



Birthday bash!

Inside: Special edition commemorates 90 years of 'The General'

On 'Our Brothers in the Camps'

Essay from famed Cottage Grove author details her love and respect for her roots, page 6A



Cottage Grove Sentinel

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2016

SOUTH LANE AND NORTH DOUGLAS COUNTY'S MOST AWARD-WINNING NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1889

VOLUME 129 • NUMBER 6

Annexation approved

City annexes Cottage Grove Airport

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Shawn and Nadine Kelley say they moved to Cottage Grove in part because the community boasted its own airport, and ever since they arrived, there's been talk of the Airport's possible annexation by the City of Cottage Grove.

"It's been in the works at least since we moved here," Nadine Kelley said. "Since 2007, the talk has been, 'It's going to happen next year.' It's kind of like a running joke among the pilots. Is it going to happen? We just don't know."

After Monday night's City Council meeting, however — during which the Council voted unanimously in favor of annexing the Airport into the City — we all know that annexation is coming.

The Cottage Grove Airport sits on land managed by Lane County, though it is operated by the Oregon Department of Aviation. On Monday, Councilor Jake Boone only sought to point out that the Airport will still be managed by the state Department of Aviation and not the City before the vote was tallied.



photo by Jon Stinnett

Lee Keller checks out his new airplane at the Cottage Grove Airport. Keller said he'll wait and see how annexation by the City could affect operations there.

Many area pilots own the hangars that house their airplanes but not the land under them, and the number of parties that would be affected by annexation has been a factor in the timeline of the process.

The Kelleys say that many aspects of airport operations would be better handled by the City of Cottage Grove.

"Putting a hangar up in Lane County takes an act of God," Shawn Kelley said. "We're hoping that working with the City is a lot

easier."

On Sept. 9, 2015, the State Aviation Board passed a motion to request that the City annex the Airport. The City Council examined the request last January and directed City Manager Richard Meyers to initiate the annexation application. The City subsequently hired a surveyor to map out the Airport's

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BUSTER KEATON DAY SCHEDULE:

Saturday, Aug. 13

7:30-8:30 p.m. **Music In Silent Films** (Live musical performance by Blaine Gale, Hunter Hale and Richard Hale)

8:30-9 p.m. **A Snapshot In Time** (A look at Cottage Grove just prior to World War II, presented by the Cottage Grove Historical Society)

9-10:15 p.m. **"The General,"** Starring Buster Keaton, with Mark Orton and his ensemble orchestra playing Orton's new musical score

Upcoming train show should be County's largest

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Events surrounding the 90th anniversary of the filming of Buster Keaton's classic "The General" won't be the only train-themed celebrations this weekend.

Lee Temple, President of the Willamette Cascade Model Railroad Club, said the organization and many of its 60-plus members will bring the "largest operating model train show in Lane County" to Cottage Grove's Armory beginning Friday morning.

Temple said the group, which has operated locally for about 50 years, will bring layouts in various scales to the Armory, and all-told, he expects the display to be larger than that which recently broke the record for largest-ever layout at the Lane County Fair.

Included in the setup will be a Lionel train layout in 1/48 scale, an American Flyer layout in 1/64 scale and a layout featuring television's Thomas the Tank Engine that comprises five concentric circles. In addition, representatives from Operation Lifesaver, an effort dedicated to

increasing awareness and safety at railroad crossings, will also be on hand to promote pedestrian and driver safety at crossings.

"We're not going to fill up every inch of the Armory's drill floor, but it's going to be close," Temple said. "This is a very big deal for us, and we hope the citizens of Cottage Grove like it."

Members of the group will start showing up Wednesday for the nearly two days of setup that will be required for the show, though the event itself has been in the works for quite a while longer. Temple said that Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce Director Travis Palmer approached the Club after seeing one of its displays in Drain, and the Cottage Grove appearance has been in planning stages for about nine months. If all goes well, he said the Club hopes to host a regularly occurring train show that can be visited by area schoolchildren in the fall of 2017.

Hours for this weekend's train show will be: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. The event is free and open to the public.

Council votes to refer gas tax hike to voters

A ballot measure that would double the amount of local tax that fuel customers pay at the pump will go before voters in the Nov. 8 election.

