

'If I Were Mayor' contest deadline approaching

The Cottage Grove City Council is participating in the Oregon Mayors Association's student "If I Were Mayor..." contest.

The deadline for youth to enter is quickly approaching on Friday, April 16, at 5 p.m.

Youth in the community are invited to enter:

- Poster Contest for 4th and 5th grade students are invited to participate in a poster contest with local prizes of 1st Place (\$50) and 2nd Place (\$25.)
- Essay Contest for 6th through 8th grade students are invited to participate in an essay contest with local prizes of 1st Place (\$75) and 2nd Place (\$50).

Digital Media Presentations for 9th through 12th grade students are invited to participate in a digital media presentations with local prizes of 1st Place (\$100) and 2nd Place (\$50).

The Cottage Grove City Council will be awarding the local prizes at that April 26 city council meeting.

The local 1st place winners will be entered into the Oregon Mayors Association's statewide contest.

For information on how to enter and further details about the contest follow the link of the city Council's site at: www.cottagegroveor.gov/citycouncil.

New Marshal in Town



COURTESY PHOTO

On March 24, Cottage Grove Municipal Judge Martin Fisher (left) swore in the newest Bohemia City Marshal, Councilor Kenneth Michael Roberts. At the press conference, Bohemia Mining Days officials announced plans to produce a two-day celebration on July 16-17 in Coiner Park. BMD President Don Williams said they are enthusiastically moving forward to give the community a celebratory gift this summer. The organization wants to remain fluid and re-evaluate the OHA restrictions in early May to determine if the event can happen.

Master Gardener Spring Plant Sale has begun

The Lane County Master Gardener Association announces its 2021 Spring Plant Sale. Plants for sale include vegetables, berries, natives, perennials, shrubs, and roses.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, orders will be online only, with in-person pick-up on April 24.

Customers will sign up for a time and be provided with pick-up location upon purchase.

For the safety of our customers and volun-

teers, no plants will be available to purchase onsite.

Pre-orders will continue through April 23. All sales final.

Pick-up in Eugene on April 24, between noon and 6 p.m.

Location disclosed after purchase.

Order plants online at www.lcmgaplantsale.square.site

For more information, contact Laura Hoover by email at lcmgaplantale@gmail.com

LRAPA director retires; new director named

The Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) Executive Director, Merlyn Hough, concludes 16 years of service at the Agency and began retirement with his final day on April 2.

LRAPA's next Director, Steve Dietrich, began April 5.

Hough joined LRAPA in 2005 after more than 31 years of service at the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Under Hough's guidance Lane County residents have benefitted from great im-

provements in air quality, specifically particulate matter (PM2.5), the most common form of air pollution in the county.

PM2.5 pollution has fallen in Oakridge, where it has been at the highest in Lane County, by 30 percent over the last 15 years.

During his time at the agency, Hough held the role of Co-President of the National Association of Cleaner Air Agencies (NACAA) from 2014 to 2015. In 2012 he was the President of the Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA).

In these prestigious and important roles, he guided the national dialogue on air quality concerns and helped shape and coordinate feasible solutions.

In 2008 Hough was awarded the EPA Region 10 "Clean Air Excellence" award for work in reducing benzene in the PNW gasoline supply. Hough received recognition in 2017 with the Stanley E. Kappe Award from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists recognizing his extraordinary contributions for the

betterment of the environment and the advancement of public awareness.

The next Director to lead the Agency is Steve Dietrich, appointed unanimously by LRAPA's Board of Directors during their March meeting.

Dietrich joins LRAPA from DEQ where he currently serves as an Air Quality Manager for the Northwest Region.

Dietrich worked as the Air Quality Division Administrator for Wyoming DEQ.

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