

Cottage Grove Retrospective

A look back at Sentinel stories from 30 and 60 years ago

Jan. 28, 1987

CG opens its heart to family

It was not a good way to start a new year.

But as she watched on the morning of Jan. 1 while the duplex she lived in on Highway 99 burned, Mary McMurray felt lucky that she and her two sons made it out safely.

It was only later when she returned to assess the damage that she realized the family was left with only the clothes they had worn that morning.

"Anything that wasn't burned was either smoke or water damaged," McMurray says. "I was able to save a few photos that were deep in a closet, but that's about all."

The fire, caused by a faulty electrical cord, began at about 3 a.m. in the bedroom of her two sons, Sean, 9 and Aaron, 8.

McMurray and her sons had stayed up late to ring in the new year, and were sleeping in the front room. She heard an explosion and crackling of flames and go the boys out of the house.

"Fortunately they weren't in the room. If they were, I don't know how they would have made it out," McMurray says.

Organizations, churches and individuals throughout the area heard about the family's plight and donated clothing, furniture and other items. Collections were taken at schools, and her co-workers brought in items the family needed. Donations came from as far away as Yoncalla.

The members of the Trinity Lutheran Church took up a collection to buy medical supplies for Aaron, who suffers from kidney failure. But when they went to McCoy's to purchase the supplies, the pharmacy insisted on donating them.

"When they got done, I had everything I needed," says McMurray, who now lives in an apartment on 'S' Street.

Gone, however, are some items that are irreplaceable — an oil painting made by a friend, photographs of her children

growing up.

To thank those who helped her, McMurray sent many personal notes and is running an advertisement. But so many people helped, many anonymously, that it will be impossible to thank them all, McMurray says.

McMurray moved to Cottage Grove from Concord, Calif., about three years ago. If the fire had happened in California, she says, she would not have received this kind of assistance.

"It's just that things work differently in a small town. It seems that small towns have a quick-working grapevine. They really get around and get things



Mary McMurray and her sons were surprised by local response after her home burned.

done," McMurray says.

"I was sorry to see the fire happen, but I am happy to see the response — the way the community takes care of its members."

POLICE BLOTTER

Cottage Grove Police Department 24-Hour Anonymous Tip Line: 767-0504

Jan. 16

Abandon Vehicles, Bohemia Pl.

A reporting person received several phone messages complaining of four vehicles parked in the roadway at the end of the cul de sac for the past several months. Police contacted the owners of the vehicles who advised that they will have them moved right away.

Theft, S. 10th St.

A reporting person advised police that gas was stolen from a church vehicle sometime over the weekend and has a surveillance tape of the incident.

Suspicious Condition, Benjamin Ave.

A caller reported that an elderly and disoriented female at her front door appears to be very confused. Officers contacted the complainant and the female, who was escorted to her residence and released to her son.

Death Investigation, Brice Creek Rd.

A caller advised that he is with an obviously deceased family member. The caller was transferred to 911 and relayed to Lane County Sheriff's Office.

Jan. 17

Trespassing, CG Library

A complainant requested a police officer to assist in having a subject move along. The subject had been at the location all day and spread his stuff across

the whole sidewalk, making it difficult for patrons to go inside. The caller asked him to leave but so far the subject had refused to do so.

Burglary Alarm, HWY 99

An audible panic alarm was triggered and police determined it to be an intentional activation of the alarm. A domestic violence incident was occurring between and male and a female, but the male subject had ran off when the female pressed the alarm button. The incident was verbal only.

Jan. 18

Theft from Vehicle, E. Monroe Ave.

A complainant advised that her wallet was stolen out of her boyfriend's vehicle overnight. The wallet contained her Oregon ID card, \$40 in cash and a debit card. The case was taken for theft.

Disturbance, Cherry Ct.

A complainant advised of a disturbance in progress at the location. The caller said that a subject was armed with a knife in his bedroom. The complainant said that she has a laceration on her finger. The subject was taken into custody for assault, menacing and physical harassment.

Jan. 19

Suspicious Conditions, Ash Ave.

A complainant advised police that she heard her car alarm

go off but hasn't seen anything from her window. She also informed police that she was having a problem with someone that is "after her" in the past.

Hit and Run, HWY 99

A complainant advised police that an elderly female struck her vehicle as she was pulling into a parking spot at the location. The caller said that there was no damage to her vehicle but requested officer contact to advise the elderly female of the complaint.

Disorderly Subject, E. Main St. PD

An officer was requested in a court room for a disorderly subject. The subject was put into custody and placed in the downstairs holding area pending his court appearance. The subject's phone was seized and a search warrant was requested.

Disorderly Subject, 10th/Tyler St.

A complainant advised police that a male subject was screaming and striking a fence to Harrison Elementary. The caller said that the subject then possible entered the elementary school. The subject was found and put into custody for non-criminal detox.

Disturbance, S. Ninth St.

A caller advised that a subject who appeared to be intoxicated was being disorderly inside his house. The subject left in a black neon with his father driving but was advised to call back if the subject returns.

Suspicious Conditions, N. 11th St.

A caller advised that he just received a call from a neighbor that was concerned someone was attempting to break into

his property. The complainant advised that the house is empty. Police advised that there was a lot of foot traffic evidence but no signs of damage or that a crime had occurred.

Jan. 20

Warrant Service, S. Fifth St.