The Cottage Grove City Council unanimously approved a resolution that will refer a three-cent hike in the City's motor vehicle fuels tax to voters in the upcoming election. If approved, customers would pay a total of six cents per gallon in local taxes.

The vote to refer the tax to voters could have been expected; the Council voted to direct

city staff to create a resolution for the ballot measure at its July 25 meeting after a lengthy discussion of how best the City might tackle the \$9 million or so in deferred maintenance projects necessary to rebuild dilapidated city streets. At that meeting, Councilor Garland Burback voted against referring the tax to voters, preferring instead to pursue a bond levy to tackle specific road projects.

On Monday, Burback said he would reluctantly support sending the tax to voters.

"I think there should be a

bonding measure to tag in with this," he said. "This is like buying blacktop and using it to patch up holes. And it's going to take a lot more than a few hundred thousand."

Burback referenced the \$300,000 or so that the City receives in fuel tax each year, a number that City Manager Richard Meyers pointed out would essentially double if the tax were raised to six cents per gallon. And while acknowledging that such revenue was not going to repair all the City's streets, Meyers stated that it

"would help," adding that the City pays for maintenance such as street striping and lighting that could be addressed with tax funding.

"The tax will have to increase, because it doesn't keep up with inflation," he said. Councilor Mike Fleck said that complaints about city streets are the most common type he hears from the public.

"I don't see a downside to supporting this," Fleck said. "Folks know the condition of our streets."

Roa found guilty of attempted murder

Sentencing was expected on Tuesday for a 39-year old Cottage Grove man convicted of attempted murder and other charges following a shootout with Lane County Sheriff's Deputies last September.

It took a jury in a Lane County courtroom less than three hours of deliberation on Tuesday, Aug. 2 to convict Carlos Roa of the three counts of aggravated attempted murder, two counts of reckless endangerment and one count of first-degree assault that followed an encounter with deputies on the night of Sept. 25, 2015 at a home on London Road near Cottage Grove Reservoir. Police alleged that Roa had fired more than two dozen

shots from an AK-47 rifle at the home following a dispute at a Cottage Grove restaurant earlier that day related to the ownership of a rifle scope. They say Roa began firing on deputies as soon as they reached the residence; Deputy Todd Olson was wounded in the incident.

Roa had testified in his own defense that he had only one drink on the night in question but had blacked out prior to the incident, coming to with a police dog biting him after eluding police for several hours following the encounter. Roa also sustained a bullet wound in his right buttock from Deputy Richard Glessner during the incident.

Roa could be sentenced to



Carlos Roa was found guilty last week of charges related to a Sept., 2015 shooting.

decades in prison on Tuesday. A former firearms dealer, he operated West Coast Machine Guns in downtown Cottage Grove until the shop closed in 2012. That year, Roa was sentenced to jail time and probation for theft related to merchandise that was never delivered to a customer in 2012.

Airplane striking wire blamed for Saturday power outage

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

An airplane clipping a power line at the Cottage Grove Airport is believed to be to blame for a power outage Saturday that affected thousands of customers of two area electrical utilities.

An entry in the Cottage Grove Police Department's activities log for Saturday indicated that a plane had "struck a high voltage line" and knocked down a power line just after 2:30 p.m. Saturday afternoon. Tom Gauntt, spokesperson for Pacific Power, said that he had received information indicating that the plane had sheared off the wire near a power pole, cutting off power to "as

many as 5500" Pacific Power customers in the area around the airport, in addition to areas in Creswell and Goshen. The bulk of those customers had power restored within about an hour, Gauntt said, though about 1590 customers reportedly had to wait a bit longer.

"Having something strike the wire would cause the system to need to reset itself," he said. "Rather than risk damage, the system would shut itself down. Power for our customers came back on as soon as we were done switching power sources."

A spokesperson for the Emerald Peoples Utilities District, however, said that many of that utility's customers had to wait

a bit longer to have their power restored. Public Relations Coordinator Patty Jo Angelini said that the Pacific Power line that was sheared fell onto an EPUD line. As such, EPUD crews waited about six hours for Pacific Power crews to repair their line, after which EPUD needed about 30 minutes with the help of four linemen and three trucks to repair its own line and restore power for its customers. A total of 4352 EPUD customers lost power as a result of the incident, Angelini said, with 618 Cottage Grove customers as the last to have their power restored just before 10:30 p.m. Saturday.

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