

Cottage Grove Sentinel

Est. 1889

VOL. 132, NO. 25 • Your Local News Delivered Your Way: In Print. Online. On the Go!



Eugene Comedy Crescendo visits Village Green (A6)

Get an insurance plan
—not just a policy.

PayneWest
INSURANCE

(541) 942-0555

WEATHER

Mostly sunny with a
high of 87 and a low
tonight of 57
Full forecast on A5

COLUMNIST

**Betty Kaiser's
Chatterbox**
A3

SPORTS

**Lady Lions
finish strong**
B1

- **RECORDS**
Obituaries
Official releases
A2
- **LORANE NEWS**
A5
- **CLASSIFIEDS**
Listings and public
notices
B5-B6

FOLLOW US FOR THE
LATEST NEWS:

/CGSentinel

@CGSentinel

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

City avoids costs of Eighth and Taylor fix

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

A construction mistake within the Safe Routes to School project on South Eighth Street and Taylor Avenue seems to have found resolution as corrections near completion.

In March, corrective street reconstruction to address the issue was estimated to cost possibly as much as \$58,000, but the city has since learned it will not bear the burden of that cost.

“There’s no out-of-pocket money cost to the city,” said Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart. “In the end it’s going to get resolved. It’s not going to be an added cost to the citizens of Cottage Grove.”

During its March 8 meeting, the Cottage Grove City Council deliberated the topic and searched for answers.

The issue was brought to the attention of city staff in February by contractor Wildish Construction when it became apparent that the gutters and entrances to three corners of the intersection at South Eighth Street and Taylor Avenue handicap ramps were lower than the adjacent street elevation.

see **FIX** on A9



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

A final correction on the northwest corner of the intersection will mark the end of the Safe Routes to School Project.

A RIDE WITH THE MAYOR



PHOTO BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

More than 20 bicyclists and one skater turned out for the annual Mayor’s Bike Ride with Mayor Jeff Gowing on Saturday. The ride took participants on a leisurely cruise of Row River Trail, starting at the trailhead park on Main Street and ending at Mosby Creek Trailhead with refreshments. The event was canceled last year due to COVID-19 restrictions. “After more than a year of not being able to be out in the community like normal, it was nice to get out with community members and enjoy some healthy exercise,” said Gowing.

Oregonians asked to keep fireworks usage legal and safe

As temperatures heat up, the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM), the Oregon Fire Service, natural resource agencies, and Oregon licensed fireworks wholesalers ask Oregonians to “keep it legal and keep it safe” when using all fireworks.

The 2021 Oregon fireworks retail sales season opens June 23 and runs through July 6. The OSFM and its partners want everyone to know which fireworks are legal to use in Oregon without a permit, where residents can use them, and how to use fireworks safely.

In 2020, the U.S. saw a record-setting year when it comes to the consumption of fireworks. American’s consumed 385.8 million pounds of fireworks, a 55

percent increase from the previous year.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, nationwide, children 0 to 4 years old are injured by fireworks and treated at an emergency department more than any other age group. (5.3 injuries per 100,000 people).

Older teens, 15 to 19 years old, have the second-highest injury rate (4.4 injuries per 100,000 people).

Males represent 66 percent of all firework-related injuries.

In Oregon, between 2016 and 2020, Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, and Lane Counties have had the highest rates of firework-related injuries.

With an arid spring, much of Oregon experienc-

ing some form of drought, and concerns over an active wildfire season, the Office of the Oregon State Fire Marshal is asking people to be aware of the dry conditions. Fireworks users are advised to always have a bucket of water on hand to drown spent or used fireworks, have a charged hose nearby, and never light fireworks near dry grass or areas that could catch fire easily.

“We ask that those using fireworks be responsible when using them,” Assistant Chief Deputy with the Office of the Oregon State Marshal Mark Johnston said. “Every year across the state, we see fires sparked because of improper use or use of illegal fireworks. Our message is to keep it legal and keep it safe as people celebrate the holiday.”

In Oregon, residents and visitors can only purchase consumer legal fireworks from permitted fireworks retailers and stands. State regulations limit where those fireworks may be used.

Fireworks can also start structural fires that threaten lives and property, as has been seen in past years.

People who plan to visit public lands and parks for the July 4 holiday are asked to leave all fireworks at home.

The use of fireworks is prohibited in national parks and forests, on Bureau of Land Management lands, on U.S. Fish and Wildlife properties, on state beaches, in state parks, and in state campgrounds.

For residents who pur-

see **FIREWORKS** on A10

Council votes to move forward with tree removal

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

On June 14, the Cottage Grove City Council voted to approve plans to remove two redwood trees on the corner of Chestnut Avenue and North G Street.

Both road and sidewalk have over time been damaged due to the massive root system under the bigger of the two trees, causing a violation of city code and even threatening the neighboring house’s foundation.

The roots have extended into the city’s sewer line on Chestnut Avenue and the storm catch basin has stopped functioning correctly as well.

In discussion between city staff and the Urban Forestry Committee in May, the committee moved that it supported the removal of the trees under the conditions that: the logs would be milled into lumber and used throughout the city for benches and other projects; that two city-approved trees are replanted in the park strip of the redwoods; that the city repair the damaged street and utilities as soon as possible; and that rounds of the stump of the large redwood are cut for use to memorialize the tree and its history.

Executive Director of EcoGeneration David Gardiepy and Forest Web of Cottage Grove’s Executive Director Cristina Hubbard supported the decision to cut down the trees in a letter to the council.

“While neither EcoGeneration nor Forest Web advocate for the destruction of any tree, especially an endangered species such as these, both of our organiza-

see **TREE** on A8

EVERYONE DESERVES A GREAT SMILE!

THORNTON Orthodontics

EUGENE
622 E. 22nd Ave Suite C
541.686.1732

CRESWELL
195 Melton Rd.
541.686.1732

or visit us at www.thornton-ortho.com

GIVE US A CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR COMPLIMENTARY CONSULTATION TODAY!

WE ARE HERE TO HELP
All services are completely free.

LOOKING GLASS COMMUNITY SERVICES
Rural Program

508 E. Whitaker Ave. Cottage Grove
Monday - Friday 8:30am to 5:00pm

Office & 24/7 Crisis Line: **(541) 767 - 3823**