

Cottage Grove *Est. 1889* Sentinel



Eugene Symphony's noteworthy return (see A6)

VOL. 132, NO. 30 • Your Local News Delivered Your Way: In Print. Online. On the Go!

Get an insurance plan —not just a policy.

PayneWest
INSURANCE

(541) 942-0555

WEATHER

Mostly sunny with a high of 97 and a low tonight of 65.
Full forecast on A5

COLUMNIST

Mary Ellen
Pet Tips 'n' Tales
A5

SPORTS & REC

Triathlon returns for virtual event
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

18134142405

Southmayd home nears completion

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

Jayson and Misty Southmayd are within arm's reach of having a habitable home – a dream the family has held on to for more than two years.

Still, they worry the project may not have the funds to be completed before winter sets in.

Local building official Jason Bush has been spearheading the project to get the Southmayds into proper housing since last year, an effort which has yielded an enormous amount of generosity from the public and area businesses.

Jayson compared the project to “Stone Soup,” a folk story about hungry strangers who convince a

see **HOME** on A10



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

The new home for the Southmayds is about halfway finished, but will need additional funding to see it through to completion by this winter.

CG area lakes see record low lake levels

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

Lake levels have taken a noticeable dip this year. As of Wednesday, Dorena Lake was reported holding 37 percent of its maximum conservation storage for summer with Cottage Grove Lake stood at 27 percent.

“I’ve worked here for 16 years, and this is the lowest I’ve ever seen it this time of year,” said U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Park Ranger Christie Johnson.

Johnson noted that this is also the first year she has seen the Wilson Creek boat ramp at Cottage Grove Lake closed at the start of the season.

“And my supervisor has worked here even longer than me, maybe 20 years. And she’s never seen that happen,” she said. “So, it’s pretty historic.”

This year, lake levels dipped lower than levels of years past starting around the beginning of April.

see **LAKES** on A11



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Due to exceptionally low water this year, the Wilson Creek boat ramp was already closed when the summer season began.



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Local radio station KNND has recently added FM to its broadcasting.

KNND debuts FM broadcast

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL.COM

If area residents tune their radios to 99.7 FM, they may recognize some familiar programming. For the past week, local radio station KNND has been

broadcasting with its newly installed FM translator in a side-by-side simulcast with the 1400 AM broadcast.

KNND owner Cameron Reiten said the project has taken some time to get up and running.

In October of 2013, the Federal Communications

Commission (FCC) began making an effort to revitalize AM broadcasting service. One of the solutions was to allow AM stations to apply for an FM translator.

Reiten decided to apply for KNND’s own FM trans-

see **KNND** on A8

City kicks off ‘Utility System Tours’

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
DSHERWOOD@CGSENTINEL

The first round of guests toured the city’s wastewater treatment plant on July 22 as part of the City of Cottage Grove’s inaugural “Utility System Tours.”

Led by Wastewater Superintendent Erich Schroeder, the two-hour tour gave attendees an opportunity to learn and ask questions about the wastewater plant’s process from intake to treatment.

The event was the first of three educational tours which are also taking the group on tours of the wastewater collection and water systems over the next two weeks.

City staff and city councilors Mike Fleck, Chalice Savage and Candace Solesbee were also in attendance

while nonprofit South Lane Wheels provided transportation.

“It was kind of an opportunity for people to get more than just a single Facebook post-worth of information,” said Assistant to the City Manager Jake Boone. “And to be able to actually see it while they’re getting the information.”

The behind-the-scenes look at the wastewater treatment plant led guests through an educational journey around the plant, stopping at various stations to learn about oxidation, the role of bacteria, clarifiers and the process of turning the city’s wastewater into fully treated effluent ready for irrigation at the city’s golf course.

“I think it went really

see **TOUR** on A9

PC-GARAGE
Freindly, Fast, Reliable
Electronics Repair & Sales

SALES SERVICE & REPAIR
711 E Main St, Cottage Grove, OR 97424
(541) 649-1073

820 E. Main St.
Cottage Grove
Oregon

Store
541.649.1625

Cell 541.514.0022

OPEN TUE-SAT
11:00 TO 6:00

LATINO
soul

NOW OPEN!

intermex
International Money Express

vigo
by Western Union

FARMASI