Police put a man in custody on a CGPD Circuit Court Warrant for the delivery of meth. The subject was transported to the police department for processing and was lodged in Lane County Jail after his court appearance.

Burglary, H. St.

A caller advised seeing subjects going around the neighbor's house. No lights were on inside the residence. Upon searching the house, police found no one inside.

Jan. 22

Suspicious Conditions, Riverwalk

As a complainant was leaving her residence, she noticed an older couple walking around the new construction area. The caller was concerned that they may try to take some of the construction material since no workers were on site that day. Police determined there was no crime as the subjects were picking up pebbles.

Jan. 23

Suspicious Subject, N. 16th St.

A caller advised that a male dressed in all black was entering her yard when she walked outside. Then the male took off running with two other people. Police were unable to locate any suspects in the area.

CITY BEAT

From the City of Cottage Grove Friday Update

Town Hall

Senator Prozanski and Representative Hayden will be holding a town hall meeting on Thursday, January 26th at 6:30 pm in the Cottage Grove Community Center Reception Room. As the 2017 Legislative Session approaches, the state faces urgent budgetary challenges. They will discuss Oregon's anticipated shortfall of \$1.7 billion for the 2017-19 biennium, the need for a state-wide transportation package, and other issues that may come before the Legislature this session. The Blackberry Pie Society is hosting the event.

Bohemia Mining Museum Grand Re-Opening

The Bohemia Mining Museum will be holding their Grand Re-Opening on Saturday, January 28th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. If you did not attend the Business After Hours last night be sure to stop by on the 28th and check out the newly renovated Boots and Sandals Square Dance Barn at 308 South 10th. The barn is now housing the Bohemia Mining Museum, Cottage Grove Historical Society and the South Lane Ballet Academy, all of which will be open on the 28th. There will be live music, special guests and gold panning.

Tour of the City

The City Manager took Caitlyn May, Editor of the Cottage Grove Sentinel, on a tour of City facilities. The over two hour tour included stops at the Wastewater and Water Treatment plants, City Shop and passed the reservoirs, pump stations and golf course. The manager introduced Caitlyn to staff throughout the City.

Public Hearing Scheduled

City Council will hold a public hearing on amendment of the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map and the rezoning of 1140 - 1160 E Chamberlain including the vacant lot west of 1140 E Chamberlain 1726 and 991 N. Lane. The Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map will be amended from C Community Commercial to M Medium Density Residential and be rezoned from C-2P Community Commercial to R-2 Medium Density Residential. The hearing will be on Monday, February 13, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers. The Planning Commission held a public hearing in January and recommended approval to City Council. The recommendation, staff report, public hearing minutes and proposed ordinance with the Council agenda. Any questions should be directed to the Community Development Department.

Last week's ice storm not only caused problems within the City but also had significant impacts on the Row River Trail. The ice storm caused limbs, branches, trees, and other debris to fall on and across the trail blocking access. City Volunteer, Don Strahan and Maintenance Worker, Chad Reel cleared the trail earlier this week. The Buffalo Blower was towed behind a Kubota ATV and cleared the trail of small branches, pine needles, and leaves. The clean-up crew also took chain saws to cut the larger limbs and trees so they could be removed from the trail. The trail is now back in service and can be used by walkers and bicycle enthusiasts. The entire 16-mile length of the Row River Trail is cleaned and maintained by the City of Cottage Grove under a maintenance agreement with the BLM.

Private Water Main Break

On Monday of this week, the private water main lateral that serves the Bi-Mart Shopping Center broke, putting the entire shopping center out of water service. The saddle bands where the private water main lateral connects to the City main line failed, causing a loss of water service to the shopping center. The shopping center management company hired a private contractor to facilitate the necessary repairs. To speed-up the repairs, the City provided spare parts to the contractor as needed. In addition, the City crew members used the City's Vactor machine to excavate the private water main lateral so repairs could be completed. The private contractor will reimburse the City for the spare parts that were borrowed. It has always been City policy to restore water service to local businesses as quickly as possible.

Police Department New Officer

The Cottage Grove Police Department has selected a candidate for the open Police Officer position. Pending a complete background, medical and psychological background, the new officer will join the department in approximately 30 days. This will make the department fully staffed.

Classic Film at the Library

Please join us on Monday, January 30th at 1:30 pm for a screening of Debbie Reynolds movie The Unsinkable Molly Brown. Debbie Reynolds earned a 1964 Best Actress Academy Award for her portrayal of the plucky backwoods heroine who survives the Titanic. Come see this great movie and help honor the life of Debbie Reynolds, and enjoy some popcorn and drinks too

Row River Trail Ice Storm Damage



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6-day weather forecast

<p>THURSDAY Jan. 26</p> <p>51° 30°</p> <p>Partly Cloudy</p>	<p>FRIDAY Jan. 27</p> <p>53° 31°</p> <p>Partly Cloudy</p>
<p>SATURDAY Jan. 28</p> <p>54° 34°</p> <p>Partly Cloudy</p>	<p>SUNDAY Jan. 29</p> <p>53° 33°</p> <p>Showers</p>
<p>MONDAY Jan. 30</p> <p>54° 37°</p> <p>Partly Sunny</p>	<p>TUESDAY Jan. 31</p> <p>52° 38°</p> <p>Showers</p>

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