe, Cheryl Shannon and Dan Duffy voted in favor of the reinstatement while Board President Joel Higdon and Board Vice President Jennifer Radcliffe voted against the motion.

Radcliffe announced her resignation immediately following the vote.

Wooten had been placed on non-disciplinary paid administrative leave after a controversial post

made by Wooten on Facebook was amplified by a KEZI News report on June 2.

The post in question read: “So I made the comment we should shoot the rioters and someone asked me how I could possibly do that. I replied it depended on distance, wind, temp, humidity and a few other variables but once I had the calculations done it would be a matter of breathing control and

trigger squeeze.”

Public responses to the report were split into both support and condemnation of Wooten and his post, prompting petitions and even a street-side rally backing the chief.

Prior to the board's June 18 vote, board members shared opinions on the motion before them.

“I think at this point if we let this

See CHIEF 7A



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