

Regular events absent from 2015 calendar

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Warmer-than-seasonal late-winter temperatures these past few weeks no doubt have many in Cottage Grove looking forward to summer sunshine and the community's ever-packed schedule of events. Those who peruse this season's lineup, though, will notice a few reliable happenings missing from the yearly calendar:

Business Faire, Bike Fest, Wiener Races out

For years, a Thursday afternoon in early March meant the Chamber of Commerce Greeters Business Faire at the Cottage Grove Community Center. But a struggle to find a suitable host building for an expanding Faire, in addition to a better-than-expected fundraising effort

at another event, have prompted organizers to skip the gathering in 2015.

Ruth Linoz of the Chamber Greeters said the organization experienced challenges when attempting to relocate the Faire to the Cottage Grove Armory last year. Further, the Greeters had shared the cost of renting the venue with the Family Relief Nursery for its annual luncheon, an opportunity not available this year, and the prospective date for the Faire came perilously close to the date for radio station KNND's Home Show and Gathering of Gardeners.

Linoz also said that a wildly successful 'dessert dash' — a fundraiser that auctions the right to choose from a collection of desserts — at the Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet in January raised the scholarship funds the Greeters hoped to drum up with the Business Faire

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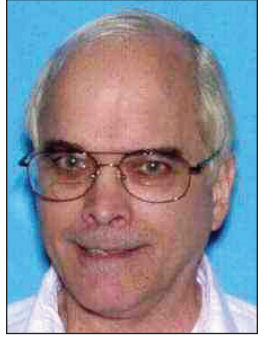
Sentinel file photo

Star Riding Group's Bike Fest has been a big success but will not be held in 2015.

Missing Cottage Grove man located in Grants Pass

Cottage Grove Police said Monday morning that a man they'd been searching for last week turned up unharmed at a mission in Grants Pass.

Police termed Robert "Bob" Murphy an "endangered missing person" after he reportedly left his residence on Thursday, Feb. 12 in a taxi that transported him to the Greyhound Bus Station in Eugene. Police were concerned about Murphy because he has a serious health condition that requires daily medication, which Murphy did not take with him when he left. They believed he may be headed to the Grants Pass area, and on Friday, it was reported that Murphy turned up "in good health and able to care for himself" at a mission in that



Robert 'Bob' Murphy

town. Police say personnel at the Mission were given a phone number to South Lane Mental Health in Cottage Grove to arrange Murphy's transfer back to this community.

Would-be burglars caught in the act

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove Police have noticed a recent uptick in burglaries involving both residential and commercial properties, particularly in certain sections of town. On Sunday night, they say they used an off-burgled home to capture two would-be thieves in the act.

Detective David Burgin said the area around Van Buren Ave. has seen multiple burglaries in recent weeks, with one home and its owner in particular having been burglarized multiple times. Police sought to use the home, which has been the off-and-on residence of its owner, to ensnare would-be burglars.

Burgin said police placed equipment known to be targeted by thieves in the building, which was then armed with a kitchen pressure mat alarm. Very early Monday morning, the alarm let police know they were on the right track.

"They tripped an alarm and officers responded," Burgin said. "They could hear movement and see shadows inside the building. A police K-9 unit was summoned and two suspects were arrested."

Taken into custody were 38-

year old Wylee Backman and 35-year old Scott Farrell, who are "very well known" to Cottage Grove Police, according to Burgin.

"We believe they have been involved in other crimes in the area, and there was drug evidence and other burglary tools found on their person," he said. "Both have a pretty long criminal history; we know them on sight."

Backman was charged with felony first-degree burglary, theft and criminal mischief; Farrell received identical charges. Both were booked in the Lane County Jail, and each had prior warrants for their arrest: Backman on a local Theft III charge that included a failure to appear in court and Farrell on a warrant from Eugene Municipal Court on a charge of contempt of court stemming from a charge of obstruction of justice.

"They both have extensive histories; they're looking at potential prison sentences," Burgin said. He said the victim of the most recent burglary attempt has also been burglarized at a commercial property he owns. Four people have now been arrested in connection with burglaries involving the same victim, Burgin said.

Ribbon-cutting opens CG's newest salon

Shampoo Dolls occupies old First American Title building

BY MATT HOLLANDER
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Heading down East Main Street, you'll notice that there is a new spot in town to get beautified: Shampoo Dolls Salon is an innovative salon specializing in the artistry of hair, waxing and nails, and it is located in the space previously occupied by First American Title Co. Walk inside and you may recognize the familiar face of Candace Solesbee, who has returned to Cottage Grove after 23 years of owning and operating successful salons in California.

"I always wanted to return

home, and I took the opportunity to do that when this building became available," said Solesbee, who opened her first salon at the age of 21.

Solesbee and her husband Danny spent about a year renovating the location. And while adapting the space of a financial institution for a salon could have been a nightmare, they chose to integrate some of the more defining characteristics, such as the vault — where clients can experiment with Solesbee's own line of makeup products.

The inspiration for Shampoo Dolls — Solesbee's fifth salon — came from old Hollywood pinup dolls, and the dé-



photo by Matt Hollander

Danny (left) and Candace Solesbee cut the ribbon to open Shampoo Dolls on Main Street.

cor strongly reflects that era of glamour and personality.

"I wanted to bring something new to Cottage Grove: a place to get dolled up," she said.

A crowd of approximately 80 people, which included local business leaders, City Councilors and officials, attended the grand opening on Feb. 17.

"We're very excited to have

Candace as a part of the local-business community," said Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Travis Palmer. "She has a demonstrated history of running successful salons and has already found a lot of ways to get involved. Of course we have other salons in Cottage Grove, but Shampoo Dolls brings a new twist and flavor to the menu."

It was the Chamber's first ribbon cutting of 2015, and Palmer said that it was one of the best-attended ceremonies in recent memory.

"I am so honored that so many people attended. It was wonderful to see the outpouring of support from the community," Solesbee said.

Those seeking more information can visit Shampoo Dolls Salon on Facebook or call 541-942-9395 to book an appointment.

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