

Trapped 3 weeks Dog called 'Phoenix' rises from floor trap

Trapped for nearly three weeks in the new subflooring of reconstruction for a Grants Pass building destroyed by an arson fire, a dog given his independence by workers the day after the Fourth of July was named "Phoenix."

Police officers of Grants Pass Dept. of Public Safety responded at 5:03 a.m. on Saturday, July 5 to assist Grants Pass firefighters with a trapped dog. It was discovered that a medium-size brown-and-white dog had been trapped without food or water since June 1.

The dog apparently had been hiding at the site when Lovelace Construction workers inadvertently trapped him by installing flooring for the new Jasmine Park apartment site. The canine was discovered by Chris Nelson, of Grants Pass Security. He heard movement under the floorboards early Saturday and phoned for assistance.

Firefighters cut a hole in the floor, and a police officer went in to rescue the dog. However, the animal avoided the officer and crawled deeper into the underflooring maze. Food and water placed in the hole disappeared.

Bill Thatcher, construction chief for Lovelace, cut three more holes in the flooring, and Nelson crawled under the building "in an exhausting attempt" to free the dog. He eventually was able to pull the creature from under the construction, "where it would certainly have died very soon."

"Phoenix" was given medical aid by Pacific Veterinary Clinic. A foster home for the dog is sought.

Oak death study done

The Oregon Dept. of Agriculture concluded its investigation regarding the discovery of sudden oak death in Clackamas County nursery this spring.

A final report issued this week by ODA concludes that the infection initially found at Furney's Nursery was isolated and appears to not have originated at the nursery. At this time, officials believe the most likely source is a British Columbia nursery.

ODA originally confirmed the presence of the fungus that causes sudden oak death syndrome at Furney's Nursery in May. Laboratory testing performed by Oregon State University indicated the presence of the European strain and not that found in Northern California and Curry County.

In the meantime, all known infected plants found at Furney's Nursery in Clackamas County have been destroyed. Surveys of all known host plants of sudden oak death will continue at two-week intervals.

Surveys of the area surrounding the nursery show no indication of the disease off-site.

ODA has accounted for all potentially-infected plants shipped from Furney's to other Oregon locations.



HAPPY ALUMNI BATTERS

Despite hot temperatures on Friday, July 4 a good group of players showed up for an informal softball game at Jubilee Park in Cave Junction as part of Reunionmania. The annual gathering of Illinois Valley High School and Kerby Union High School graduates, guests and friends attracted approximately 300 people. Attendees held gatherings at locations including Junction Inn, Wild River Brewing & Pizza Co., Blue Marlin Inn and Taylor's Sausage Country Store.

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