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Cottage Grove Sentinel

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

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Deadline to run for local office approaches

Those who wish to run for Mayor or City Council have until Tuesday to file

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

This November, Cottage Grove will cast votes that could significantly alter the face of city government for the next few years. But in some contests, it remains to be seen if they'll have anyone to vote for.

The Tuesday, Nov. 8 ballot will feature openings for three seats on the Cottage Grove City Council. Voters will also choose a successor for Mayor Tom Munroe. So far, though, there has not been a plethora of willing candidates signing up for the campaign.

As it currently stands, City Councilors Mike Fleck, Jake Boone and Jeff Gowing have filed to run for Mayor. Also open this fall will be the City Council's Ward IV seat. The Council appointed Amy Slay to serve the remainder of a term in that ward in 2015, and Slay has filed to run for election this time around. Councilor K. Michael Roberts has also indicated his intent to run for the at-large position he was appointed to by the Council last year. City Councilors serve a four-year term, while the Mayor serves a two-year term, and every two years, the majority of the Council is up for reelection.

Gowing's candidacy for Mayor means that the Ward II seat he has occupied for two terms will be vacant, and at press time Monday, no one had yet filed to represent Ward II, according to Cottage Grove City Recorder Trudy Borrevik. Borrevik said that two individuals have requested paperwork to run for Mayor, though that paperwork had not been returned early Monday.

Should Gowing not be elected Mayor, he will not be serving on the Council next year, an eventuality that Gowing has told the Sentinel he is ready to accept.

The same is not true for Councilors Fleck and Boone, who have two years remaining on their at-large and Ward III seats, respectively. Should either be elected Mayor, the new Council would be charged with appointing a successor in the new mayor's former ward.

City Manager Richard Meyers pointed out Monday that Ward II can be a difficult area from which to secure candidates. Cottage Grove is divided nearly equally between the four wards, population-wise, though Ward II takes in lots of empty space and park land in which there are no residents.

If no one files to run for the Ward II seat, Meyers said, the Council could appoint a representative from that ward. Or a write-in candidate may be elected, provided that candidate is qualified to hold the seat.

In order to serve on the City Council, an individual must be a registered voter in Cottage Grove, must live in the ward they wish to serve and have lived in the City Limits for a total of 12 months. The deadline to file paperwork to run for Mayor or City Council is Tuesday, Aug. 23 by 5 p.m. Borrevik can be contacted for more information at (541) 942-5501 or cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org.



photo by Jon Stinnett

Prior to Saturday's Screening of "The General," attendees viewed a 15-minute clip of the Moreslock Films, which depict life in Cottage Grove in the 1930s.

Park screening marks General's 90th

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Just before showtime, a visibly excited Travis Palmer, Executive Director of the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce, took a turn at the microphone.

"How's this for small-town America?!" Palmer exclaimed to

a cheer from the gathered crowd. "There is no other place in the world and nothing I'd rather be doing than this."

On Saturday evening, Palmer was tasked with introducing to a large crowd at Bohemia Park a group of musicians including Portland-based film composer Mark Orton, then introducing the main

attraction, Buster Keaton's 1926 classic silent film, "The General," filmed 90 years ago this summer in Cottage Grove and the surrounding countryside. And from the cheers, it was evident that Palmer wasn't the only one captivated by the classic film and its brand-new score

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Wieners added to WOE Fair's Sat. lineup

Organizers believe combining events benefits all

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

An event that offers what may be the most manic few minutes in Cottage Grove's yearly calendar finds itself in a new home this weekend.

The W.O.E. Heritage Fair returns to the fairgrounds north of Cottage Grove (at 2000 N. Douglas) this Friday, Aug. 19 through Sunday, Aug. 21. As ever, the Fair offers local entertainment acts, contests in a variety of disciplines for community members and the ever-popular Gene Campbell Memorial Lumberjack Show.

Saturday, though, brings an offering that's new to the Fair. Organized by Cottage Grove Area Habitat for Humanity, the Wiener Dog Races and Pet Fest should be one highlight of the afternoon's many activities. The races feature local Wieners, aka Dachshunds, in a manic sprint (ideally) for the finish line. The event thrived for years under the direction of Cottage Grove's Board of Realtors, then took a hiatus in 2014 before Habitat for Humanity hosted the races for the first time in Coiner Park last year.

Habitat President Linda Oxley said the group has spent time since taking over stewardship of the races finding the perfect date and location for the popular event.

"We mentioned holding the races during the Fair to W.O.E. Fair's Judy Cash and got an enthusiastic response," Oxley said. "They've been very generous in giving us the space to set up and operate."

Oxley said she believes the combination will be a win-win for both events.

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London area residents talk Neighborhood Watch with Sheriff's Office after recent burglaries

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The London Grange was packed Monday with concerned area residents seeking to form a Neighborhood Watch group. The meeting was inspired by multiple break-ins in the area, including an incident in which a dog was shot and killed. Residents count that at least five burglaries have happened in recent weeks.

Several rumors are going about that the burglaries have been carried out by two men: one with a blue pickup truck and another with a black SUV.

Local resident Alice Nowicki stepped in and volunteered to be the local representative for the Neighborhood Watch that is currently being applied for. To help shed some light on Neighborhood Watch groups, the Lane County Sheriff's Office brought in Sergeant Carrie Carver to lead a discussion and give tips on crime prevention.

"Typically we see a spike in crime such as burglaries in the summertime," Carver said. This can be attributed to more people being out of their houses and also windows and doors left open to combat the heat.

The Neighborhood Watch process has three options to apply for. One

Please see **WATCH**, Page 11A



photo by Sam Wright

Sgt. Carrie Carver said break-ins occur more often in the summertime, adding that open windows aid the problem.

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