

# Fire destroys Dorena residence

A fire at a home in the 30000 block of Row River Road destroyed the home and displaced its occupant Saturday. The occupant was reportedly uninjured, according to South Lane Fire & Rescue's Joe Raade, who said the fire occurred outside his District's boundaries. On Monday, Chief John Wooten said that the District did send fire units when it learned that the resident had re-entered the building and become trapped but called off those units when he was found outside unharmed. "The issue of unprotected lands is state-wide, and previous efforts to resolve it by incorporating...areas into fire response districts has failed due to the issues regarding taxes," Wooten wrote.



photo by Helen Singer

## HASKELL

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Lane School District to get the new high school built."

Over the years, Haskell has had both fans and detractors, perhaps most notably related to a 2006 City Council decision to expand the Cottage Grove Speedway, a decision later overturned by a state review panel that found bias on the part of Haskell and Councilor Pat Patterson in favor

of the expansion.

"I'm proud that I was able to help save the racetrack," he said last week. "It cost me a lot of clout and was controversial, and I'm aware that there's now a state law named after me."

Throughout his tenure, Haskell said he was proud when he could agree to disagree with his opponents.

"I recognized early on that it's my job to represent 10,000 people," he said. "We're all human beings, and

we have to work together. I wouldn't let things offend me, because it's never personal."

Life took a dramatic turn for Haskell last fall, when he received a diagnosis of Stage 4 pancreatic cancer. He was given a matter of months to live and quickly closed up his shop in preparation for what was to come.

"When I found out I had to close the shop quickly, I was trying to figure out how to say 'Thank You' for

the support of the officials I served with and to City staff," he said. "I would have no accomplishments without their help and generosity."

Haskell said he doesn't have a "bucket list" of sorts to accomplish with what time he has left.

"I've shot my biggest bucks and caught my biggest fish," he said. "I've had more enjoyment than one person should have. I am a wealthy man."

## KENNEL

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"We now have the luxury of holding onto them a little bit longer, to hold out hope that somebody might come forward and claim their dog," Gagner said.

Gagner added that those seeking to retrieve a dog can now do so 24 hours a day, seven days a week, where previously it would have only been possible during the vet clinic's business hours.

Police are charging a \$20 impound fee, in addition to \$5 a day to lodge a dog at the impound kennel. Where officials at Forest Valley would previously have vaccinated impounded dogs automatically, Gagner said that in the event of an impound, police will first check to see if that dog is licensed in the City. If not, the owner will be issued a citation for having an unlicensed dog, which carries a \$50 bail. If an owner can provide proof of a rabies vaccination before the court date for the citation, a dog license will be issued at a \$10 cost (for an altered dog; a license costs \$20 for a dog that has not been fixed) and the citation will disappear.

"The goal is to get dogs licensed so we can more easily return them to their owners," Gagner said. Last year, 132 dogs were licensed in Cottage Grove, though police know that number is only a fraction of the dogs living here. In 2014, police impounded 108 dogs, with 86 requiring lodging at Forest Valley.

Once a dog has been impounded, police will post information on radio station KNND, in addition to the Cottage Grove Police Facebook page, which is linked to the City website.

"The point is to make it less expensive and reunite dogs with their owners," Gagner said. "We'll see how it works out."

## CORE

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ing schools (and students, indirectly) is counterproductive amid so many concerns and misconceptions about the scores.

It's certainly possible that Cottage Grove is a microcosm of that discontent.

"I'm not too sure what to think of it," said Cottage Grove High School junior Jayden Tucker. "I've heard so many things about it, but I still don't know what's going on. I've heard that the teachers aren't sure what it is, and we're getting what we know from them."

One of the lighting-rod issues of Smarter Balanced is that it will supplant the graduation requirement formerly served by the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS). While comparable in function, there are significant differences between the two tests:

Under OAKS, which will continue to be the test for social science subjects, all questions were multiple-choice; questions had only one correct answer; results were instantaneous, and students could take the assessment up to twice a year.

In contrast, the Smarter Balanced Assessment is partly multiple-choice with extended response sections; some questions have more than one right answer; the results are generated over weeks, and students have one opportunity to pass.

Educators unanimously agree that Smarter Balanced is more rigorous than OAKS, and it's reasonable to expect that fewer students will pass. However, those students could satisfy the essential skills for graduation requirement through other means, such as work samples, SAT or ACT scores.

After nearly a decade of

OAKS, the current juniors are expected to be the most sensitive to the differences of Smarter Balanced. These students will receive a cut-score equivalent between the two tests, and freshmen and sophomores will receive graduated cut scores as they transition to the new test over the next three years.

However, South Lane assistant superintendent Kyle Tucker (no relation to Jayden) believes that the changes may not be as significant as some have argued.

"Nothing has changed; the state has always had standards of what kids need to know. What has changed is the alignment," he said.

Cottage Grove High School math teacher Sarah Cunningham agreed that the older students would probably notice the increased rigor of classes (Algebra 1, for example, now

includes quadratics) but that the younger students won't know any different.

While Common Core does not dictate curriculum or teaching methods, teachers have had to implement new assignments to help students prepare for Smarter Balanced. Some South Lane parents have said it has been challenging to help their children through these unfamiliar concepts, such as justified answers.

"Common Core is horrible," said Smiley Glenn. "I can't help my fifth-grade daughter in math because I don't understand it. I can show her in 10 seconds how to find an answer the way I learned it, but she has to show her work. It does not make the least bit of sense to me."

The transition to Common Core dates back to 2008 summit of governors and state school chiefs, in which they concluded

that U.S. schools had set their standards in reading, math and writing too low for students to succeed in college and compete in a global economy. Oregon was one of the first states to adopt the new standards, and it was eventually joined by more than 40 other states.

In order to measure how well schools are teaching to Common Core, Smarter Balanced emerged as the universal test of choice.

"We all agree that raising expectations is a good thing for college and career readiness," Cunningham said. "If people have questions they should call and ask instead of making assumptions."

However, it's likely that an entirely new set of standards will evolve before most people get a grip on Common Core. Cunningham said it is at least the third set of standards in 10

years of teaching.

Tucker also expects to see more changes but can't predict what those will be.

"Just look at how technology has impacted education. When I was in school we had fancy typewriters, and we now are using iPads in a lot of our classrooms," he said.

## TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

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